

## Mana 101

### Chapter 101 - The Grand Assembly

A busy sight could be seen across the four peaks of the Frozen Kingdom as nobilities moved around rapidly, convening towards the huge hall at the center of King's Crown for a Grand Assembly.

Many were apprehensive as they could see the signs of the full preparation of an all-out war, with battalions of mercenaries and adventurers being grouped with soldiers ready to move out.

The throngs of humans and beastmen usually packing the streets below the four peaks were oddly silent as the air seemed to become stifling and oppressive. The demons that everyone was talking about were arriving. How many of them would be able to survive through this?

The King's voice would address the entire kingdom. Magical devices that passed the soundwaves from the floating King's Crown all the way to the smallest niches of the Frozen Kingdom would get to hear the words of their ruler. The soldier, the mercenaries, adventures, and the common people would all be getting addressed.

In the large hall of King's Crown, Roark was majestically sitting down on an extravagant white chair. Besides him were smaller but way less extravagant seats where two princes and a princess were sitting.

They were the only ones sitting in the hall, as the rest of the nobles and powerful figures were standing upright on the left and right sides, leaving a clear path in the middle. There were golden stairs leading down from where the Ruler of the Kingdom was sitting, where many guards could be seen spread out.

Among these guards were eight Battalion Commanders that let out the powerful aura of EPIC rank, standing on either side of the King with their weapons ready to be drawn at an instant.

King Roark looked at these collections of people and recalled the reports he continued to receive about the advancement of the Demon Legion as well their defense line that continued to be pushed back. His powerful voice rang out in the large hall, and also throughout the kingdom.

"The first thing I will discuss is the issue of succession, where the Ministers of Affairs will note down my words to be inviolable from this moment on."

Surprised looks were passed between the people at the mention of the succession of leadership. Wasn't it already decided that Crown Prince Aeneas would be taking the crown after his father retired?

King Roark looked towards his oldest son, and well as his daughter before he continued speaking.

"Strike out the name of Aeneas Belmont as the next ruler of the Frozen Kingdom."

BOOM

Silence. Shock. Dumbfoundedness.

The ministers scrambled to pull out an old document as the nobles moved around in shock. Nobles looked towards the face of Crown Prince Aeneas, who had a calm look despite the huge bombshell that directly involved him. The question on their minds was, what had occurred with the prince to cause this, and how was he not phased by it currently?!

"My son has failed to show the proper judgment of a future ruler these past few years, and has lost his right because of it. The one to succeed me in the event of my retirement...or death, shall be Adelaide Belmont."

The nobles that did not think they could be more surprised received another shock, as one successor was named right after another was taken down. The king would not let them revel in their shock for long as one name was taken down by the ministers and another added in, where he continued speaking.

"Battalion Commanders! Swear fealty to the future ruler of the Frozen Kingdom!"

His powerful voice was addressed to the EPIC individuals that held the military power of the kingdom. They had risen together with the king, and were extremely loyal with bonds being closer to that of brothers. The eight EPIC individuals present nodded with impassive faces as they kneeled towards the icy face of Princess Adelaide.

BOOM!

Wild power flew out as the Battalion Commanders spoke imposingly.

"We greet the future Queen!"

The scene would be etched down in history as the magnificent and powerful individuals swore their fealty to the future ruler. Power was everything in this world. Even if the LEGENDARY Roark Belmont were to disappear from the face of this world tomorrow, as long as these EPIC Battalion Commanders were behind the new ruler, they would face no opposition.

The face of Adelaide remained as icy as ever as she nodded, while the face of the one formerly known as Crown Prince still retained its calmness, forcing many people to wonder what was holding the face of this prince together. As for their younger brother who sat beside them, he was the only one showing emotions of shock among the four royalties present in the seats as he looked back and forth between his family members.

"With that matter being settled, we will move on to the next."

The strong voice of the King rang out once again. The voice commanded the attention of all people as waves of LEGENDARY power emanated outwards, almost bringing the weaker individuals in the hall to their knees.

"In the coming days, we will be fighting for the livelihood of our kingdom."

"We are a peaceful kingdom, with no wars waged over the last decades. We want to continue developing and live in happiness, living behind all the misery that many humans faced. This world is rich with life, but we are only a minor part of it. Now, a force threatens to destroy all that we have built."

Somber faces were apparent all around as the speech of the King continued. The shock of the change in succession was slowly put in the back of their minds as their attentions were brought back to the imminent threat they faced.

"We will fight to make sure that the misery they are trying to bring to our kingdom never reaches the fortress walls. The hate and war that these demons bring, we will shut it out!"

The strength of his voice seemed to be getting stronger as he continued, leading people and leaving them in a trance as they listened.

"My people! Soldiers, Mercenaries, and Adventurers!"

"I promise you now that we will fight with all our power to ensure victory against the demons!"

"Our strength lies in our resiliency, our unity, and our humanity!"

OOOH!

The buzzing of power could be felt as the powerful individuals in the large assembly hall and the common people listening throughout the kingdom felt their spirits and power being raised.

"Defenders of the Frozen Kingdom! The demons who despise you, want to enslave you, and take all of the work you have built over the years. Do not give in to them!"

"You are the last bastion of humanity in this world of beasts. It is not an option for you to be taken down! So Fight!"

"Fight for the liberation of our people!"

"Fight for the free land that we have created!"

"Fight...for Humanity!"

OOOOOOH!!!!

The spirits and vigor of all the people listening rose to an all-time high as the King's Speech finished. The King gave the command, and Battalion Commanders began moving out with their soldiers, mercenaries, and adventures as they prepared for the coming clash against the demons.

## **Chapter 102 - Trial of Supremacy I**

It seemed much of the knowledge that humans had of the floating land masses they called Nests were in the wrong. The landmasses were called Spiritual Lands by the knowledgeable ranks of beasts, with the dense essence that continued to birth monsters being a constant trial of power.

It was a brutal trial where those that were defeated were used as the fuel for the victors to continue rising. After a significant time period has passed where higher ranking beasts appear, the Trial of Supremacy will take place.

This trial differed depending on what tier the Spiritual Land was, with Tier 1 blessed lands having trials most fit for those just entering the EPIC level. Only those at that level or lower could possibly participate in the trial, with anybody above it being qualified.

The trial for a Tier 2 Spiritual Land was even more rigorous, where similar levels of power as Tier one were required, but the trials were much harder. I haven't yet found out the specifics for Tier 3 Spiritual lands, but they were most likely a battlefield of LEGENDARY individuals.

The current Skypeak Nest I was in was a newly upgraded Tier 2 Spiritual Land, with 15 powerful EPIC beasts meeting the requirements to participate in the trial. Ever since the upgrade though, even though

the chances of success had increased, it had become much harder and none of the beasts had been successful.

This was where I came in. The transparent figure that I still do not know the name of had been monitoring the Spiritual Land she had upgraded, waiting for the rise of a LEGENDARY beast to bolster the defenses against demons. The ones who had opted to take the trial could not make it past the 2nd stage.

When I took down the white-furred beast who was a participant of the trial, it granted me the right to take his seat. The time after that, they just waited for me to come back, before the [Emperor Penguin] acted to transport me to this location. This was deep underground, at the center of the Spiritual Land. It was a wide expanse of frozen land that stretched out for miles and enclosed all around.

I looked towards the evened out surface around us, and then at the EPIC beasts in the surroundings. I then asked the transparent red figure still floating in the skies.

"What is the first stage of the trial?"

"The first stage is to simply defeat an opponent of the same level during the trial. The trials after that...will have increased levels of difficulty. If you agree to take on the first stage and onward, you are staking your life and you cannot back out. Even if you are defeated you will have to remain and continue trying for years to come as your power grows. If it happens that you die...well, that's that."

My thoughts quickly moved at this new information and I replied before long, bringing the cold blade in my hands close to me as I spoke.

