

Reincarnated Avatar; I got 2 SSS-Rank Unique Skills

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Chapter 131: Upgrading skillset

Noah didn't just complete the King's Gambit.

By completing it, he finally completed all 15 quests that were listed in the first trial of his Heavenly Domain Challenge.

As soon as he left the world of the chess battlefield, like he expected, the world around him shimmered again and a massive golden system notification appeared before his eyes.

[Congratulations! You have completed all 15 random quests!]

[You have conquered Trial 1 of the Heavenly Domain Challenge, the Random Quests Challenge!]

[You have proven your adaptability, creativity, and resilience through 15 diverse trials.]

[Your mastery over unpredictable situations has been recognized by the Heavenly Domain.]

[You have received the following rewards:]

*+100 Skill Points.

[SSS-Rank Unique Skill, 10x Skill Points have been triggered, please wait...]

[100 Skill Points have been upgraded to 1000 Skill Points!]

*NEW! Passive Buff: Heaven's Favor.

>Heaven's Favor: Increases success rate for unconventional maneuvers (+10% effectiveness when using creative or unexpected tactics). It also slightly boosts persuasion and negotiation skills in NPC interactions<

*NEW! Title: The Unpredictable Challenger.

>The Unpredictable Challenger: You thrive in chaos, adapting to the unexpected. Other players and NPCs will perceive you as a wildcard, unpredictable and dangerous<

*Heavenly Engraved Token.

>A special currency exclusive to the Heavenly Domain. Can be used to purchase rare skill scrolls, unique mounts, or legendary crafting materials upon arrival<

*Random Quester's Mark (Cosmetic Effect)

>A faint golden glow occasionally flickers around you, marking you as someone who has conquered the realm of unpredictability. This effect is purely aesthetic, but NPCs may react differently, recognizing him as someone who thrives in the unknown<

Noah took a deep breath.

"F*ck, I'm tired".

Noah wanted nothing more than to crash somewhere right now.

His head was banging.

And so he didn't hesitate, quickly locating the inn where he paid to sleep.

Yes, he was the guild leader of guild Echelon but the carefreeness to run about and play the game as much as he wanted was due to the privilege of having a boss as competent as Nightingale.

For the next 4 hours, Noah slept soundly.

At the end of the sleep duration at the inn, waking up, Noah was already fully refreshed like he just slept for 8 to 9 hours.

Before diving into the Heavenly Domain Challenge again though, there was something that Noah wanted to take care of first.

Before hitting level 60, Noah embarked on a skill points collection spree with his friends. And in this time, he amassed a lot of skill points which were doubled times 10 with his SSS-Rank unique skill.

He didn't spend all across the past few weeks though, only purchasing those essential skills that he deemed necessary for the moment.

All those skill points were still in reserve. And adding the skill points he got from the 15 random quests he just concluded bolstered it even more.

And now, Noah was ready to spend it all.

"It's time to upgrade my skillset". He muttered.

Noah was good. Personally, he believed he was unmatched in Warstar.

But that does not mean he was the type that underestimated challenges though. Rather, he preferred being in his best state for every single confrontation.

This was why before taking on the 2nd trial of his Heavenly Domain Challenge, the Skill Challenge, Noah decided to upgrade his skillset first.

He visited the Hunter guild in the nearest City.

Noah's Aetherforge now had 6 forms, the Shield Form, the Battle Lance form, the Twin Blades form, the Daggers form, Greastsword form, and Rifle Form.

Long before today, the more he used Aetherforge, he already decided on the next skills he would purchase to make his combat style with his SSS-Rank weapon even more refined.

His strategy was simple.

He would first go for essential low-level skills that he needed to shore on the basics of his combat style, to make sure he was not lacking in anyway.

And then he would spend all of his remaining skill points on high-level skills.

After level 60, after the process of Awakening as an Avatar enters the Heavenly Domain after completing its challenge, Avatars become capable of learning Awakened level skills.

But Noah was in no rush.

There were also quests to amass skill points in the Heavenly Domain. For now, he wanted to spend everything he had in his repertoire first.

And then he started.

[You have purchased low level Summoner Skill: Guardian Golem]

>Summons a massive golem to tank damage and protect the Summoner<

>Upgrade: Golem can taunt enemies and reflect damage<

...

[You have purchased low level Psychic skill: Force Push]

>Emits a wave of telekinetic energy, knocking back enemies and dealing damage<

>Upgrade: Causes additional damage if enemies are pushed into walls or objects<

...

