

## Earths GMagus 911

### Chapter 911 - Survivors

In the end, Julian managed to convince everyone to evenly share the Abyss nests and also save as many Andora natives as possible. Now that everyone had come to one solid conclusion, he quickly devised a plan and came up with the idea of using two bases.

The outpost would be the main base and the place where the survivors they had rescued would be gathered in the end. Meanwhile, another base would be built somewhere in the northern side of the continent and would serve as a springboard for their operations in the north.

Julian drew a horizontal line on the map of the continent, before separating the groups into two. He would take three squads with him to handle all the Abyss nests on the southern part of the continent and also rallying all Andora natives they encountered to the main base.

At the same time, Emery would take the remaining 4 squads and head north to create a second base - a forwarding base.

Then, on the last day before the mid-test ended, Emery could create a Spatial Gate to transport all the survivors on the forwarding base to the main base. That way, all the people who had been rescued could be easily moved, even the old and the weak.

"Just in case of any unforeseen events, we will wrap all of our Nest hunting operations on the 8th day. By that time, I hope most will have completed the objectives and can help our commander transport the survivors from the forwarding base."

It was a sound plan that would help the task of gathering survivors more easily, as they only needed to travel at most 1,000 miles instead of 1,500 miles thanks to the existence of the forwarding base.

However, Emery was concerned that there would be minimal protection for the survivors as most squads would be busy clearing the Abyss nests rather than looking after the rescued survivors.

As if knowing what was on Emery's mind, Atlas who had been quiet all this time opened his mouth.

"The number of acolytes that can be deployed, the number of survivors to be saved, the size of the land and the estimated numbers of hostile creatures; with all of these factors combined, I calculate that 38 percent of the Andora native survivors will be saved by this operation."

Hearing the number, Emery was surprised to see Julian looking satisfied. Noticing the look the former gave him, Julian said with a faint smile. "That's actually a pretty good number, considering our circumstances."

It was evident that Julian was elated, saying they should be able to save at least 1 million survivors. "If we really managed to do this, that is 100,000 points for each acolyte in Platoon 3!"

Apparently, Roran and Anas were both happy with the numbers, or rather, the potential points they could receive. However, the same could not be said for Emery, who was standing there.

He wasn't focused on how many points they could gain from rescuing the Andora natives. For him, Atlas's calculation meant that 62% of the Andora native survivors were going to die. At least 2 million people would die by the end of their operation and, subsequently, the mid-test.

Not willing to accept such an outcome, Emery voiced his disagreement with the plan.

"We need a better plan. Julian, please find a better one."

His words caught everyone off guard and swiftly the place became silent for a few seconds.

Julian slowly approached Emery, "Emery, this is the best and most reasonable plan I can think of. You have to remember there are only 300 of us, even counting that Arcana somehow decides to join the plan."

Patting his shoulder, the Roman continued, "On the other hand, there are 4 to 5 million people spread across a vast 3,000 miles continent filled with millions of Abyss creatures. Most importantly, we only have 10 days to do this."

Sighing, Julian finished his reasoning, "There's no way we can help all of them, Emery."

Emery could clearly see how the other squad captains seemed to agree with Julian's words. Even so, he was not appeased.

"There must be a better way to save even more. There has to be."

Realizing no one shared his optimism, Emery decided to step up and grab a new map. Under the gaze of everyone present, he gave himself a minute to think, before he drew on the map, separating the map into 4 parts instead of 2 like Julian had done earlier.

One in the center was the main base and three surround it as the new bases, making the range for any survivor to reach to any base down to 500 miles.

"4 bases! Let's build three more bases, instead of one! I will transport all the survivors we have gathered on the 8th, 9th, and 10th day respectively. This way, we should have a better result."

Julian calmly explained the reason for his disagreement.

"The reason I dared to propose an extra base in the first place is because you are here, Emery. With the Nest point trick you did before, you can divide the people who guard the base and the one hunting the nest."

The Roman stopped his words for a moment before continuing, "If we start building more bases, we need more people protecting it, which means less points for them."

Even though Julian's counter-argument was solid, Emery still maintained his ground.

"Yes, you're right. For this to work, I need more squads to focus their attention on saving the survivors." The Roman was about to speak when he heard this, but Emery continued his words. "In return, I will help those squads get more points by clearing the Abyss nests in their place."

Emery quickly put together a new arrangement.

With three bases surrounding the main base, whose defensive structures had been upgraded, Emery left the defense to General Solasa, leaving only a few acolytes from Julian and Anas' squad to stand guard in case anything happened.

As for the three bases to be built, the composition was like this:

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West Base: Squad 21 Julian

Abyss nests by: Squad Roran, Squad Lyndell and Squad Trish

East Base: Squad 24 Anas

Abyss nests by: Squad Orion, Squad Wage Gasa and Squad Ryan Gasa

North Base: Squad 31 Emery

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Emery would take Sigurd, Klea, Thrax, and Chumo with him to give points to Anas and Julian's squads, who would focus on building a base and gathering the Andora native survivors.

Even though Emery's plan stirred up debate, seeing how firm he was and the fact he was the commander, everyone eventually decided to follow his arrangement, after all everyone realized the new plan actually would be harder for the commander himself.

Emery look at their face one by one and added.

"I hope you all would do your best to help more survivors, that was my hope"

Hearing this Julian heaved a sigh and decided to grab Emery's shoulder.

"We will do as the commander asked!"

Emery appreciates Julian accepting such a request, after all, as a privilege acolyte, Julian would need 500,000 points himself and this arrangement will be hard for him, unlike Anas, who only need 300,000 as elite acolytes.

In the end, Atlas told the group his calculation: at least 70% of the native survivors could be saved with this plan. The idea of earning 100,000 more points brought extra motivation to all the captains.

Hearing this everyone in the room brightened up.

"Alright guys, let's do our best!"

The meeting ended with that remark and everyone moved to their respective groups.

Julian added that, as Emery chose the northern side, there was also Reyne group, which appeared to have a certain problem with Arcana and as their commander Emery decided to look into it.

Chapter 912 - Grind

The meeting between the captains of Platoon 3 was over, and everyone swiftly went their separate way as planned. Some of them decided to take some time to prepare themselves, while the others, especially the ones tasked to clear the Abyss nests, immediately went to their assigned area.

Emery's small group followed the latter's example. They, who were in charge of about a third of the continent, flew in the north direction on their orbiter.

There were a total of 50 Abyss nests discovered and marked on the map from the previous exploration, and Emery was aiming to clear them all in 7 days. That way, he could start helping the survivors' migration on the 8th day.

Being on a tight schedule, Emery swiftly took out the map to search for the marks of the nearest Abyss nest. Before they went to the Abyss nests, however, he divided the six people into three teams. This time, in a more balanced pairing.

The pairings were as such: Atlas with Thrax, Sigurd with Chumo, and Annara with Klea.

The reason for the changes was that despite Annara being, arguably, the weakest privileged member of the three and being paired with Klea will increase their fighting force.

The red-haired girl also had her familiar summons that could help her navigate through the underground terrain. Her ability was something comparable to Atlas' Seismic Scan and Chumo's Eye of the Raven.

However, it was apparent that the Egyptian queen was not too happy with this arrangement. Unfortunately for her, Emery was hell-bent on his decision that even her sweet persuasion couldn't budge him.

After all, this time, he had neither the intention nor the time to play favorites. This plan was one that he had proposed himself, so he didn't want to mess it up. Hence the reason he arranged the most efficient pairings that would increase the chances of success as well as survival.