"When do we start?"

"Haha, I like that confidence! All the beasts here have tried and failed to pass the second level. It is simply too rare for a being with a powerful unique skill to be borne, so I have high hopes on you making my work here a success.."

At the wave of her hands, another rumbling ensued around us as a large golden door rose from the ground.

"This door will transfer you to the pocket in space where the trial will take place."

I looked to the golden door, and then to the menacing beasts that were giving me contemptuous looks all around. This was especially so for the cold Emperor Penguin that had its head raised high and looking down arrogantly. Its eyes turned into cold slits as its voice rang out beside my ear.

"A human has never before qualified for this trial, and there won't be one that passes it. Pray that among your opponents...you do not meet me."

The beasts backed away at the motioning of the transparent figure that I turned to and asked,

"What might be the identity of the one I've been speaking to all this time?"

The figure in the air stalled a bit as an elegant smile bloomed.

"My identity? You'll be worthy of finding out if you pass the trial successfully. Good luck, human."

The transparent red figure remained still in the air as I looked towards the golden door and moved forward. She held no aura, but I could still feel bells ringing in my head whenever she made a threat earlier. But this trial...I was looking forward to the surprise it would bring once I've cleared it successfully. Guaranteed advancement to the LEGENDARY rank? Haha, let's see what gifts you will be putting on my lap!

I moved without hesitation and placed my large incarnation's hand on the golden door, my figure disappearing soon after.

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The transparent woman floating in the skies looked at the disappearing human that was transferred to a different space as her lips perked into a smile. She only had a small amount of her consciousness sent to these frozen lands to observe the invading demons as well as bolster the strength of the beings here.

She thought it would be a pity if the small kingdom that the humans had created was wiped away so easily, so she was magnanimous enough to try and provide them reinforcements through the Trials of Supremacy.

Who knew that the humans would shoot themselves in the foot and continue to reduce the number of beasts in the nearby Spiritual Lands that could have participated in the trials over these last decades, making her task of finding a talented one that could pass the trial extremely hard.

By spending some of her treasures, she successfully elevated the tier of this Spiritual Land as well as the other 2 that have yet to find an owner in these northern lands. She was able to watch the production of a few powerful EPIC beasts in these three Lands, but they still were not powerful enough. She was about to give up and see if any of the forces would have a powerful hero to spare amidst this war to send them to the north.

That was her thought process until this human made his appearance. From a weakling to someone of significant strength, this very quick process was observed by her personally whenever he landed on the Spiritual Land.

The fact that the world had blessed this human with a unique Devor Class ability made him very special. She hadn't seen a minor species favored with such a talent in the hundreds of years she has lived. If it appeared within the ranks of the Mythical Beast clans, that would be in the norm and she wouldn't bat an eye. But this was a human...so how would he fair against this trial normally meant for the most powerful of beasts?

What made him all the more interesting was the fact that his mind was not encroached and consumed after he absorbed the essence of a being that had already consumed one of the demons' horrendous products of Abyss Magic, the Power Jewel.

Her fair face turned stern as she recalled the terrible power the demons continued to show as the war continued.

She would give them no leeway and completely decimate their forces as time passed. Not another inch of the Beast World will they continue to lay a claim to. All of those invaders had to die!

## **Chapter 103 - Trial of Supremacy II**

I was transported into an environment of extreme heat as I found myself in the air, surrounded by molten flowing earth below me.

The air was extremely stifling as gaseous vapors were released continuously, making this seem like the closest decision of hell that I had come across. I was still comfortably enclosed in the [Corrupted Sword Saint's Incarnation] as I floated in the air looking for the opponent of the first stage of this trial.

A blinding light shined in the air as a large winged creature spanning more than ten meters appeared. This was one of the more terrifying looking creatures that I had seen among the beasts that were encircling me.

It was something out of a human's wildest nightmare, a [Winged Spider].

Four large wings proudly erupted from its back as more than 10 legs powerfully wiggled back and forth. Its ferocious face released a piercing scream as poisonous saliva spluttered all around.

I began by summoning the Plague Bearer and activating Saint's Return, watching both the monstrosity of a beast come to being as well as a golden phantom appearing behind me releasing buffs and continuous heals.

The spider moved first, releasing a spray of white from below its abdomen that formed into multiple long and sticky threads. The summon howled out as its wide wings flapped towards the enemy. My eight-meter tall incarnation vanished from the spot and appeared in the air above the spider, the long blade tinged with icy coldness from [Absolute Zero] striking down.

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The transparent red figure was observing the human and the origin of the beast that had been transferred into the first stage of the trial through a circular mirror that played the battle at high speeds.

The rest of the powerful beasts were obediently sitting behind the woman like well-behaved children as they also looked on. The battle was not going in the favor of the [Winged Spider] as it was besieged by powerful physical attacks from one side, and a poisonous beast belching out poison on the other.

It had been retaliating this entire time with its many sharp legs and poison, as well as a destructive skill that formed multiple five-meter long bone spears to hone in on their target. The spears were all struck down by a swing of a sword or smashed into the body of the incarnation, causing damage that was seen to be healing rapidly after.

Only a few minutes passed as they watched, and they observed the sharp legs of the spider being cut up as it also lost one of its wings. In the fiery environment that the two of them were in, a storm of cold was constantly spinning around the large figure of the human. With a stroke of his long blade, layers of ice would be left on the spider's body as the battle was drawing to a close.

Its body continued to slow down and eventually, the long blade pierced it from its abdomen as it let out a long screech, dying from the strike that spread out destructive cold elements all over its body.

The woman looked at all this carefully as her eyes shined with colorful lights.

'This human gives no regard to the usage of energy and constantly erupts with destructive attacks that take down his enemy. But, what is your strategy when you move on to the next stage? If you do not conserve your energy, how will you proceed from now on?'

She was curious about this human that continued to bring her surprises. Someone of her stature would not normally pay attention to an up and coming EPIC individual or watch them this closely, but she just had a hunch that this human could grow up to be a powerful piece.

Her choice to send this consciousness to these frozen lands was only a whim, with the excuse of it being a loss if the lands and their inhabitants were given over to demons. The thought just passed through her mind, so she did it. Now it seemed like her hunch had brought her something unbelievable to play with once again.

Wild energies revolved as a beast was transported back to their surroundings. It was the [Winged Spider] that was now severely weakened, with its origin severely damaged from the death that just occurred in the trial ground.

The trial ground acted similarly to a dungeon that only appeared when someone was challenging for ownership of a Spiritual Land. The opponents that were contending for the same thing would have their origins sent to fight the other challenger. In the event of their death, their origins would be severely weakened, and if it repeated again in a short time span, they would face true death.

The trial for this Spiritual Land was fairly straightforward as many were, just a test of strength. A few minutes passed before the woman motioned forward as three new beasts neared the golden door obediently and they disappeared. She had been directing the trial of this Land ever since she caused its upgrade, as it would normally be automated by the Spiritual Land itself.

Not many people could do the actions she was doing, as they would have had to pay a large price that wasn't worth the rewards of a Tier 2 Spiritual Land. Even after they did this, they couldn't obtain the Spiritual Land for themselves as the trial for ownership was strictly set with its own requirements.

This was why the other two Spiritual Lands in the North still had no owners, even if all the powerhouses of the Beast World knew about them. The beasts that were naturally born in these Lands would constantly fight to see if they can obtain ownership themselves.

Figures from Mythical Kingdoms usually sent their promising up and coming powerhouses of EPIC or LEGENDARY rank to see if they were qualified enough at the same level to pass the trials of some of the Spiritual Lands spread across the Beast World. They weren't things that could just be snatched away if you had enough power, you also had to meet the base requirements they set.

Someone of her caliber would only be able to compete for a naturally formed Spiritual Land of a much higher tier. But with her power, something like this small upgrade was manageable. Now, she was curious how the human would face three beasts besieging him from all sides after he just finished a battle with one.