[You have purchased low level Psychic skill: Levitate]

>Lifts an enemy or object into the air, immobilizing them for a short time<

>Upgrade: Slam the target to the ground at the end of levitation, dealing extra damage<

...

[You have purchased low level Gunner skill: Piercing Shot]

>Fires a high-velocity round that pierces through multiple enemies<

>Upgrade: Applies a bleeding effect to all enemies hit<

...

[You have purchased low level Gunner skill: Bullet Storm]

>Unleashes a burst of bullets in a cone, dealing area damage<

>Upgrade: Increases magazine size and reload speed for the duration<

...

[You have purchased a low-level Gunner skill...]

[You have purchased a low-level Berserker skill...]

[You have purchased a low-level Berserker skill...]

...

[You have purchased high level Summoner Skill: Eternal Warden]

>Summons an undead knight with high health and melee capabilities<

>Upgrade: The knight applies a slowing effect with its attacks<

...

[You have purchased high level Berserker Skill: Unstoppable Rage]

>Temporarily makes the Berserker immune to crowd control effects<

>Upgrade: Reflects a portion of damage taken during the skill<

...

[You have purchased high level Berserker Skill: Overpower]

>Channels all strength into one devastating blow, ignoring enemy defenses<

>Upgrade: Deals bonus damage to shields or armored enemies<

...

[You have purchased high level Gunner Skill: Sniper's Focus]

>Enhances zoom and accuracy, significantly increasing range and damage for a single shot<

>Upgrade: Grants temporary invisibility after firing<

...

[You have purchased high level skill...]

[You have purchased high level skill...]

At the end of Noah's spending spree, he was left bankrupt again in terms of skill points but he let the Hunter's guild with a smile on his face.

Lord Doom had another big upgrade after a long while.

And he got a system remark.

[You have purchased new skills!]

[System Remark: The path of dominance isn't just about power, it's about versatility.]

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Chapter 132: Skill challenge [1]

Noah didn't just spend his skill points to learn new skills. To the ones he deemed relevant, following his calculations, he also spent more skill points to upgrade them to the appropriate mastery level.

And finally, he was done.

It was time to move on to the next step in his plan, which was taking on the 2nd trial of his Heavenly Domain Challenge..., the Skill Challenge.

...

[Trial 2: The Skill Challenge]

*Type: Individual skill test

*Objective: Overcome a unique combat trial tailored to your class and combat style.

*Difficulty: Scales to the challenger's personal skill level.

A few minutes after completing his skillset upgrade, Noah stood before a towering golden gateway suspended in the sky.

Carved into its surface are shifting runes, each one pulsating with an ancient power. And then, a system notification flashed before his eyes.

[You have reached the second stage of the Heavenly Domain Challenge.]

[Welcome to the Skill Challenge- Only the worthy may ascend.]

The golden gate slowly creaked open, revealing a vast, empty coliseum bathed in the glow of a twilight sky.

Floating around the arena are mystical sigils, each representing different combat disciplines, ranging from swordsmanship and magic to reflexes, agility, and tactical awareness.

A deep, commanding voice cut through the space.

"Only those who have honed their skills to perfection may enter into the Heavenly Domain. Show your mastery, or be cast down".

The arena rumbled and suddenly, five ethereal trials manifested, each testing a different aspect of a player's abilities.

Noah was already going at it, the Heavenly Domain challenge for a few days already. It was getting a bit exhausting but still, as soon as the new trials appeared, his heart raced.

Unlike those puzzles, this is the kind of challenge that he thrives in.

A notification briefly appeared in the sky.

[Phase 1: The Trial of Precision]

Before Noah could react, it already started.

From the sky, thousands of glowing projectiles materialized, hanging in midair like a deadly constellation. A timer also appeared.

And then, a voice reverberated through the space.

"Strike the precise targets while dodging false decoys".

Some of the projectiles shone in a brilliant gold, these were the true targets.

Others pulsed in a deceptive glow, designed to bait players into attacking the wrong ones. Noah managed to make the connection almost instantly.

If he missed too many true targets, he fails.

And if he strikes a decoy, they explode, increasing the difficulty.

This was a trial of precision.

The challenge began, and golden targets zipped through the air at unpredictable speeds, leaving a blur in their wake.

Noah gripped Aetherforge, and then he erupted into action.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Switching between thrusts, slashes, and mid-air maneuvers to land pinpoint hits while dodging the false ones, he exploded with speed.

His reaction time was pushed to the limit but Noah was up for it, refusing to miss even a single true target. With precise movements, he struck down all the golden targets, clearing the trial in record time.