Emery went ahead and cast more [Mineralized Warriors] this time 30 soldiers more, given each paired 30 each. These summons would exist to protect them from being overwhelmed by hordes of Abyss creatures. Also, he instructed one Chizpur brother to go with each team. They would be his eyes and ears for the team.

"With this, all of you should be able to clear an Abyss nest in 6 to 8 hours."

That was the approximate time it would take for them to clear an Abyss nest with only half the fighting force from before. Also, since the Abyss nest would have two tunnels connected to the main chamber, going down through one tunnel and heading back to the surface through a different tunnel would be the most efficient and productive way to get all the points they could.

If he was somehow occupied by the time they reached the surface, Emery asked them to immediately proceed to their next allocated nest.

Therefore, if everything went according to plan, with the travel and rest, each team should be able to clear 2 Abyss nests a day, meaning 6 Abyss nests were cleared in total per day and a total of 42 nests in 7 days. That was the minimum target that Emery has set.

It would be a tiring grind, obviously, but this was what the test was all about. Getting more points, after all, would give them extra contribution points after the test ended. Hence, this opportunity could be considered a good chance to gain more benefits for self.

Emery then reminded his two teammates Atlas and Annara to give the task completion by breaking the runed boulders from each nest to the two teams. Thrax and Klea, while Sigurd could alternate with Chumo. These will be to help Anas and Julian team who were in charge of helping survivors on the other side of the continent.

In return, the group would let Annara and Atlas to kill most of the stage 4 Abyss creatures they encountered during the clearing. This way, it was mutually beneficial for both parties.

"Remember, work together, stay safe, and if by any chance you come across a stage 5 Abyss creature, retreat first and wait for reinforcement!" Emery stared intently at each and every one of them.

"Me! Stay safe? Hahaha! You should tell that to the monsters hiding on the ground" replied the overly excited Thracians.

Afterward, Atlas group and Sigurd went separate ways and headed to different Abyss nests as planned.

Klea approached Emery before leaving to remind him to also be careful. After all, she knew very well how much Emery had stretched his power to assign them each a squad of Mineralized Warriors.

"You too." Emery smiled fondly.

Klea said, "Remember if you meet any trouble contact me i will come right away!"

The red hair girl interrupts with a smirk "Don't worry, I'll make sure to take care of your girl here," and Emery just smiled and nodded in response.

After a peck on the cheek, Klea reluctantly went with the red-haired acolyte towards the Abyss nest allocated to them.

When everyone had finally left, Emery let out a sigh.

It was true that this arrangement put a lot of strain on him.

After creating 90 Mineralized Warriors, he actually only left with less than a third of his spirit pool, making him much weaker than usual. It would be quite troublesome if he were to run into trouble in his current state.

Even so, Emery didn't regret his decision. In his eyes, all those large numbers of summons were necessary measures, as not only would it protect his friends from danger, they would also be the proxy for him to get the required points to pass the test.

The privileged acolyte requirement to pass which was 500,000 points was indeed a huge number to achieve.

However, different from the other privileged acolytes who fought with their true strength, Emery who fought through his summons would not be able to kill those stage 4 Abyss creatures that gave a lot of points. So instead of quality, he decided to compensate with sheer quantity.

90 summons; should be able to earn him quite a sum of points, wouldn't they?

With the matter regarding the Abyss nests mostly taken care of, Emery only had two more issues to resolve.

One was to find a way to gather survivors into one central base, and the other was to find Rayne's group that seemed to have gone under the radar. The latter did not reply to any message sent her way with the last message mention about trouble with Arcana,

Emery flew further north, and when he crossed 200 miles, he descended down for a moment and told Chiku to use its [Earth burrows] skill and hide among the rocks.

"You stay here, okay? I'll call on you later."

"Ku.. ku.."

The chubby creature looked reluctant, but eventually nodded its head and stayed put in the crevices of the rocks.

Emery left Chiku there as he needed it to become his beacon and keep track of his friends. With [One Mind], he could now extend his Spirit Reading radius another 200 miles to the north. He continued to maintain his Spirit Reading as he continued to move north.

After another half an hour of traveling north, Emery finally sensed the presence of Rayne's squad. To his surprise, they were currently battling a large horde of Abyss creatures that would certainly overwhelm them if it wasn't for the walls covering them.

Just as he was about to jump in and give assistance, Emery suddenly stopped in his tracks. He noticed how Rayne was fighting together with members of Arcana squad, but the kid-looking acolyte was nowhere to be seen.

Therefore, instead of blindly joining the fight, Emery decided to stay where he was and observe what was going on for now.

#### Chapter 913 - Enchanted

From atop of a cliff two miles away, Emery intently observed the battle that was taking place in the distance.

There were fifty or so acolytes participating in the battle. Currently, they were fighting from behind a newly formed stone wall against a horde much larger than the one Emery had previously seen attacking the outpost.

There were several thousands of them, cramming the yellow sandy plains to such an extent that no more ground could be seen where they had congregated. Furthermore, Emery saw many stage 3 Abyss creatures in the midst of their ranks.

The long blonde hair captain Rayne was fighting fiercely. Her figure floated in the air as multicolored lights continuously shot out from the bow in her hand like a waterfall, while the runic arrows flew through the air at breakneck speed ending the life of any Abyss creature unlucky enough to be targeted.

One arrow would produce a massive explosion upon landing, instantly killing several Abyss creatures and torturing a dozen others in scorching flames. Another would spark brilliantly and discharge a storm of lightning, electrocuting and turning the Abyss creatures to scorch and ashes.

The female captain could even shoot an arrow that froze a large group of Abyss creatures in an instant, before she fired another arrow that shone brightly and illuminated an area upon impact. After the dome of light disappeared, the traces of Abyss creatures were no more to be seen.

Rayne continued to fight the Abyss creatures, and watching how ferocious she was, Emery couldn't help but feel awe of her powers.

She was flying in the air with the help of an orbiter by herself, but was gradually surrounded by dozens of stage 2 Abyss flying creatures that began to overwhelm her through sheer numbers. No one was able to reach her, as the other 50 or so acolytes were busy fighting the Abyss ground creatures from atop the walls.

It was at this moment that Emery realized there were actually no elite acolytes among the people fighting. They were all regular acolytes and most of them were only rank 8 acolytes with a few exceptions of rank 9.

Even though the whole situation looked very unusual, Emery understood that life came first above all. Thus, knowing those people were already one foot into the abyss itself, he quickly rode his own orbiter and shot into the sky towards Rayne who was still fighting.

By this time, the blonde girl had been swarmed by at least a hundred of those stage 2 Abyss flying creatures that had the appearance of a huge bee. Seeing the precarious situation, Emery swiftly cast one of his recently learned spells.

[Ash Blast]

A huge wave of black sands rapidly swept over half of the flying creatures. Immediately after, multiple explosions occurred within the sand tsunami, blasting the Abyss creatures trapped within it into bloody pieces that helplessly fell to the ground.

Half of the pressure Rayne was bearing was lifted by Emery's attack, but it wasn't over yet. Now free from the Abyss creatures that overwhelmed her, the blonde girl swiftly prepared her trump card.

Raising the tip of her arrow to the sky, Rayne chanted a string of words as prismatic lights began to envelop her bow and the drawn arrow. A few seconds later, she finally let go of her hand and the arrow shot out in a blinding light.