The environment in the crystal mirror in front of her changed as the challenger and his opponents appeared in a grassland environment. Greenery was spread all around as the figures of the newly transported beasts became clear.

The ones to face him in the second stage of this trial that many of these beasts had previously failed in were the fat [Walrus], an extremely well built [Polar Bear], and a sharp-toothed [N.a.k.e.d Molerat].

The beasts circled the figure of the human and his summon menacingly as they recalled how he had taken care of the [Winged Spider]. They had watched how he fought, but would it be of any use against this human?

The woman watched interestingly as the scene began to play out. Would this human really be able to pass the trial of a Spiritual Land for the first time in history? Their species had always been weak, and would never stand out as the most powerful at any stage. There have been instances in history where they came across trials of Spiritual Lands, but none had survived to tell the tale.

The treasures and wonders of Spiritual Lands were only ever enjoyed by beasts as it was where many of them first came to consciousness and fought with all their strength, creating powerful legends of beasts over the years who created their own Kingdoms.

It would be interesting to see how the first human to own a Spiritual Land would build it. But all of that was fantasy unless this one did the impossible. So, how would you face beasts that normally have tougher bodies and more mana than the normal human of the same level?

The battle began with the three beasts circling and throwing attacks on all sides while staying a distance from the human. The [N.a.k.e.d Molerat] was throwing out deadly water spears that rotated at high speeds while the [Polar Bear] threw out attacks that detached its sharp claws towards the human.

Loud clangs could be heard as the human knocked off these attacks with a swing of his sword, freezing the water spears and extending claws while defending from the only beast that was fighting it out with him at close distance, the [Walrus]. The poisonous summon was seen belching out a venomous breath that disrupted the tempo the beasts had created as the battle raged on.

It was a deadly stage that even the most powerful beasts born in this Spiritual Land had not been able to pass as they were eventually drained of energy while facing so many opponents. Would this human hold even more surprises? Maybe the devour class unique skill he held would allow him to continue getting stronger with every defeat of his enemies, but would they give him the time to absorb and ingest the essence he devoured?

The woman's thoughts were interrupted as the scene rapidly changed in the mirror. Tens of minutes had passed as the three beasts found their tempo and pushed the human back. They all suffered varying degrees of injuries as their bodies were filled with bloody and frozen gashes, but they were still standing.

The change that had occurred rapidly shifted the state of the battle as an extremely large [Iceberg] was rapidly falling from the skies towards the beasts, with what seemed like a rain of [Bone Spears] targeted at one of the beasts with the goal of taking its life.

On top of all of this, multiple rifts had opened in the skies as destructive lightning and flames sn.a.k.e.d out towards the beasts. All of these attacks had a tinge of icy blue unstable energies surrounding them as they all honed in on their targets.



The figure of the woman was surprised at this sight. The other two attacks aside, it was the spears of bones she had seen not too long ago used by a beast that surprised her. The human's unique skill was able to absorb the essence of and replicate the core skills of his enemies this quickly?!

#### **Chapter 104 - Movement of forces**

The surprise from the transparent figure did not last long as she focused on the impact of the sudden change in the battle that would have grand consequences. The [Iceberg] filled with extremely hard and jagged surfaces smashed down into the grassland, heavily damaging the beasts.

BOOM!

The bone spears that were aimed at the [N.a.k.e.d Molerat] had completely skewered the body of the beast as the scene cleared. It let out horrible screeches as the pain registered itself, and a cold blade was all that it met as the incarnation of the human flashed at its position and took its life.

The remaining two beasts came out of the changed land that was now filled with cold glaciers as they howled maddeningly at the human, resuming their attacks with increased vigor.

The beasts and the woman watching the clear mirror showed different reactions at this development, as the arrogant [Emperor Penguin] had a cold light shining in its eyes as it watched the battle continue.

The woman was more surprised at the fact that the human was able to replicate the skill of the [Winged Spider] this quickly after defeating it not too long ago. She had watched as the collection of essence moved from the body of the dead spider in the trial and moved towards the human as it quickly disappeared in his body.

She took this as his devour class unique skill, where normally a significant amount of time would be required before the core essence of a being would be absorbed and the intricacies of its skills would reveal itself. Yet, this human had done this entire process while continuing to battle. Her interest in this human grew more and more as she watched the ensuing fight.

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Two forces were moving closer and closer to one another, with a battle becoming more and more imminent as time passed.

The LEGENDARY King Roark Belmont had begun moving his forces to be stationed between the snowy mountains of Valen County and Shadow Dukedom, where the Legion of Demons was bound to pass as they neared the Frozen Kingdom.

The Battalion Commanders of EPIC rank had taken up multiple defensive positions as they waited for the arrival of their enemies on the cold battlefield.

Back in the Frozen Kingdom, the recently initiated Royal Guard that was formerly called Captain Ryner was on cloud nine as he circled the manor of the former Princess Adelaide that was now the Crown Princess. He had never thought in his wildest dreams as a mercenary that he would come to guard such a noble person.

Since the word of the King, the guards surrounding the Snowy Peak vastly increased as much of the forces of the kingdom were moved out to meet the coming enemies. Ryner could see the veiled face of the princess on the terrace of the Manor that seemed to be staring at a direction outside the kingdom.

He wondered, 'What thoughts would the princess be deeply thinking right now? Would it be of her family that was setting out to battle, or the people she would be in charge of in the future?'

The Royal Guard was wildly imagining many things that could have been passing through the mind of his revered Princess, but he could never imagine that all of his guesses were completely off.

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Adelaide was repeating the last message that had come across the communication medallion that was connected to another person miles from here.

The last message she received informed her that something unexpected had occurred, but it was something good that would boost their power against the demons even further. The Sir mentioned that he would try to finish it in as little time as possible, and then come to reinforce the battalions of the Frozen Kingdom against the demons.

She had never once lost confidence in him, his actions continuing to show just how expansive his strength was. She even wondered if he was just over preparing for the coming fight.

The many things that had occurred were all due to the chance meeting they had some weeks back. Since then, a dangerous threat had been taken care of and she was given an even higher position. She smiled in wonder at her unique skill and the man that made it possible. Everything she gained would all be given to him, as she wouldn't have any of it without him.

He was the person that had saved her from certain doom. Even now, the battle that many people were despairing at, she was not too worried about it. She didn't worry about the fate of her father, nor of her younger brother that was acting as a commander. She could care even less for the worm of an older brother that was taken along as well. Her grey and murky fate had slowly been changing over the past days, and so would the fate of the kingdom.

She was even thinking further ahead past this battle as she sent commands to her people to start preparing a few things that would be instituted and used after the end of this battle. Her unwavering trust in one person was something impossible to find unless someone was uniquely in her position.

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Roark looked to his first son that was riding on a horse beside him with a calm expression. He knew his son very well, and forced himself not to show any affection after the reprimanding actions he took. Stripping him of his right to rule was more than enough for now.

"You will follow me closely and learn how I command the forces. Your position in the future will be a Battalion Commander as soon as we get the resources to increase your rank."

There was a brief silence as the King's voice rang out in Aeneas's ears before his reply came.

"Yes, Father."

The eyes of King Roark turned into slits as he carefully looked at his son that seemed to have lost all emotions.

"Take this opportunity to learn and leave your mistakes behind. All I am doing is for the good of us all. This, you will understand in the future."

The conversation finished as the King kicked his horse and moved forward, checking on the movement of his forces. Prince Aeneas followed close behind, a barely discernible whisper leaving his lips.

"I'll be doing what is best for all of us too, father."

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The human army moved to their positions as the Demon Legion continued to pass through the cold mountains.

At the forefront were red beasts that carried many figures of demons. The five-meter beasts had thick black fur and seemed like bulls, these were the [Demon Ox] that were commonly used as the mode of transportation for demons.