Immediately after, a familiar notification lit up in the air.

[Phase 1 completed!]

[Phase 2: The Trial of Adaptability]

Bzzz!

The arena shifted, transforming into a battlefield filled with ever-changing opponents. A system prompt followed the transformation.

[Challenge: Defeat every enemy type using optimal counters.]

It was self-explanatory, Noah already knew what to expect and so he was not caught off-guard.

As soon as the system prompt appeared, it started. One by one, different monsters spawned in the battlefield, requiring a different combat approach to take them down each time.

At times, it was a towering Rhino with impenetrable defense, requiring true damage skills to penetrate their defense.

At other times, it was a Cheetah with blinding speed.

But each time, Noah was able to adapt and improvise, taking them down with maximum efficiency. And then, the challenge evolved, including humanoid monsters to increase the difficulty.

The first humanoid monster that Noah encountered was a swift, teleporting assassin. Facing this monster, Noah adjusted, using predictive counters and his spatial awareness to defeat it.

Another was a heavily armored Juggernaut, a Knight.

To combat this guy, Noah switched to Aetherforge's heavy forms, switching between the shield and greatsword to chip at its health, breaking through its defenses and eventually killing it.

And then came a lying elemental mage. This time, Noah adapted, using mid-air maneuvers and deflection techniques to defeat it.

The challenge wasn't about brute force. Rather, it was about knowing when to switch tactics, when to be aggressive, and when to bait out an enemy's weakness. And Noah was good at all these.

After a series of rapid battles, he managed to exploit every weakness flawlessly, passing the trial.

Immediately after, the coliseum shuddered as a familiar notification lit up in the air.

[Phase 2 passed!]

[Phase 3: Trial of Endurance]

As soon as the coliseum shuddered, a powerful spirit warrior emerged, wielding a glowing blade. Unlike the previous trials, this one had a single objective.

"Sometimes, it's not the strongest who survive in war".

"It's those who can endure most".

"Survive a prolonged duel against an unrelenting opponent".

Noah's eyes narrowed.

Like the others, the objective this time was also straightforward. This wasn't about winning instantly, it was about lasting against an opponent who never tires, never falters.

Noah grinned, switching Aetherforge to its shield form as he stared at the powerful spirit warrior. "Bring it on!" He taunted.

BOOM!

The Spirit Warrior aggressively exploded into action.

It constantly attacked, adjusting its style to punish Noah's mistakes but with the shield and Noah's control of it, Lord Doom stood undaunted.

Lord Doom's stamina was capped though. If he recklessly burned through his energy, he would be left vulnerable.

Another thing was the longer the fight went on, the faster the Spirit Warrior became, forcing Noah to conserve energy, counter efficiently, and outlast his foe through sheer skill and cunning.

For ten excruciating minutes, Noah withstood the barrage, dodging by a hair's breadth, managing his stamina with perfect timing.

As the final second ticked down, it finally opened up..., an opportunity!

'This is it!'

Without hesitation, Noah capitulated on the opportunity, delivering a devastating counterstrike and shattering the spirit warrior's form.

The trial was complete.

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Chapter 133: Skill Challenge [2]

[Phase 3 passed]

[Phase 4: Trial of Strategy]

For the fourth time, the arena reshaped itself again, turning into a massive warzone this time with multiple enemy factions fighting at once.

This time, instead of a prompt, the voice returned.

"Lead a battle to victory with strategic decision-making!"

Noah exhaled. "Feels like it never stops".

For this trial, he was given a squad of AI-controlled warriors while opposing forces outnumber them 3 to 1. This wasn't a test of personal combat, rather, it was a test of leadership and tactics.

Good thing Noah was used to leading though.

He may not seem like it but he was the captain of a Pro Club, the widely acknowledged best in England's Pro Scene for over a decade.

Leadership was second nature to him.

But this challenge though...

Noah tasked. "Let's see if I can lead A.I-controlled warriors".

This time, to win, he must position his forces, set traps, and predict enemy movements like a General in a war.

Every decision mattered. If he choose the wrong engagement, his forces can get overwhelmed, leading to annihilation.

He can only intervene personally at key moments, reinforcing the importance of strategic command in this trial.

Noah didn't hesitate though. Using quick battlefield assessment, he set up ambush points after observing the battlefield where they were to fight on.

It was not too complicated, making it easy for him. Another thing that played in his advantage was his experience in playing in countless arena locations in the game, he knew how to best utilize his environment to his advantage.