In the air, the arrow turned into a large, golden bird. It screeched loudly and killed all the remaining Abyss flying creatures in its path until eventually nothing was left in the air.

Now, there were only two figures visible in the air - Emery and Rayne.

Emery turned his gaze to Rayne and was about to ask what had happened. But then, he noticed the blonde girl's pupils were gray in color, while her expression was flat.

"Something is wrong."

As if answering his suspicion, Rayne swiftly drew her bow and shot an arrow at him.

Swisshhhh!

The distance between them was too close and the orbiter was moving too slowly, so Emery was forced to cast [Blink] to dodge the arrow. He glanced warily at the blonde girl and realized the latter was not after him.

Instead, she turned her attention to the battle taking place on the ground and started shooting more arrows, killing dozens of Abyss creatures in the process.

Emery quickly had his suspicions, so instead of approaching the girl again, he headed towards the walls where the fierce battle between humans and Abyss creatures was still going on.

Seeing the hordes of Abyss creatures crawling the walls, Emery once again focuses his core on casting another powerful tier 5 spell

[Seed Bomb]

A dozen small, dark green spheres appeared in the air and fell to the ground across the defensive line of the wall.

Kaboomm! Kaboomm! Kaboom!

With just that one attack, Emery managed to kill a few hundred stage 1 Crawlers, dozens of stage 2 Lurkers and a few stage 3 Ravagers.

The sudden mass death of the Abyss creatures caused a halt to the chaos that was unfolding in front of the walls. It was as if peace had come to fruition.

The sight of destruction and hundreds of Abyss creatures dying at the same time also shocked the regular acolytes.

Under the gazes of everyone - humans and creatures alike, Emery made his way to the line of 50 acolytes. Taking a closer look at these people, he found one person wearing an elite acolyte uniform among them.

Emery looked at the man he knew was a member of Arcana's squad. His gaze was sharp as he said in a stern tone. "You will explain what happened here to me. Right Now!"

The display of destruction just now, as well as the tone Emery used, created an invisible atmosphere that pressed down on the elite acolyte. It didn't take long for the latter to bend under the pressure and begin to explain.

Apparently, Arcana had cast some kind of enchantment spell on Rayne, the captain of Squad 29. He then ordered her to stand guard here, while forcing all of Rayne's elite acolytes to come with him into an Abyss nest.

"That doesn't make sense!" Emery said, glaring at the acolyte who he thought was lying.

Arcana was the fourth-strongest acolyte sent to the planet. Why would he need more elite acolytes and leave even his own regular acolytes in such a place?



With another round of intimidation, the elite acolyte filled the missing gaps with more information.

It turned out that Arcana had found a particular Abyss nest that was several times larger than an ordinary one. With his powerful eye skills, Arcana lured the Abyss creatures within that Abyss nest to come out while he entered with the other elites.

"Commander, we are here just following our captain's order."

"Commander, please help our captain Rayne."

There was a mixed response from the two different squads.

As for Emery, he was currently on the brink of losing his temper. In fact, he really wanted to go straight into the Abyss nest and punish Arcana for deliberately endangering one of the captains and many others for his own personal gain.

It was no wonder that the current Rayne was like a guard dog that wouldn't stop killing whatever came rushing towards the walls. Emery was worried about leaving her like that, but he had no way of dispelling the spell Arcana had cast on her.

After considering the pros and cons of both actions, Emery decided that the punishment for the Arcana could be postponed until later. For now, he was going to help these people clean up the large horde of Abyss creatures.

"Follow my lead! We will finish off these creatures fast!"

Chapter 914 - Turmoil

With Emery's help, the sand plains that were crowded with the bloodthirsty Abyss creatures were quickly disposed of in just 30 minutes. There were a few hundred Abyss creatures still alive, but such a number wouldn't be able to pose any danger to the group.

At the same time that Emery finished exterminating the Abyss creatures, Chiko, the Chizpur plant creature who stayed with him, had successfully found the location of the particular Abyss nest mentioned by the elite acolyte member of Arcana's squad.

It was actually not that hard to find, as the only thing that needed to be done was to follow the trails the horde left behind.

Before leaving for the so-called special Abyss nest, Emery warned the fifty acolytes to not let the bewitched captain in any form of danger. After making sure these people ingrained his words in their minds, he grabbed his orbiter and dashed north following the trail Chiko had determined.

It would be faster to use [Spatial Gate] for sure, but right now, Emery's Spirit Pool barely had any spirit energy left. Half an hour of killing Abyss creatures ceaselessly had successfully spent all his spirit energy away.

Evidently, having only a third of his original Spirit Pool capacity brought him many inconveniences.

As he went deeper into the north of the continent, Emery was surprised when he discovered an unusual feeling lingering in the atmosphere that gradually increased in intensity. Up ahead, about 1,000 miles away, was where the so-called Sacred Mountain supposedly was.

The closer he got to it, the stronger the peculiar feeling was and the more Emery became curious about what lay in it.

The information he got from his device about this particular mountain simply labeled the place as a restricted area. From what it was said by Commander Raynor and his team - the official Magus Alliance team - they would be the ones in charge of handling any task in the area, while strictly prohibiting all acolytes from entering.

After a few minutes of flying, just as he was about to arrive at the Abyss nest, Emery was surprised to find a different kind of result from Spirit Reading. Knowing what it was, he quickly changed his course and rushed towards it.

There, in the distance, above a native settlement that was surrounded by wooden palisades, was an enormous cloud of black smoke. It seemed to be a settlement that had recently been ravaged by hordes of Abyss creatures - Emery had come too late.

The distinct iron smell of blood and the rotten stench of decaying corpses wafted and mixed with each other in the air, creating an extremely repulsive odor. Despite that, Emery didn't look affected as his figure slowly descended into the village.

In various places in the settlement, there were still at least a hundred Abyss creatures busy shredding and tearing apart dead human bodies. Emery saw with his own eyes the corpse of a woman holding a young child lying dead among hundreds of others.

From the looks of it, the massacre that took place in the settlement only started about an hour ago. Realizing he was only minutes away from preventing a disaster, brought an inexplicable ache in his chest.

A dozen of abyss creatures realized his arrival and came charging at him and it was the perfect time for him to unleash his rage.

With a slight motion of his hand, Emery created little crescent blades and threw them toward the incoming creatures.

[Enfeeble Blade]

He walked across the devastated settlement and cut all Abyss creatures he encountered apart. At the same time, he desperately wished he could find a survivor. Even one will do.

"Is there anyone still alive here?!"

"Anyone?!"

There was actually no point in shouting, when he could sense any sign of life with his Spirit Reading. Even so, Emery kept shouting for survivors, hoping for a miracle to happen.

Moments later, Emery had almost circled the entire settlement but still to no avail. Just when he was on the verge of losing hope, his Spirit Reading finally picked up a very faint life sign akin to a candle on the verge of being extinguished. Immediately, his figure rushed towards the sign.

What Emery found was an elderly man crushed down by piles of rocks. He was no longer breathing, but there was still a sign of life within him.

Without further ado, Emery cast [Nature Blessing] on the dying man. The spell quickly worked and healed his broken bones and torn flesh. A moment later, the elder seemed to come back to his senses. Seeing Emery, he began to slowly open his mouth.

"T-they... Came... the shrine... god... mercy."

The man woke up, but only had a chance to speak a few words.

Then, Emery watched as what happened to Gennette repeated itself once again.