Droves of them stepped on the icy ground as a low thrumming hum could be heard from the mouths of demons.

GHUUUUUM!

Some were riding on the [Demon Ox], those of lower tiers were walking on the icy ground with an impassive expression, and others were high in the sky bracing the cold winds with no problem. Other beasts such as large [Komodo Dragons] and [Mephitic Turtles] were dangerously carrying even more demons as they moved forward.

GHUUUUUM!

With every step they took, the thrumming hum rang out again, scaring any nearby beasts and leaving behind an imposing air as the army advanced. The average height of these demons was two meters, with some exceptional ones slightly taller and bulkier. Most had fair faces with variations of horns pointing out from their heads. Their bodies were covered in dense red armor as they carried heavy weapons or unstable staffs in their hands.

Among their forces, bulky Orc Commanders and Goblin Kings could be seen, with a variety of other powerful species standing by their side.

Demon King Gremory was seated on an exquisite chair atop an even larger reptilian beast as he enjoyed being fed delicacies. The closer he neared the lands of the Frozen Kingdom, the more excited he became. He had to relieve his hunger multiple times because of it.

He really was too excited as he looked forward to the show about to play. A malevolent smile appeared on his face as he thought of faces these humans would make as this play reached its peak. Haha, this battle couldn't arrive soon enough!

**Chapter 105 - Making History I**

Powerful figures were watching the ending of a perilous battle with rapt attention. In the scene being shown on the wide glass mirror at the depths of one of the Spiritual Lands in the North, a large [Walrus] was seen rolling with its last breath.

In the destroyed grassland, the bodies of a [N.a.k.e.d Molerat] and [Polar Bear] could be seen alongside poisonous puddles of pus and molten ground. The thick skin of the walrus was finally pierced as even with its resistance to the cold, frozen gashes were present all over its body as it vehemently moved even to its last essence.

An excessively large incarnation holding a sword was shooting down like a star, the blade aiming true and bringing an end to the second stage of the Trial of Supremacy.

The weakened bodies of the three beasts that were participating in the trial flashed out soon after as they breathed heavily, still recalling the feeling of the cold blade, poisonous breaths, powerful falling icebergs, and chasing lines of thunder and lightning.

This was not to even mention the feeling of despair as they watched their enemy constantly heal from the wounds they inflicted as if it was nothing. Their origins were severely weakened as a part of themselves was taken with their deaths. This was something they could not control, and had to act as the defenders the moment they chose to contend for the seat of the champion.

The transparent woman overlooking this particular trial was looking closely at the dissipating incarnation as the human grandly appeared in the trial space. His face looked somewhat weary, and yet seemed excited at the same time. She smiled at this sight and sent out a command.

"The final stage will start in an hour. You, you, and you..."

Her hands pointed to multiple figures of the beasts that were watching the matches so far as they rose up somberly. If this human were to really pass the Trial of Supremacy, the consequences for them would be huge. They would not allow this to happen.

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I was holding down my ever so increasing excitement as the fight between three EPIC beasts finally finished. I had gained two more EPIC skills that were in no way less powerful than the ones I continued to receive from this floating land that was actually a Spiritual Land.

The beasts this time dropped a skill or an item each on top of the cores, making me assume the area I was transferred in was similar to a dungeon as the repetition of getting 2 skill books or items from EPIC individuals did not repeat itself.

This would be fine though, as there should be a ton of surprises I don't currently know, and would find out as soon as the next stage is finished. No new contenders or a change of scenery occurred as it seemed like I would be given a breather.

I've been making sure to hold back and not show all of my cards as I wasn't sure if the powerful woman controlling things or the beasts could observe everything in here. [Corrupted Sword Saint's Incarnation] was turned off as I observed the new skills and items while absorbing the EPIC cores to max my attributes.

From these last three beasts, as well as the first [Winged Spider] I faced, I was able to gain two items and skills on top of a few cores.

**[Bone Spears] :: Your knowledge of death is increased as the bones of the dead form at your command. Soul Burn effect is applied to those struck.**

**[Bear Emperor's Fur] :: The luminous fur of the Bear Emperor surrounds you and grants you protection. +300% Defense. All Body Covering is applied.**

The items were even more exquisite.

**[Rat King's Mask] :: Has the effect of completely concealing your aura and changing your face.**

**[Prismatic Guardian] :: Forged from the extremely tough skin of a mammal, it never breaks from attacks of the same level.**

My excitement couldn't be kept down because of these new spectacular skills and items. I patiently waited for the final stage to arrive as I was expectant of how many beasts I would face before passing this trial. Something like this could only be passed by the toughest beasts that dominated the EPIC stage with their defense and offense, and I was bulldozing my way through because I had just that and even more.

I would be careful not to show too much to this powerful figure that attributed my quick rise of power to a unique skill. Even more of my attention was placed on this idea of a Spiritual Land. If the least of the rewards was something that helped beasts advance to the next rank, what other rewards were there?

I didn't wait too long as a bit over an hour later, the scenery around me changed once again. This time, a snowstorm was active all around as I appeared atop a frozen mountain. I looked forward to the next opponents as I activated my old and new EPIC skills together for the first time.

The incarnation of the corrupted sword saint descended as my body fully gained control of the massive 8-meter figure. [Bear Emperor's Fur] was cast next, the incarnation undergoing a change once again.

This time, sleek white fur sprouted out, fully covering the entirety of the large body, even the horn on top of the head seeming like a furry white bump. The fur glistened in the light as [Absolute Zero] was also activated, increasing the glorious white sheen even more. I equipped the [Prismatic Guardian] shield and watched as it expanded to five meters, becoming the same size as the blade I held.

I looked like a glowing white-furred beast as my large figure towered in the snowy surroundings while holding a long blade and a large shield. The environment even further improved the roiling storm of destructive ice elements caused by [Absolute Zero] to go wild.

I was fully ready as five figures flashed into the frozen mountains nearby. The [Emperor Penguin] was at the forefront as it looked at me with extreme caution, its eyes that normally shone with arrogance fully alert.

The other four were the [Arctic Wolf], a [White Mamba] that was larger than 10 meters with the most vicious yellow eyes I've come across, a [Snow Leopard] with glistening white fur, and a dangerous [Wood Frog] that shone multiple bright colors of light.

The fight began rapidly, with the beasts not even getting near me and separating far from each other, circling me on the frozen mountain peak. The [Emperor Penguin] at the lead had his body shining in a dense silver light as its large flippers shone menacingly, its voice ringing out.

"I won't be the cause for the incident of the first human owning a Spiritual Land. Prepare yourself, as we will be going all out."

The cold voice was heard clearly from this sleek beast as the moment it finished, its large figure disappeared. I smiled at the encirclement of beasts as I felt all the skills wrapped around me. The large blade in my right hand glistened as I also disappeared through [Instant Transfer], my first target being the poisonous [Wood Frog].

### **Chapter 106 - Making History II**

[Enfeeble] was the first skill that landed on the poisonous [Wood Frog], unexpectedly slowing it down and causing it to lag, allowing the swing of my sword to pierce into its body and leave a gash. Each swing of my sword carried with it an S rank skill I didn't think I would be using, [Smouldering Sword Strike], that added another layer of damage to the already destructive sword.

I flashed away in an instant as attacks from the other four beasts landed in the location I was just in, [Crisis Avoidance] working in full force letting me know where they were all coming from.

[Instant Transfer] was used repeatedly as I flashed to the [Arctic Wolf] next, stopping the deadly ice beam it was about to shoot out once again. I used another skill I never thought I would have the chance to use to smash into the face of the wolf with the full force of my boosted physical damage by using the rank S [Shield Slam] I received and never used a while back.

**BOOM!**

The strike reverberated out as the wolf's mouth lost a few teeth and became bloody. [Corrupted Sword Saint's Incarnation]'s physical damage and speed boosts were nothing to laugh at.