A frail mortal body naturally couldn't stand the potent effects of [Nature's Blessing]. It swiftly crumbled apart and the remains turned into ashes that were carried away by air.

Once again, Emery was distraught.

What good was a powerful spell if it couldn't even save the weak.

"Arrggghh!!!"

His emotions were in turmoil, Emery wanted to scream all his helplessness.

At this moment, the ground shook violently and the wooden wall on one side of the village collapsed, revealing a huge Abyss creature staring at him.

Rooaaarrrr!

This time, it was a 6-meter-long slithering creature with its front scalded body raised like a cobra and it had two large scythe arms alongside its menacing fangs.

[Brutalisk]

[Abyss creature stage 4]

[Battle power - 210]

The Abyss creature seemed sluggish at first, but after it let out a piercing roar, it slithered at extreme speed and swung its massive scythe at Emery.

If any of the regular or elite acolytes encountered such a creature, they would definitely be in a lot of trouble. However, not with Emery.

He instantly pulled his savage blade from the spatial space and parried the huge scythe.

Clank!

While his right arm which was holding onto the Savage Blade perfectly stopped the scythe, his other arm already had a dark, swirling orb hovering above it.

[Dark Matter]

Emery calmly used the strength into his sword arm, pushing the scythe upward to create an opening. At the same time, he took a step closer to the ugly creature and, without the slightest hesitation, unleashed his rage through that one powerful explosion.

BAAMMMM!!!

The stage 4 Abyss creature instantly smashed apart into two pieces when the powerful spell landed on its body.

SHRRIEEKK!

Surprisingly the creature was still alive and its upper half tried to crawl away, however, Emery approached it calmly and stabbed his sword into its head.

Splaatt!!

After confirming that the Abyss creature was dead, Emery turned around and looked at the ruined settlement once again. Scenes of destruction and death filled his vision, and he let out a deep sigh before leaping into his orbiter.

There were hundreds more abyss creatures that came charging into the village especially after hearing the huge creature shrieking call, but Emery had no time to kill them all. Without looking back, his figure shot up towards the Abyss nest where Arcana was.

Seeing the trail on the ground once again, Emery realized all the abyss creatures that destroyed the settlement were part of the ones that came out of the nest. It was Arcana's action that became the reason for the settlement's destruction.

Even though Emery knew such an event would inevitably occur during a calamity such as this, he still couldn't help but blame Arcana's selfishness and negligence.

As he arrived at his destination, Emery took a deep breath and tried to calm himself down.

Chapter 915 - Shrine

The nest Arcana went into was, in fact, not just an ordinary cave like the other Abyss Nest.

It was some kind of ruin on a hill. Multiple marked stones were messily scattered around a huge stone building with two large opened stone doors.

Despite the awful state the place was in, Emery could still tell at a glance this was a place of worship for the locals, a shrine where they worshipped the god they believed in.

Looking at the marks on the ground, it was clear that a large number of creatures rampaged here just recently, putting the place into such an unsightly state.

Without waiting any longer, Emery dashed into the stone gate that led deep underground and followed Arcana and the other elite acolytes' footprints.

Different from the other nest, the tunnels and chambers in this place were considerably wider and bigger.

The chamber he arrived at was filled with dozens of creatures roaming around. Even so, they were mostly crawlers and lurkers, nothing to waste his time on.

However, among them, Emery spotted several Abyss creature carcasses on the ground, showing which way among the several different tunnels Arcana's group went into.

After about half an hour of following the path Arcana's group had taken, Emery finally found signs of the group he was looking for.

Echoes of fighting and shouting came from a distance ahead of him. Just from the sounds of it, the situation appeared to be quite chaotic.

Emery approached the source of those sounds while using [Dark Void] to mask himself.

"Retreat! Damn it, Retreat!"

It was Arcana's voice, shouting in an extremely irritated tone.

The sounds of battle ended with Arcana's curses a few moments later.

"You're all so stupid! There are so many of you, yet you can't even defeat one monster!?"

Arcana continued to curse at the seven elite acolytes he came with.

"Huh! If I had known you would be so useless, I would have left you all and brought Rayne with me instead!"

Other than Arcana, Emery recognized two of the elite acolytes in the group; Lodos the maniac and Micha the crystal user, Rayne's elite acolytes and part of the group of seven elites he had a history with.

With his spirit reading, Emery realized that half of these acolytes were wounded and the rest were exhausted by the previous battle.

After briefly scanning the condition of the elites and the area of their battle, he could vaguely guess what happened. Hence, Emery began to approach them from the shadows.

"Who's there!?"

Arcana was the first to notice him and was immediately alarmed by the presence of the unknown intruder.

Emery came out from the dark shadow with almost no sound. The moment the other acolytes recognized his face, they all had surprised looks on their faces.

"The commander!"

A few of them were elated to see him, but most of them were so anxious they even seemed ready for a fight.

A normal response of those who were guilty.

"You... how... what do you want!?" Arcana vigilantly asked.

"Do you really need to ask?" Emery glared at Arcana and firmly announced, "I came for Rayne!"

The kid-looking acolyte was at a loss for words. At the same time, Emery noticed Arcana's expression subtly change and had a bad premonition.

'He's about to do something bad.'

Emery quickly interrupted him.

"Don't try to do anything funny! Not only will your skill not work on me, but you will also be heavily penalized for attacking your commander!" Emery reminded with a sharp gaze.

In truth, Emery wasn't sure he would be able to stop Arcana's enchantment this time. He might be able to under normal circumstances, but he currently only had one-third of his spirit pool. Hence, in order to avoid getting into such an unfavorable situation, he chose to bluff his way out so Arcana would give up without a fight.

While Arcana was lost in thought, Emery decided to look around and check the elite acolytes who were wounded.

Awkwardly, Lodos and Micah were among them. They were both struggling to heal themselves from the previous battle, and both of them were unable to look him in the eye.

Emery slowly approached the wounded elite acolytes and, to their surprise, cast [Rejuvenating Mushroom] to help heal their wounds. This, of course, included the two, Lodos and Micah.

They didn't expect that he would help them despite how they treated him before.

Lodos the maniac was surprisingly jittery when he expressed his gratitude. "T...han...k... you..."

"You're welcome," Emery simply responded as if nothing ever happened between them.

Emery's act of healing was a part of his way of checking whether these elite acolytes were being enchanted by Arcana just like Rayne. Surprisingly, he found that they weren't.

So Arcana must have threatened them with either his rank or his skill.

Feeling the elite members were one by one getting influenced by Emery, Arcana became much more anxious and made his decision.

"I will do as you say, but only if you help me kill that stage 5 monster!" Arcana said, pointing at the main chamber a distance away from them.

Emery saw there was only one creature left inside, a huge white cocoon-like worm at least 20 meters long.

The device in his hand quickly showed information about the creature.

[Chrysalis]

[Stage 5 Abyss creature]

[Battle Power - 320]

This stage 5 creature would give a whopping 50,000 points. No wonder Arcana was so greedy for it.

Emery looked at the cocoon thoroughly once again. For some reason, he felt the same familiar energy he previously felt.

"What do you say!?" Arcana asked in a somewhat challenging tone.

Emery had finished healing the wounded acolytes and was approaching the main chamber.

Arcana took Emery's act as agreeing to his request, hence he shouted to the other elite acolytes.

"All right, let's kill this thing!"

The seven elites acolyte stood up and began charging in close to the cocoon-like creature, ready to fight. However, Emery did not immediately join them. Instead, he carefully observed how they fought against it and he quickly realized why they couldn't win.

Unsurprisingly, Arcana only shouted from the back without actually helping them. It appeared the all-powerful [Eye of Mistra] divine skill had no effect on this creature, which was most likely why he needed these elites to help him.

Logos and Micha were both defense and utility specialists who couldn't help much on the offensive. There were three long-range attackers among them, but their attacks were only enough to create small wounds on the cocoon's outer layer skin.

One acolyte with a tier 5 blade was able to create a deeper cut on the monster's body, however, the injured part quickly grew back and returned to normal, as if it had never been injured in the first place.

This creature was definitely not easy to deal with.

Chapter 916 - Chrysalis

In the first minute, the huge cocoon-like Abyss creature didn't move from its position at all. As a result, it received the bombardment of spells and skills from seven elite acolytes in its entirety. Even so, it still didn't seem to have any intention of making a move.

These seven elite acolytes might not be as strong as the acolytes Emery had been fighting against recently, but they were still considered to be in the top echelon of the greatest acolytes in the universe.

All of them possessed the cultivation of middle stage rank 9 with four to six pillars having already been formed. Hence they were able to cast Rank 5 spells and have an average battle power of above 100.

Swish

A bald acolyte appeared in front of the Abyss creature and the Tier 5 sword in his hand swung downwards, making a huge cut on the creature's body. Meanwhile, three other acolytes cast their Tier 5 spells before launching it at the creature all at once.

Lightning crackled, fire blazed, and wind ragged as the spells struck the Abyss creature. It managed to create some burns and cuts, however, not enough to really hurt the creature as its body swiftly glowed and returned to its original state.

A moment after, the cocoon-like creature finally made its move. It turned its body slightly, and from the distance where he was, Emery could see the creature shooting dozens of thin, shiny white threads.

He watched as the elite acolytes who were close to the creature fled, returning to where their other allies were. At the same time, Micah and another female acolyte cast their defensive spells.

A crystal-like wall of ice instantly appeared in front of them, before being covered by a thick layer of pitch-black metal that slightly gleamed. Just as the spells were fully formed, the threads arrived.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Crisp, metallic sound resounded through the air as the threads continued to barrage the covered ice wall. Micah's [Ice Crystal Barrier] and the female acolyte's [Dark Metal Shield] were able to withstand the torrent-like threads.

However, some time had passed and the barrage of threads was still not over. It seemed that the Abyss creature was capable of firing an infinite number of them. Pressured by the overwhelming attack, the elite acolytes had a difficult time trying to attack the creature again.

It was at this moment that Lodos cast his [Gravitational Pressure]. The spell took effect on the area in front of the ice wall, and the threads that arrived were swiftly pulled downwards to the ground, as if being held down by an invisible hand.

At this instance, Arcana shouted.

"NOW!!!"

Without a second thought, the group of elite acolytes jumped out from behind the wall protecting them and rushed towards the Abyss creature. Multicolored lights flew around and explosions occurred everywhere as the elite acolytes attacked with all their might.

A few minutes later, Lodos called the others to retreat back to the wall's safety, as he needed to take a break for a minute before casting his spell again.

Apparently, this was the tactic they had been doing to deal with the cocoon-like Abyss creature. It was clear that this method was effective, but at the same time also relied heavily on Lodos' [Gravitational Pressure] spell. Since he had a limited Spirit Pool, the group could do nothing but whittle the creature bit by bit.

Now that Emery had seen what they were doing, Arcana quickly said, "This may not look that effective, but my special eyes can see that we have managed to drain quite a bit of its stamina."

Remembering the things Arcana had done, Emery certainly wouldn't fully believe what the guy said. However, he also couldn't just watch. Therefore, he decided to personally give the creature a test to find out for himself.



The device on his hand displayed that the cocoon-like Abyss creature name Chrysalis had 310 battle power. But it didn't show the creature's magical capability, which was strange because from what it had shown so far, it was certainly brimming with it.

There was also the fact that despite its high battle power, the Abyss creature had disgustingly low mobility. That led Emery to believe that it has extremely high stats in the other two; strength and endurance. From a simple glance, the creature was a lump of endurance that would certainly be hard to break.

With this analysis, a prolonged fight of magic would put Emery in a disadvantage due to his currently restricted Spirit Pool. Therefore, he decided to use his sword to attack instead.

Pulling out his Savage Sword, Emery activated his skills.

[Immortal Gate - stage 6]

[Battle power increased by 64 points]

[Battle power 245 (309)]

With the enhancement [Immortal Gate] granted, Emery should have enough battle power to safely test the Abyss creature.

When Lodos cast [Gravitational Pressure] once more and the elite acolytes started another round of attack, Emery also followed suit. He jumped along with the sword-wielding bald acolyte and the two of them attacked the Abyss creature from two different sides.

Spalttt!! Splaaat!! Splaattt

For obvious reason, Emery's attack was able to deal more severe wounds to the Abyss creature than the other elite acolytes. But after only a few slashes, Lodos was already shouting for them to back off.

Knowing that going too far would result in more harm than good, Emery went back to Micah's ice wall, albeit reluctantly. A minute later, he looked towards the Abyss creature and saw that the wound he had inflicted on its body had disappeared as if it had never happened in the first place.

Even though Emery didn't have abilities like Arcana's magical eye and Chumo's Eye of the Raven, he could tell that this method of rinse and repeat did not just give time for Lodos to recover, but also for the Abyss creature to regain his stamina.

If his guess was right, it meant that this fight could go on for hours without seeing a winner.

Emery turned to the kid-looking acolyte and believed that the latter realized this fact as well. From the looks of it, he was probably trying to tire everyone out, and in doing so, guaranteed his chance to deal the final blow to earn the points.

"Retreat!"

It was the next call by Arcana, and Lodos' [Gravitational Pressure] quickly disappeared. Immediately after, the torrent-like threads returned to rain upon the group.

As if that wasn't intense enough, even more, flew out of its mouth and headed toward them.

This time, however, Emery did not retreat into the barrier.

He activated his bloodline skill and silver fur started to grow in his arms and feet.

[Fey Transformation]

[Battle power increased by 30 points]

[Battle power 245 (339)]

Emery chose to use his first transformation because it enhanced his agility tremendously, allowing him to dodge some of the incoming sharp threads and swiftly cut the rest with his sword.

He also diversified his assault by casting [Blink] as he attacked the Abyss creature from all kinds of angles, generously bestowing wound after wound on its pale white body. He believed that as long as there was room for him to move, adding to the monster's low mobility, soon or later the Abyss creature would drop dead.

Arcana did not want to admit it, but Emery's action did speed up their progress significantly. The other elite acolytes were also cheering when they saw the Abyss creature could do nothing but receive a beating from Emery.

A few minutes later, finally, the Abyss creature lost its aloof demeanor. It seemed to realize that its life was in danger, and it started to move around trying to escape. Alas, with nowhere to go, it gave out a loud shrieking sound and finally plopped to the ground.

However, just as everyone thought it was the creature's end, it suddenly shone in golden light before shooting dozens more threads all over the place.

It happened so suddenly that everyone was caught off guard. The bald acolyte was unlucky and his stomach was pierced. Even Lodos who was exhausted due to the continuous use of [Gravitational Pressure] was attacked.

Micah quickly used his protection towards Lodos and everyone else, while Emery had only enough time to respond with his [Jade Skin].

Clank! Clank! Spalltt!!