I was watching the entire battlefield with constantly shifting [Regal Archer's Eyes] as I saw attacks honing in my location again, this time the [Emperor Penguin] flashed right above me letting out a deadly strike with its wide flippers. The other three beasts neared the location to land their attacks as I smiled and transferred away once more.

Their attacks only met air, but not for long as a humongous [Iceberg] smashed into the location that I just left.

**BOOM!**

The impact caused the beasts to become disoriented and lose their momentum as jagged glacial spears pierced onto some of them, and they were about to rise when the shadow of the 30 meter [Iceberg] appeared again.

**RAAAAA!**

A screech came out of the [Emperor Penguin] as a hazy silver light emanated outward from his body and covered the nearby beasts, transporting them far away in an instant.

BOOM!

The iceberg smashed down to one unlucky [White Mamba] that wasn't close enough to the penguin.

Without letting them have any time to recoup, the large white snake only felt pressure as above the broken glacial chunks, a [Poisonous Breath] barreled down towards it from the mouth of the Plague Bearer.

The battle was fast-paced as I acted to be sure that no time was given while I flashed around all over the snowy plain. [Thought Acceleration] was churning at full capacity as my white-furred figure flashed at the poisoned and injured [White Mamba], and the blade layered with destructive ice elements pierced its disoriented head from top to bottom.

SQUELCH!

A horrid sound came out as the blade jaggedly tore apart the head of the beast, the Freezing Touch spreading throughout the muscle and brain matter, finishing it instantly. I pulled out the large blade and stood upright, looking at the four remaining beasts at a distance. A dense essence of light had already flown in my storage pouch. That was one down.

My next target was the [Snow Leopard] that had been shooting what seemed to be a combination of wind and ice blades to every point I appeared. They appeared as jagged crescent blades that exploded on impact. I instantly flashed to its location as my sword deflected the icy blades that appeared right in front of it.

The Plague Bearer was getting ripped apart as it held off the three other beasts behind me, soon exploding in a shower of poison that showered everything nearby. It was fully summoned again in the next second as I continued to slash even faster at the leopard in front of me.

All of its evading was for naught as the storm of destructive ice elements slowed it down, with every strike that landed wounding it even more. When it seemed to be making its last-ditch attempt and a green light surrounded it, [Enfeeble] was cast and the momentary delay would be all I needed.

[Bone Spears] was casted as more than ten extremely large spears letting out pulsating dark energy rushed towards the beast. Multiple rifts had also appeared behind it as flames and lightning pierced it from the back, with my sword coming down from the front.

BOOM!

A whining sound was the only thing that was then heard as the second beast fell, essence filling up my storage pouch once again.

The [Emperor Penguin] appeared a moment later as its flippers struck out again, the deadly light collected on it being able to slightly injure my large body that was layered with a ton of skills.

I observed the other two beasts to be tangling with my Plague Bearer, so I simply sent another [Iceberg] their way to keep them busy. Both my summon and beasts were smashed down, with the summon exploding right after to just increase the pain before it reappeared brand new in a few seconds.

My frozen sword met the strikes of the penguin as we moved around at high speed. Each strike was deadly enough to shave off the surrounding landscape and leave behind restructured frozen landscapes

as the penguin disappeared and reappeared multiple times around me. Any strikes of his that landed would quickly be closed up by the constantly active [Saint's Return].

The battle continued like this as the two other remaining beasts, the [Arctic Wolf] and [Wood Frog], blasted out of the frozen glaciers. The sight that met them only caused them to despair as the Plague Bearer was right on top preparing another poisonous breath, while near them were the two bodies of dead EPIC beasts that were moving again, their eyes blank and bodies a deadly shade of green.

RAAAA!

The [Emperor Penguin] screamed again as it looked at this losing battle and the strikes that were not very effective, its entire body shining a silver light that formed into the shape of a blooming flower which exploded between us.

BOOM!

The impact occurred around the same time as the moving corpses of the first two killed beasts wrapped themselves around the [Arctic Wolf] and [Wood Frog], the explosion of the EPIC beasts taking the already injured ones to their deaths.

The snowy battlefield was silent as the [Emperor Penguin] appeared above the skies where the poisonous explosion occurred. It was the only one left.

Various injuries sn.a.k.e.d across its body as my large incarnation floated in the skies towards it. My incarnation that was filled with fur and looked like some sort of ferocious beast was leaving behind a trail of cold air as it moved.

There was no place for the [Emperor Penguin] to go to as it looked to my coming figure unwillingly. Its body glowed with that silvery light as it dashed towards me at full speed. The destructive storm of ice around me raged as I unequipped the shield and held the long blade with both of my hands.

The [Dark Slayer Sword Style] that came with the incarnation was active as I held the blade in a beautiful drawing stance. The poisonous summon appeared beside me as well as multiple rifts opening up behind me. The spears of bones filled with malevolent energies also appeared in mass, fully prepared for the silvery figure of the rushing [Emperor Penguin].

It was but an instant, but the impact let out a blinding light all around.

BOOM!

### **Chapter 107 - Something Phenomenal!**

Silence pervaded the surroundings as calm returned. The battle of one versus five came to a stop with the death of the [Emperor Penguin]. Wild energies flew about as rumblings ensued, golden light beginning to manifest in front of me as something began forming.

Besides this golden light, I began feeling a connection forming between me and something that I didn't yet understand. When the connection was on the process of being established, an extravagant amount of information was squeezed into my mind as a scene similar to when I cleared a dungeon for the first time in this world repeated itself.



The dense amount of information was quickly transformed into something legible, becoming a skill that appeared in my panel soon after. The skill read, {Spiritual Land Management}.

Too many things were happening all at once as the connection I felt intensified, the essence around me that was flaring up gradually settling itself down. When everything finished, I found myself breathing hard as I realized the identity of the connection.

I could...feel a pulse of something spectacular resonating with me. This was...the Spiritual Land?!

My shock only continued to increase as the golden light that was shining in front of me finished forming into an ancient-looking golden stone. It had a few crevices and cracks, but it floated imposingly in the air. This was the largest core I had ever seen, and my heart rate increased as I confirmed its identity

### **[Aged LEGENDARY Core]**

I wasted no time as I quickly grabbed onto this huge core, watching the blinding light flow into my storage pouch and transform into a golden skill book, and a few smaller cores.

Besides these cores and golden skill book, there were a few other skill books and items that I received from the deaths of the five beasts. I was planning on taking a look at them right then and there when I received a signal that I would be getting transported from this trial space in the next few seconds.

The scene changed again as I appeared back into the flat frozen landscape where the transparent woman and the EPIC beasts were in. I observed the golden door I had previously touched to start the trial gradually fade away, as snowy white plants began to sprout out of our surroundings, the landscape changing yet again.

The only difference this time is that I knew why it was happening. A sonorous voice rang out right then and there.

"Haha! The first human to ever own a Spiritual Land has appeared through my hands. Good!"

Her words confirmed the things happening were real as I thought to the connection I felt between myself and this floating landmass. It seemed like I had a tremendous amount of influence on everything on here, making me entirely shaken and surprised.

I looked towards the many EPIC beasts in the surroundings, the [Emperor Penguin] and others appearing once again, although their faces were ashen and showing extreme weakness. The trial space really was something similar to a dungeon, with our origins being the ones sent in. So these beasts did not face true death when they died there. I smiled at this as many thoughts sprung around in my head.

The beasts, seeing my gaze towards them, slumped down to their knees unwillingly as they bowed, their dense voices rushing out.

"We greet the Spiritual Land Master!"

I had a bright smile on my face as I continued to wrap my head around this fantastic situation. I placed my attention to the figure of the woman and said,

"Thank you for all the help."