The threads that swept over were able to make a few cuts and even pierce Emery's combat gear and the [Jade Skin] underneath. Fortunately, the protection given by the two was enough for Emery to blink close to the creature where the threads were at a minimum.

But then, he quickly realized that the thread was purposely aimed toward the ceiling of the place and the ceiling of the chamber they were in was shaking violently.

Apparently, the Abyss creature used its connected threads to pull the entire earth above the chamber down. Tons of rocks swiftly fell down like rain, crashing into everyone present in the chamber.

Chapter 917 - Pulled

Rocks and boulders rained down as the ceiling collapsed and Emery ended up losing sight of the group who were behind him.

The wild hailstorm of rocks has also rendered him unable to [Blink] around to dodge, as the limited space he could use to dodge was filled with falling rocks. One wrong step and he would be buried under.

Not to mention, the stage 5 Abyss creature just a few meters in front of him was still hunting for his life.

Whoosh!

The creature once again shot out the shining, life-reaping strings. Hundreds of gleaming threads weaved and moved all around the rocks, hunting for him like each had a mind of their own.

Seeing the onslaught coming in his way, Emery quickly touched the ground beneath him and cast a spell.

[Jade Wall]

Crack! Crack! Crack!

Right as the gleaming green wall was erected, hundreds of rocks assailed it, and within seconds, it crumbled back into the earth. The strings shot out from the cracked stones and wrapped all around him in a cocoon-like wrap.

"Urgh!"

Before Emery could do anything, hundreds of strings quickly covered his body from neck to waist. Even with his current battle power, breaking away was a struggle.

Swinging his sword became so much harder. Meanwhile, the creature started to pull him closer bit by bit as Emery tried to resist with all of his battle power.

When Emery was anything but far from the creature, it opened its maw wide, showing off a disgusting, void-like meat tunnel with dozens of fangs growing in an irregular pattern. A stinky smell seeped out from it, making Emery have to resist the instinctive urge to gag.

"Urrgh!"

Spurred by his disgust, Emery decided to unleash his [Night Transformation].

[Battle power increased by 40 points]

Power coursed through his body like a deluge, and dark fur started to sprout all over his arms as his limbs were enlarged. The increased battle power helped him to hold on, preventing his body from continuing to be pulled closer.

How!!!

With his newfound strength, Emery yanked away his sword arm from the threads binding it, and used his blade to cut the strings holding him captive. It was a struggle, but he was finally able to break free.

Not wanting to waste his chance, Emery cast [Dark Infusion]. With his Savage Blade that coated in an ominous layer of black, he pierced the creature without the slightest hesitation.

Spllaatttt!!

Shriiiiiekkk!!

The creature let out an ear piercing screech and flinched away.

That should finally do the job, or at least so he thought...

The creature shrieked one more time, and once again, it was surrounded by a golden glow. Just like that, Emery was able to clearly see how its wounds were closing rapidly. The creature had regained its health yet again.

"What the?!! Dammit!!"

That stage 5 Abyss creature was definitely not a normal one, and at this point, it looked like an impossible task to kill.

If Emery had to have a say, this degree of hardship and peril was really not worth that 50.000 points. He would rather be surrounded and have to fight 10 or 20 stages 4 Abyss creatures at the back foot than even think about facing this exact Abyss creature again.

Hundreds of strings started to creep out from the Abyss creature's mouth and wrapped around his body. He was caught, cocooned in yet again and the creature once again pulled him in.

"Dammit! I am not your freakin' dinner!"

Emery took a deep breath to calm his nerves, and finally, he decided to use his last resort as he realized that he couldn't afford to hold back any longer.

He had hoped that he wouldn't have to use this skill right now, as he lacked knowledge about it. However, this was not a time to be picky.

[Blade Claw] READ LATEST CHAPTERS AT FREEWEBNOVEL.COM ONLY.

Three blades came out from each of his knuckles and, with his vastly higher battle power, Emery was able to outmaneuver the Abyss creature and cut the threads wrapping around his body into pieces.

Emery landed on the ground, leaped forward, and pierced all 6 blades onto the creature's flesh.

Spllaatttt!!

Shrriieekkk!!

He hooked in the claw and used the Fey Warlock's innate ability [Spirit Devour].

"Shall we see which is faster? Your healing or my devour?" Emery said with a maniacal grin on his face.

At the sudden attack, the creature shrieked in pain. It shot its strings again, they wrapped around and attempted to pull Emery in. Due to that, he had to hold on with his entire strength to keep still and ensure he was not pulled into the creature's maw.

A few moments later, Emery felt the movement of energy from the creature pushing into him from the claw. From there, a straight line from the energy pool to his spirit core was created.

At first, Emery only tried to hold on as the energy ebbed and flowed away with a sensation like pushing and pulling.

His strength reigned over the creature in the end, and what began as a string of energy slowly intensified into a wave as Emery felt the energy revitalize his body.

The creature was filled with light energy and each drop seemed to refresh him, and something unimaginable happened.

[Spirit force increased]

Previously his devouring skill was only able to fill his Spirit Pool, this time however Emery could feel the light energy from the creature clash with the mist that was created when he devoured Aburva, the earth element privilege acolyte.

As if the glass was finally filled to the brim, the energy started to move into his core and increase his spirit force.

[Spirit force increased]

When he used the power for the first time, all Emery felt was a pouring of energy. But now it had become a deluge, and his spirit force increased rapidly within a matter of moments. At this point, the creature was already at his mercy.

[Spirit force increased]

[Spirit force increased]

[Spirit force 1328 (1333)]

When Emery thought it had finally stopped and the creature had been deprived of all its energy, once again the golden glow made its appearance and enveloped its body. However, instead of another sight of the creature returning to its peak state, another wave of energy came pouring into him.

More rocks rained down, threatening to bury him and the corpse of the creature in a grave of stones. However, Emery felt as if he had found the fountain of treasures, and he refused to let go of such a fortune.

[Spirit force increased]

[Spirit force increased]

Chapter 918 - Devour

[Spirit force increased]

As he drained the Abyss creature's spirit energy, Emery began to wonder if this skill could be used on other creatures.

Of course, he was reluctant to use it on humans. But if it was capable of draining the spirit energy out of the Abyss creatures, given the abundance of them on the planet, it would indeed be of great help to fill up the 2,000 spirit force requirement needed for him to reach the magus realm.

The skill went on for a few minutes until finally, Emery felt as if there was a barrier that blocked his devouring ability within his core. Realizing this was his current limit, he decided to stop.

[Spirit force 1328 (1350)]

When Emery pulled out his claws from the body of the Abyss creature, he noticed its previously pale white skin had turned gray and wrinkled. It let out a shriek once again. But this time, the shriek seemed to be its death throes, as its body weakly tilted to the side and didn't move anymore.

Using his Spirit Reading, Emery was sure the creature was dead, as there were no more signs of life had come from it. However, just to be sure, he accessed the device on his hand and checked his current points.

[Personal points ranking]

[Rank 2 - 138967 points]

[Squad points ranking]

[Rank 12 - 339214 points]

Emery finally breathed a sigh of relief when he saw his points increase by 50,000, which meant the Abyss creature had indeed been killed.

At the same time, the 50,000 points reward from slaying a stage 5 Abyss creature had allowed him to blaze through the ranks and sit in 2nd rank out of the 900 acolytes who participated in the test.

After all, not even 24 hours had passed since the start of the test and Emery had managed to defeat a stage 5 Abyss creature. On top of that, his summons must have worked really hard to help him earn those points as well.