"It was all you really. You passed the trial that many of the beasts in this generation couldn't and showed how you excelled for people of the same stage. I'm curious to see how you will fare when you fully step into the LEGENDARY rank. As for this Spiritual Land, it is very complex and should take you a few weeks to get a handle on how to properly manage it. I'll tell you now that if you use it correctly, the benefits you will have will be boundless."

The figure of the woman was gradually fading as her words rang out.

"If you successfully pass the battle with the Demon King moving in the North, head towards the Mythical Phoenix Kingdom. We could use a powerhouse of that level against the war with the demon forces there."

As soon as her words finished, her figure popped away into nothingness, but not before I heard one last thing.

"Oh, and treat these beasts kindly. They are one of the keys to upgrading your Spiritual Land."

Her presence was fully gone as I looked around the changing surroundings where the colorful white grass had spread all around as light began to illuminate the center of the Spiritual Land we were in.

I was excited to check the skills I gained from the death of the EPIC beasts and the LEGENDARY core, but the skill that took most of my attention after the figure that never told me their identity disappeared was the skill about managing the Spiritual Land. I looked for the skill that seemed to hold the most surprises this time, as a large panel appeared right when I focused on it.

### **{Spiritual Land Management}**

[Frozen Plateau-2]

Beasts: F-XXX, E-XXX, D-19,430, C-6943, B-2876, A-341, S-68, EPIC-15

Plants- Whitefall Trees. Available for planting(Snow Vine, Sacred Rye...)

Features- Size Regulation(Unlocked), Movement(Unlocked), Anchor(Unlocked), Boost Surroundings(Locked), Architecture(Locked), Frozen Barrier(Locked), Offensive Maneuvers(Locked), @#[email protected]%(Locked), Time Dilation(Locked), [email protected]##\$(Locked)...

Upgrade- Conditions not met. @%%^#&

This...I didn't even know where to begin as I looked through this skill. It was actually classified as a Unique Skill, but that wasn't the biggest surprise. I was looking through all the functions below the skill that seemed too amazing to even fathom.

I confirmed the name of this tier 2 Spiritual Land to be the Frozen Plateau, and the things I saw below it made my heart go wild. A multitude of beasts were shown in large numbers, as well as many other functions I would have to spend some time to get used to.

The powerful woman that just left had mentioned that managing the Spiritual Land would be a strenuous task, but as I looked towards the things I could do with this newly gained unique skill...the possibilities and things I had yet to learn about endlessly opened up in front of me. But, they would have to wait as I had to hurry to a battlefield that would decide the fate of the Frozen Kingdom.

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A stream of consciousness was rapidly tearing through the skies, returning to its main body thousands of miles away. It pierced through the clouds and neared a fantastical floating land that seemed like a paradise.

The stream of consciousness was quickly absorbed into the main body of an enormous individual that floated in an expanse of red clouds.

A magnificent golden beak shone dangerously as the yellow eyes of the beast flew open. Long and slender fiery wings were stretched outright powerfully as the beast rose. The body seemed to wreath with sparkling golden flames as a majestic [Imperial Phoenix] made its appearance.

It looked to the North where something interesting had just occurred before its attention soon moved away to other matters. It had done all that was needed, and now everything was left to their own devices. The large body disappeared in a blink as it dove down from the paradisaical floating Spiritual Land towards another much larger floating landmass below it, where exquisite architecture became visible to the n.a.k.e.d eye.

The mind of the powerful [Imperial Phoenix] was now occupied with the messages of the movements of multiple Demon Legions in the surroundings of the Mythical Phoenix Kingdom. The only thought that now passed in this hegemony's mind was,

'A holder of an Ultimate Skill of the Seven Deadly Sins in the lead? Hmph. Let's see how you will fare against my neverending flames.'

Time continued to move, with many pieces moving with it. Multiple hegemonies were fighting their own wars that stretched across the lands. The radiance of their battles, tragic struggles, and bountiful victories continued as something none of them expected was rising in the dark.

## **Chapter 108 - [Sigil of Hegemony]**

I forcefully turned my attention from the newly appeared unique skill and looked through the loot of the recent battle, especially the reward of clearing the trial that also granted me ownership of a Spiritual Land.

The first thing looked at were the EPIC skills and items that dropped at the last stage of the trial, adding to my collection 3 new skills and 2 items.

The items were a resplendent armor called [Unshattered Charity] and exquisitely inlaid boots called [Tigereye's Roots]. The skills were even more spectacular.

**[Teleport] :: Space begins opening up to your control. Can set up 3 Teleport Points (0/3). Can teleport yourself or others to any visible location or previously set up Teleport Point.**

This skill came from the source of the [Emperor Penguin], and it was a skill that I knew would be my all-time favorite from how I had been moving around so much. The other two were just as amazing.

**[Life Steal] :: Your health is restored based on a portion of the damage dealt to your enemies.**

**[Arctic Breath] :: Chilled bodies are left in the wake of the icy breath that freezes all that it touches.**

All of the newly gained EPIC skills were so fantastic looking that I could not wait to test them in the field. Especially [Teleport] and [Arctic Breath], it looked like I would have a tremendous amount of fun with these two.

Next up was one of the main treasures of this whole event, the huge core that broke down into a legendary skill book and a few cores. I looked through the description of the skill, and it left me dumbfounded.

**[Sigil of Hegemony] :: A highly protective sigil establishes itself as far as 30 meters around you, empowering you and your allies while hindering your foes for 30 seconds. Another 30 seconds are required before the runic forces can be activated again. Absorbs half of all damage dealt while active. +200% Casting and Attack Speed. +200% damage to enemies in sigil. +200% Speed. -50% Enemy Elemental Resistances. -50% Enemy Speed.**

This...

I reread the skill description a couple of times as I learned the skill in stupefaction. This was a LEGENDARY skill that provided heavy damage boosts, absorbed more than half of all dealt damage, and even acted to weaken the enemy at the same time. It was such a killer skill that it made me want to test it on the weakened beasts still kneeling in front of me. The only thing that was a slight downside seemed to be that it couldn't be kept active all the time.

After the pleasant shock from the skill passed, I looked through the connection with the Spiritual Land and how I would move from now on. There was a dense amount of information for me to sort through just to understand a percentage of everything to do with this treasure, but one of the few things I could make out was the obedience that the beasts in here would show to the Master who gained control of the Spirit Land they were born in.

Everything else would require me to spend a significant amount of time to sort through, so I pulled up the unique skill, {Spiritual Land Management} instead as I prepared to move back towards the Frozen Kingdom.

### **{Spiritual Land Management}**

[Frozen Plateau-2]

Beasts: F-XXX, E-XXX, D-19,430, C-6943, B-2876, A-341, S-68, EPIC-15

Plants- Whitefall Trees. Available for planting(Snow Vine, Sacred Rye...)

Features- Size Regulation(Unlocked), Movement(Unlocked), Anchor(Unlocked), Boost Surroundings(Locked), Architecture(Locked), Frozen Barrier(Locked), Offensive Maneuvers(Locked), @#[email protected](Locked), Time Dilation(Locked), [email protected]##\$(Locked)...

Upgrade- Conditions not met. @%%^#\$

It showed all the large numbers of beasts currently on the Spiritual Land that was called the Frozen Plateau, as well the tall white trees I continued to observe on the surface of this land. I honed in on the section of [Features]

**[Size Regulation(Unlocked)] :: The size of the Spiritual Land can change as long as a large cost is paid.**

**[Movement(Unlocked)] :: Defy common laws and allow for the movement of the Spiritual Land to your desired location.**

**[Anchor(Unlocked)] :: The spiritual land will hold firm wherever you decide to put it.**

The three features that were currently unlocked were crazy enough, and I couldn't wait to see how I could unlock the next ones after that. I looked at the kneeling EPIC beasts as my figure equipped all the new EPIC items on my body. The used to be arrogant [Emperor Penguin] was still kneeling unwillingly on the forefront as I asked,

"How much power can you all currently exhibit?"