Emery then cast his gaze around his surroundings and found out he was currently trapped under a pile of rocks. There was nothing else, no sign of the others beside himself, the dead body of the huge Abyss creature, and rocks.

Another thing he realized was that the combat suit that had been torn by the Abyss creature's attacks was gradually returning to its original state. Fascinated by this interesting piece of technology, Emery watched closely as the tears in the armor regenerated slowly.

Now that the boss creature was dead, Emery thought of taking out Chiko to help him burrow out of this place and search for the other acolytes. However, before he could even call for the chubby creature, suddenly a striking golden glow shot out from the corpse of the Abyss creature.

He became even more shocked when he felt powerful spirit energy once again emerge from the body.

"What?! It's not dead yet?!"

Emery once again prepared himself for another gruesome fight, when he realized only a tiny part of the corpse was glowing. He approached closer and was surprised to see something crawling out of it.

It shone brightly at first, piercing his eyes for how bright it was. A second later, the piercing light dimmed slightly and allowed Emery to finally catch with his eyes what it really was.

A butterfly as big as his thumb that emitted a golden glow.

It flopped and was staggering on top of the corpse for a while, then Emery was speechless to see it was able to pass through the rocks when it finally managed to fly. Through the gaps of the rocks, he saw the butterfly fly higher and higher until it eventually disappeared from view.

'It's gone away.'

Even a fool would know at a glance that such a creature must be something of value. Thus, Emery immediately decided to send Chiko to follow the tiny butterfly. Receiving his master's order, the chubby creature swiftly burrowed into the ground.

After making sure Chiko was on the right track, Emery touched the rocks behind him and tried to find his fellow acolytes, who were supposed to be behind these rocks with his Spirit Reading.

It took quite some time, but he eventually found they were all still alive. Maybe hurt, but definitely alive.

He then fell into contemplation, as he gouged his priorities. In the end, instead of reuniting with the elite acolytes, Emery decided to chase the butterfly.

"All of you elites shouldn't die that easily, right? Stay alive. I will be right back." Emery said to himself.

Next, he focused his concentration on his [One Mind] skill and predicted where the glowing butterfly would emerge based on where Chiko was currently moving. Only after he was sure did Emery cast [Spatial Gate] and return to the surface.

Moments later, as expected, the butterfly flew out of the ground.

Immediately, Emery tried to catch him. However, he soon realized that none of the materials in his possession could contain and prevent the creature from phasing through.

Not willing to give up, he decided to try his new spell on the tiny creature.

Emery raised both his hands, the spirit energy within his core churned, as they moved according to his will. A while later, a small dark sphere that seemed to be anything but something formed in his hand.

[Aegis of Void]

This was the Divine spell Emery had practiced for the past 7 days. So far he had only been able to form something about a meter in size.

It was a spell that created some kind of a barrier that distorted space itself, and with the spell, Emery was able to successfully contain the glowing butterfly.

With a slight gesture of his hand, the dark sphere containing the mysterious butterfly flew to his hand.

Emery looked at the butterfly trapped in his hand, once again, he felt a strange sense of familiarity with it.

"You are the one who's been bothering me all this time, aren't you... You see, I'll definitely find out what you really are."

Emery naturally tried to use the scanner to find out what the butterfly really was, but the device didn't show much. Apparently, according to the device, the butterfly was only a powerful spiritual lifeform and nothing more.

With Arcana and the others still trapped underground, Emery decided to put this matter aside for now. Hence, he stored the butterfly inside his Spatial Space.

"Don't be afraid, okay? Twik will keep you company there. You hear me Twik?!"

"kuannng! ku.. ku!"

The wood creature actually asked to go out, but Emery said not now.

## Chapter 919 - Indebted

Now that the mysterious butterfly had been secured, Emery focused his mind on casting Spirit Reading towards the chamber where he fought the tier 5 Abyss creature.

As he had been there before, he was familiar with the area and it allowed him to sense the place much more easily and was successful in casting his [Spatial Gate].

Entering the swirling portal, it led him to a tunnel just outside the main chamber. After making sure there was no threat nearby, Emery proceeded to use his new spell, [Undermaster].

The spell made it feasible for him to easily form the ground, especially to create space within. Without taking much time, he quickly came up with the notion to create a tunnel he could walk through. It took a bit of time and effort, but eventually, the dirt and rocks blocking his path were gone.

He went into the tunnel and just after a few dozen meters, a way was opened. At this moment, Emery found Micah's ice barrier, which had been created to protect them from being crushed by rocks.

"Someone is there! that's the commander!"

The trapped individuals instantly turned their gaze at Emery once he arrived at their location. Most of them were happy to see him. Arcana, on the other hand, appeared to have something more important to ask of him other than anything else.

The acolyte then quickly exclaimed,

"Did you kill the creature? You did...didn't you? I just saw your ranking rise up crazily!"

Emery had no reason to lie, so he just calmly responded, "Yeah."

Hearing Emery's answer, the kid-looking acolyte couldn't seem to contain his anger any longer, as he suddenly yelled, "You! You've promised!"

"No, I did not!" Emery interrupted, "Even if I did, there was no way to keep the creature alive for you," he added.

After hearing Emery's response, Arcana was barely able to keep his anger under control. In spite of his feelings of frustration, what Emery had just said at the moment made sense, but feeling he couldn't do anything about it only made him angrier.



Emery could only heave a sigh at the other party's attitude. However, he did not want this matter to distract him, so he went to check on the others. It was at this moment when he realized the bald acolyte was nowhere to be found.

The last time Emery saw him, he had been badly injured by the Abyss creature's attack. It was most likely the man had already been crushed by the falling rocks at this point. However, that wasn't what angered Emery.

Despite the fact the bald acolyte was a member of Arcana squad, his captain did not show any signs he cared at all. Hell, the man still glared at him with a hostile look. Seeing such an attitude only made Emery's hate towards the kid-looking acolyte grow even more.

Afterward, Emery immediately called Chiko out to help out searching for the man. He still had to at least try to find the corpse. That way, the man could be properly buried later.

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Luckily, it didn't take long for the chubby creature to be finally able to locate the bald acolyte. The man was found in an extremely serious condition to the point where he was half dead with his limbs and chest being crushed by rocks.

Emery swiftly cast his [Nature Blessing] and [Regrow Limbs] to help the injured acolyte.

Fortunately, both spells were effective in saving the man's life. After a few minutes, the bald acolyte was coughing as he finally escaped death.

"Uhuk... thank... you commander. I am Yuri... I am now indebted to you," said the man, his voice shaky.

Emery only gave a nod as a response and continued to cast [Undermaster] spell in order to create a tunnel into the corner of the chamber.

Only minutes later, Emery found what he had been looking for, a boulder with a rune mark. The one that would give bonus points for a squad when destroyed.

The annoyed Arcana approached the boulder and was ready to destroy it. Seeing this, Emery quickly got in the way, raised his hand, and stopped him.

"What now?! Don't tell me you also want the point for yourself?!" asked Arcana in a raised tone, making Emery raise his eyebrows.

Emery maintained his composure as he turned to look toward Micah and the others. "No... Not me. I will give the honor to those who contribute the most." As he said that, his eyes scanned at the group of acolytes and stopped at one of them.

"Lodos!"

Emery's decision brought a surprise to all.

"Not only did Lodos work extra hard in this fight, Micah barrier also saved all your lives, and their captain, Rayne, killed thousands of creatures outside, so I say Lodos, this is for you!"