"For the ones that participated in the trial, we have less than half of our power remaining. We will need at least a few weeks before we can return to our peak."

The [Emperor Penguin] took the lead, answering with a heavy voice as he kept his sleek shining beak down. I looked at the large numbers of beasts that showed up on the panel of the {Spiritual Land Management} as many ideas passed through me.

If I so chose, it looks like I have gained a constant supply of skills that I can select from. The other side was that I had gained a powerful force of many beasts that I could grow and cultivate. More EPIC beasts could continue to be born in this Spiritual Land, as well as possibilities of upgrading the current beasts to LEGENDARY rank or even further beyond in the future once I learn more about the tiers of Spiritual Lands and how to upgrade them.

My figure disappeared from the underground space where the strongest beasts were in as I appeared in the skies of the outside world, with the Frozen Plateau floating grandly below me. The many grand [Whitefall Trees] were visible all around as the lower ranking beasts on the land looked up to my figure in the skies.

AWOOOO!

Sounds of many beasts rang out as they felt the new owner of the Spiritual Land appear in the air. I looked at the grand sight of the glimmering snowy land beneath me as I concentrated and used [Size Regulation] for the first time.

The floating landmass trembled as a blue light spread out to cover it, and I watched as it visibly shrank down from its large size and became smaller and smaller. I could feel a tremendous amount of essence multiple times than what I usually used to cast EPIC skills constantly going towards the activated feature of [Size Regulation].

The reserves of energy that continued to condense towards the center continued to be used for the maintenance and growth of the Spiritual Land, with me providing the required mana to use the features listed under the unique skill to affect it.

I recalled the powerful woman's words about how complex a task of taking care of a Spiritual Land would be and smiled while I watched the continued shrinking of the land below me through a feature of the skill, {Spiritual Land Management}. It looks like I might have just found another crazy skill that in no way fits the norms.

While watching it shrink, I also activated the function of [Movement] and watched as the land continued to shrink, until it eventually fit in the palm of my hands. The Spiritual Land that was larger than an entire City...fit in the palm of my hand. I continued to be astounded by the fantastical things I never would have thought to be possible. What else would this amazing Beast World have in store for me?

### **Chapter 109 - Unexpected Combination**

After being amazed at the small floating landmass that I held in my hands, I used the third function that was also unlocked. [Anchor] was used as I sent a command again, spending an exorbitant amount of mana and watched as the Spiritual Land attached itself to the right side of my EPIC armor. I moved around in the skies and watched as no movements or issues occurred to the Spiritual Land.

I even went as far as using [Teleport] for the first time, watching as a silvery light quickly spread all around me, my figure disappearing and appearing a few miles away right after. Still, no problems had occurred.

I laughed at this amazing sight as I carried the shrunken Spiritual Land with me towards the Frozen Kingdom while testing out [Teleport]. The forces of the kingdom should have already moved out, and I didn't know if they had clashed with the Demon Legion or not. I flashed across the frozen plains at high speed until the heavily armed fortress walls of the kingdoms appeared in front of me.

Not too long after, I arrived on the snowy peak with my usual covert skills activated, as well as the [Rat King's Mask] that provided another function of hiding my aura and figure. There were significantly more guards on the Snowy Peak as mostly humans and a few beastmen moved around.

I found the princess on the terrace of the same Manor, and she somehow also found out that I had arrived as her veiled face turned towards the skies I was at. I could feel the smile from the veil as the princess went towards closed doors with me following close behind. The updates I heard when she began talking to me privately were huge, to say the least.

The discussion was occurring as I also took the time to finish absorbing the EPIC cores and start on the LEGENDARY ones that I recently gained.

The forces of the Frozen Kingdom would be clashing sometime soon if they hadn't already, and I had to move fast to join them before too many casualties occurred. The other thing that caused me to be pleasantly surprised was the fact that this Princess was now the future Queen. A slight smile came to my face as I thought of the implications of this.

I didn't want to spend too much time here while others could be battling this instant, so after knowing about the location of the forces being clustered between Valen County and Shadow Dukedom, I ended the discussion early while enjoying the icy look on Adelaide's face that seemed to portray calmness, but I could see worry at the same time.

I couldn't help but reach out towards the delicate face and pushed aside the blue hair, bringing the crystal face fully into my view.

"Don't worry, I'll be sure to bring your family back safe and sound."

The girl seemed dazed as my hand brushed past her face, and I flashed away with [Teleport] towards the direction of the battle. I already set the Frozen Kingdom as one of the three Teleport Points I could come back to no matter how far I was.

My direction was the battlefield as I prepared myself for the oncoming clash against demons. I looked through my constantly changing attribute panel at this time and was met with an unexpected surprise.

[Noah Osmont][Occupation: Hunter]

[Vitality: 410]

[Focus: - ]

[Strength: 418]

[Skill(s) :: [F][E][D][C][B][A: Flight-100, Instant Transfer-100, Pain Resistance-100, Recorder-100, Language Comprehension-100, Lion's Roar-23, Water Barrier-100, Pierce-100, Executor's Speed-100, Sense Heat Source-100, Silent Communication-75, Regal Archer's Eyes-100, Cook-38]

[A+:: Arctic Zone-100, Relegator's Spear-23, Immutable Regeneration-100, Abstruse Cover-100, Barrier of Illusion-100, Paladin's Blessing-11, Pursuing Infernal Lightning-1]

[S :: Protection of the Wounded-100, Flash-79, Aura of Belligerence-88, Enfeeble-89, Phoenix Arrow-1, Shield Slam-8, Obfuscation-88, Rune of Defense-88, Dragon Scales-88, Budding Farmer-8, Ricocheting Shield-1, Bear's Fighting Style-1, Archer's Gamble-1, Lion's Heart-76, Speedster-76, Smouldering Sword Strike-25, Earthen Spears-1, Thought Acceleration-76, Crisis Avoidance-76]

[S+:: Saint's Return-100, Devastation-95, Plague Bearer-100]

[EPIC :: Corrupted Sword Saint's Incarnation-38, Iceberg-25, Absolute Zero-35, Bone Spears-9, Bear Emperor's Fur-14, Life Steal-1, Teleport-5, Arctic Breath-1]

[LEGENDARY :: Sigil of Hegemony-1]

[UNIQUE :: Spiritual Land Management]

[Equipment: (3x B-Ring of Storage)(A-Ring of Storage)(S-Storage Pouch)(S-Veiled Suit)(EPIC-Kingslayer)(EPIC-Rat King's Mask)(EPIC-Prismatic Guardian) (EPIC-Unshattered Charity) (EPIC-Tigereye's Roots)]

Skills that I had been actively using so frequently and a few that were always activated had long reached the required proficiency for combination. [Abstruse Cover] and [Barrier of Illusion] were quickly combined to give the rank S [Illusory Cover].

The biggest surprise that occurred next was me putting the seemingly incompatible skills of [Summon Plague Bearer] and [Saint's Return] that should have been polar opposites, and yet the [Skill Combination] shone a blinding blue light, an unexpected product coming out right after.

**[Summon Holy Blight] :: A being that should not exist. Releases an aura that surrounds itself and the summoner, providing constant healing while releasing destructive and poisonous plagues on its foes. Among its tools are Noxious Breath, Zombie Master, and Two-Faced.**

The skill made me stop my constant teleportations towards the direction of Valen County and Shadow Dukedom as I gave it an even closer look. I couldn't help but summon the beast right away to see just how insane it had become now that it was EPIC.

A malachite runic circle twice as big as it was previously came to life, this time colors of gold were inlaid with the abundant green. The formation of this new summon was grand, as when the light died down, an even larger monstrosity that now neared 10 meters came to be.

It now seemed like a humongous green humanoid with runic tattoos of gold all over its body. The wings on its back were now bright gold, filled with thick muscles that dangerously flapped in the air.

OOOOOH!

It let out a deadly shockwave as it was released for the first time since its upgrade, the waves of power it released were much higher than even the [Emperor Penguin] at its peak. I didn't think my excitement could increase even more, but I was curious about its additional skill besides the ones that had a name change but still held similar functions with many more additions. I sent the command for it to use [Two-faced], and watched as an amazing sight opened up before me.

The nearly 10-meter tall green-gold monstrosity shrank down to two meters with a blinding light, and the result was as if I was looking in a mirror. A figure with long black hair and golden wings of light that held a face that was 99% similar to mine made its appearance.

My face, or really its face, seemed to hold the most compassionate gaze as the whole body was letting out a sheen of golden light. This was the poisonous abomination? Haha!

I laughed at the unexpected usage of the [Two-faced] skill that this upgraded Holy Blight could use, and rushed towards where the battle was occurring with even more vigor as many ways to use my new skills played out in front of my eyes.

As I continued to teleport across the frozen plains, I found that I was self-reflecting on the things I was currently doing. I began this journey because I felt weak and cowardly, and I wanted to change that.

I moved with even more conviction when I received the information on the enemies that had caused all of the death and destruction that took away the lives of my family and many more people. Now, even though all of those reasons were still what carried me forward, I also found myself looking forward to even more of these fantastic things I continued to experience.

The ability to cast the amazing skills that I continued to gain, magical environments like Spiritual Lands which held their own secrets for me to unravel, the foods and cultures I come across, and the many people I met along the way.

Even with the goal of getting back against my enemies, I also enjoyed and looked forward to experiencing all of these great things while I moved along in this journey. I was just touching the rank that was LEGENDARY at this point in time, which rank would I reach months or years from now? There were too many things for me to look forward to and unravel, and I couldn't wait!

## **Chapter 110 - The Ill.u.s.trious King, Roark Belmont**

Sometime before, in the cold mountains between the Valen County and Shadow Dukedom.



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Lines of soldiers, adventurers, and mercenaries were filling up a wide path between two large mountains. This path was the only way to pass through to even get near the counties and dukedoms surrounding the Frozen Kingdom, unless you wanted to trek through the dangerous mountains.

Horses and other magical beasts were standing on the side of humans, patiently watching for the forces of Demons to arrive. King Roark was in an enclosed tent talking with a few Battalion Commanders when a blaring horn rang out through. Everyone inside the tent stood up imposingly as they looked at each other, knowing the battle was about to begin.

King Roark took the lead as his body began thrumming with wild energy, heading to the front lines and instilling a sense of power to any people he passed. A few miles away from them, large groups of beasts could be seen as a terrifying sound also began to echo.

GHUUUUUM!

The sounds of their heavy steps were not the first thing that reached them, but the extremely clear droning sound that continued to come out every few seconds.

GHUUUUUM!

The defenders of the Frozen Kingdom were fully battle-ready as they saw their enemies come to full view, hearing one last droning sound before everything came to a standstill.

The forces of the Demon Legion had stopped. They stood cleanly in their lines, multiple different ranks of C through S mixed in together. Large reptilian beasts and [Demon Ox] could be seen carrying many of the demons that had more power.

A few [Mephitic Turtles] stood imposingly as EPIC Demon Commanders could be seen on top of their hard shells that were fastened with luxurious seats. There were multiple Demon Commanders, many of them holding dangerously red glowing weapons.

The largest beast on the Demon Legion's side was a [Komodo Dragon] nearing ten meters. On its back could be seen an expertly made tent where a gorgeous figure was now coming out of.

Demon King Gremory, of the 56th rank, had made his appearance. He had a sly smile on his face as he pushed the scantily clad figures of [Succubi] back into the tent on top of the beast as he stepped outside.

His appearance was met with horror as he released a pressure that seemed to press down on the wills of all those standing against him.

**[Demon King's Haki]** was fully activated as Gremory made his debut. He had an imposing air that made him seem like the most powerful in the world, the waves of LEGENDARY power making themselves extremely clear.

Fear.

Silence.

As these two forces stared at one another, not a single force moved. Only the cold winds of winter that ravaged the mountains could be heard whistling by.

King Roark Belmont was at the forefront of the forces as his body began to burn up and began to expand. He released a blast of light that passed through the snowy fields and offset some of the terror released from the Demon King. His vigorous voice rang out right after.

"My people!"

HUT!

The soldiers, adventurers, and mercenaries lined up behind him shouted strongly as they smashed their feet or weapons into the ground, making for an imposing air.

"A battle that decides our fate is here!"

HUT!

The impact of their weapons or feet hitting the ground was getting stronger as the whole mountain range trembled when it occurred.

"Fight for your lives!"

HUT!

"Fight for Honor!"

HUT!

"For the families back home!"

HUT!

"For Humanity!!!"

OOOOH!!!

The forces were screaming and moving at full speed as they felt their bodies strengthened to unbelievable degrees, reaching levels of power they had never crossed before. This was one of the skills of the great King Roark Belmont.

***{Ill.u.s.trious Ruler} :: Majesty is in your blood. Your words carry great momentum to all the subjects that are fortunate enough to hear them. Applied effects are Clear Mind, Strengthened Will, and Boost Power.***

Unique Skill, {Ill.u.s.trious Ruler}. One of the main factors that allowed Roark Belmont to rise through the ranks and obtain the loyalty of many powerful human forces, eventually uniting them under his rule. The addition of his capable wife, Annalise, had made it possible to preserve the human kingdom for the last century.

His body had finally finished expanding, and he stood closest to the Demon Legion as they saw the ruler they would be clashing with today. Roark's body stood more than five meters tall. A thin layer of stretched armor tightly hugged his body as it shone a golden light.

He seemed like the personification of a man made of gold as multiple protrusions of his steeled muscles imposingly stood out. No weapons were in his hands as his fists shone dangerously, seemingly more dangerous than any sharpened blade. This was the LEGENDARY skill that all those who stood against him feared.

***[Gold Man] :: Overcome the limits of your body as it is strengthened to its utmost potential. +300% Physical Damage, +300% Speed, +300% Armor, +300% Healing Effects. The illusive power of gold follows all of your attacks.***

His gold figure let out swirls of wild power as his eyes found their target, and he disappeared from his location. The battle had begun!

BOOM!

The scene was too fast to catch, but the Ill.u.s.trious King has already reached the center of the Demon Legion, his fist directly clashing against the LEGENDARY Demon King Gremory. The Demon King had a wicked smile on his face as his palm met the glistening gold punch.

The entire tent behind him was ripped to shreds as a gold force traveled all around the area. The weak [Succubi] that were still in the tent atop the beast found their bodies becoming shredded as they turned into messy pulps of blood and gore.

Demon King Gremory looked at the gold human in front of him with a curious smile, not caring the least about the deaths of all the playthings he brought with him. The Demon Commanders on their own beasts saw this clash, but they had full confidence in their leader and focused their rush to meet the Battalion Commanders of the human forces.

YAAAH!

Clashes began to occur between the two armies as all sorts of elemental attacks roiled out. Arcs of lightning could be seen in one location while huge waves of water smashed down and drowned the demon forces. Walls of earth constantly rose and fell as bubbling magma burned soldiers and adventurers.

At the center of the Demon Legion, Gremory pulled his palm that had stopped the much larger fist back as he stretched his body, treating what was about to come as a light exercise. This was arrogance of an extreme degree. This was arrogance born out of trust in one's own dominating strength.

The body of the Demon King lost its upper layer of clothing as his red chest and abdominal muscles made themselves prominent. The horn shooting from his head shone in a dangerous red light as he laughed.

"The King in the North! Entertain me with all your best, for I have been truly bored so far!"

The Ill.u.s.trious King was not one to be told what to do, as even before the words finished, the tight golden body moved dangerously and a ferocious axe kick smashed into the head of the Demon King.

BOOM!