When Arcana heard this, the anger he barely managed to suppress finally burst out like a volcano as he let out a string of curses.

Unfazed, Emery calmly approached the kid-looking acolyte, "If you dare to cause any more trouble, I will tie you up for the whole test and make sure that you fail."

It was a burst of emotion that has been bottling up for a while. Although Emery wasn't sure that he had the power to hold Arcana.

He was not just tired, he was really angry at the man. In fact, he was ready for a rematch with the acolyte if needed.

On the other hand, the kid-looking acolyte stole a glance towards his elite members for a second. At that moment, when he saw not a single one of them willing to return his gaze, he realized none of them would stand by his side.

Once again, Arcana turned real quiet and did not dare to challenge Emery. Seeing the meek display, Emery didn't say anything and just continued to stare at the kid-looking acolyte.

"Listen to my command and I assure you I will help you and your men to pass the test," Emery stated.

Then, he shifted his attention to Lodos, who was currently showing a wicked smile. Receiving a nod, the Maniac swiftly cast [Obsidian Lance] and broke the boulder apart.

[Squad 29 - has cleared a Nest - 5000 points awarded to all squad members]

Now that the Nest was cleared, Emery created a [Spatial Gate] and headed toward the walls where the other acolytes had finished clearing up all of the remaining Abyss creatures.

Under Emery's calm yet oppressing gaze, Arcana freed Rayne from the spell he had cast on her.

"You fuking bastard!"

Once Rayne returned to her usual self, a fight almost broke out between the two as the blonde girl cursed and swore to kill Arcana for what he had done to her. Fortunately, Emery had already anticipated for such a thing to happen and the fight was averted.

After making sure Rayne was calm and wasn't going to do anything drastic, Emery started to explain the grand plan that had been prepared to the group of people.

The idea to save millions of people within 10 days, was once again not well received by the group. However, it was easier to convince the group this time, as the plan had been agreed by the other 8 squads and was already in motion.

There were also a hundred thousand points to be received if they could survive, hence, they had no option but to follow.

In the end, Emery was able to recruit 60 more acolytes to help him in clearing the Abyss nests and gathering survivors in the northern part of the continent he was assigned to.

Chapter 920 New Plan

When his eyes looked at the map in his hands that covered a third of the continent, Emery saw that there were a total of 50 marks indicating the existence of the Abyss nest. However, there was an empty spot on the map.

That blank spot existed because Rayne didn't return to the main base and report her findings at the previous gathering, so the map didn't include the Abyss nests found within the scope of her search area.

During her exploration, Rayne had found six Abyss nests around this area before she ran into some trouble with Arcana. Hearing that, Emery assumed that there were still several more not yet found Abyss nests further north.

Even so, the amount of Abyss nests that needed to be cleared would definitely be still not enough to share for two squads. Hence, he needed to think of another creative solution.

There was also the fact that he needed these acolytes to help him gather survivors, something that could not be solved by his Mineralized Warrior summons.

Emery paused for a split second as if he remembered something, then he shifted his gaze towards Arcana and asked, "Tell me, how did you lure the Abyss creature out of the nest?"

Hearing that, Arcana smirked and quickly pointed his finger to his forehead. The meaning of his gesture was clear. The reason he was able to lure the Abyss creatures out of their nest was because of his special ability [Eye of Mistra].

The rank 10 privileged acolyte's face looked extremely proud as he bragged how amazing his ability was.

It was thanks to his eyes that he was able to spot the stage 5 Abyss creature from hundred miles away and enchanted Rayne to carry out his orders obediently. The fact that he was able to bewitch the blonde girl meant that he could do the same to dozens of stage 3 Abyss creatures or a few stage 4.

Arcana's words once again stirred the crowd in the wrong way, as Rayne turned and glared at the kid-looking acolyte. Unfortunately, Emery's presence left her with no chance for revenge so she just spat out curses from the sideline.

Emery inwardly shook his head seeing this. This Arcana, not only his body that looks like a child, but also his personality. Still, with this new information, he quickly altered and formed a new plan.

And obviously, the two squads had no choice but to follow it through.

Without saying anything else, Emery cast [Spatial Gate] and created a portal, telling everyone to enter.

A moment later, Emery arrived at the hill overlooking the devastated settlement he had visited before. From above, one could clearly see there were still dozens of Abyss creatures scavenging dead bodies and roaming around the area.

"Should we attack, commander?" asked Yuri, the bald elite acolyte part of Arcana's squad, without even turning to his own captain.

Emery was silent for a moment before shaking his head. Turning his gaze away from the sad sight,

"Alright, gather up! Here's the plan, so listen carefully."

After deep deliberation, Emery decided to form a new group.

One would be captained by Rayne and filled by all the elite acolytes except Micah, Lodos, and Yuri, plus 20 regular acolytes.

That way, the blonde girl would lead a squad of 25 acolytes with enough firepower to go and clear all 6 nearby marked Abyss nests. Afterward, they would continue to move north to clean out the rest of Abyss nests that had not been found yet.

"Rayne, I need you to alternate between your squad and Arcana's when it comes to crushing the runic boulder." Seeing the expression on her face, Emery spoke again this time in a firmer tone. "Do you understand?"

The female archer clearly looked reluctant, but in the end, she agreed to his request with a nod. Of course, she didn't forget to cast a spiteful gaze at Arcana.

Emery then divided the rest of the 30 regular acolytes into three groups led by Micah, Lodos, and Yuri.

He then opened the map and marked three different locations in the surrounding area, which were suspected of having surviving bases or settlements. Lifting his eyes from the map, Emery stared at the three group leaders he had chosen.

"I need the three of you to lead your group and go to these three areas. I want you to rescue all the survivors, as many as you can find"

Emery was serious about this task and expected no mistake.

"Alright, everyone. I need all of you to come back here with tasks completed in at most 7 days! That's it!"

Neither of them questioned his plan and they quickly left the hill with their respective groups, leaving only one person standing behind him.

Arcana had been quiet since they arrived at the hill. He didn't even say anything as Emery divided his acolytes and formed three groups without including himself at all. Now that there were only two of them left, he quickly put his finger on his forehead.

Emery turned around and glanced at the anxious Arcana..

"Are you going to kill me?!" Arcana said to him while moving backward. At the same time, the third eye on his forehead was already half opened.

Emery just calmly replied, "No," while walking towards the edge of the hill overlooking the burned-down settlement. His voice was heard once again. "But I want you to be responsible for the deaths of these people."

Hearing that, Arcana shouted, "What!! You...You are crazy!"

Emery turned around and took a deep look at the kid-looking acolyte. He knew that if he didn't control this person properly, Arcana would always be a thorn in his platoon for the next 9 days.

He wasn't sure if he could beat the other party, however, he knew that Arcana would not kill him either if he wanted to pass the mid-test. Therefore, it was better for him and the rest of his platoon if this matter was dealt with swiftly.

"I know that you are itching to fight me one more time," said Emery calmly, catching Arcana off guard by how abrupt the words were. "Here's your chance. If you wanna beat me up, you have to do it now."

Emery stood there, and while Arcana was still hesitating, his figure gradually changed.

[Twilight Transformation]

"Aagghh!!" shouted Arcana in frustration. "NO! I won't be intimidated by the likes of you!"

[Eye of Mistra]

A shining blue light came out of the third eye on Arcana's forehead, as it once again enveloped Emery with its skill.