Apart from ambushing enemies, Noah also implemented tactical retreats, knowing when to advance and when to retreat to preserve his forces.

And then, most importantly and lethal were his precise counterattacks, knowing when to tell his army to press the advantage or take advantage of an opening no matter how tiny and counterattack.

Utilizing these strategies, one step at a time, Noah soon wiped off the numbers advantage, giving his army the edge.

After more than 2 dozen minuets of going at it, he finally led his squad to a decisive victory despite overwhelming odds.

Noah won, and then...

[Phase 4 passed!]

[Phase 5: Trial of Mastery]

After 4 different trials that tested different aspects of his ability, finally, Noah was down to the last trial.

The final trial transcended all the previous ones.

A mirror image of Noah appeared, wielding an identical Aetherforge, moving with the same combat prowess. Everything was mirrored to perfection.

And then the voice reverberated again.

"Defeat yourself".

A simple phrase but it held a lot of meaning to it.

Noah narrowed his eyes, staring the mirror image of himself down.

This wasn't just going to be a battle of skill; it was a battle against his own strengths and weaknesses.

And since Noah didn't believe that he had any glaring weaknesses in the game, theoretically, he was fighting against an opponent with no witnesses.

Every technique that he's mastered was mirrored by this guy. Every feint he attempted would definitely be anticipated and countered. Afterall, Warstar utilized high-level machine learning technology in developing their A.Is.

After months of observing him control Lord Doom, the A.Is already learned a lot about his transcendent skill to replicate it.

Noah can't overpower, outmaneuver, or out speed his opponent. To win, he must outthink himself.

"This again...", he muttered, feeling a headache coming.

But still, Noah didn't back down from the challenge.

He grinned. "Let's see what you've got".

And he moved.

BOOM!

The battle started.

And like expected, it was a clash of two monstrous individuals.

All the skills that Noah learned with his Lord Doom Avatar, both old and new were used to devastating effect, literally terraforming the terrain in the aftereffects of this terrifying battle.

But Noah was not just fighting. As he fought, he listened, he observed.

He was searching for that one thing, that clue that differentiated this A.I from him. Afterall, A.Is were not perfect.

No matter how perfectly they were designed, one thing that A.Is can never accomplish is that human authenticity.

And so long A.Is could not be human, there would always be something to exploit. Something human.

After an intense exchange of perfectly matched attacks, Noah finally found it, a subtle flaw in his mirrored self, a human-sized flaw..., adrenaline.

Noah was good, but he was not omnipotent.

No pro player was omnipotent in Warstar.

But then, there are certain situations that forces players to go above their limits. Not just players, athletes in general.

Of the 5 Warstar RPG Champions League trophies that he had, Noah believed most of them were won due to adrenaline.

In most situations, they call it the flow state, others call it adrenaline.

In the end, no matter how seamless this A.I fought, utilizing its knowledge bank from observing him for months, his real self's ability to adapt on the fly was superior to an AI-driven copy.

And with that lack of adrenaline, A.I could not exceed its limit, but Noah could.

BZZZ!

Adrenaline took over, and Noah entered a state of ultra instinct!

Bam! Bam! Bam!

All his moves flowed in one terrifying cacophony of attacks, indefensible, unstoppable and with a flawless execution of an unexpected move, he landed the final strike, shattering the mirror image.

The coliseum erupted in golden light.

A grand system notification followed.

[Congratulations! You have completed the Skill Challenge!]

[You have received the following rewards:]

*+400 Skill Points

[SSS-Rank Unique Skill, 10x Skill Points have been triggered, please wait...]

[400 Skill Points have been upgraded to 4000 Skill Points!]

*NEW! Passive Skill: Unshakable Mastery.

>Unshakable Mastery: Your execution speed and precision slightly improve under pressure<

*NEW! Exclusive Title: The Peerless Challenger.

>Your presence alone commands respect among warriors and tacticians<

Noah completed the second Trail at record time.

And then the golden gateway opened fully, revealing a glimpse of the Heavenly Domain beyond.

Noah felt his blood boiling. 'Just 1 more step now'.

Yes, one last challenge remained... the Arena Challenge.

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Chapter 134: The Arena Challenge

After surviving the Random Quests Challenge and proving his mastery in the Skill Challenge, Noah now stood before the final trial..., the Arena Challenge.

But he didn't start it immediately though.

"Ah... I need a smoke".

He returned to the city where he bought a smoke in-game.

Originally, Warstar was realistic enough, containing everything but players rarely bought things like cigarettes in-game simply because they won't feel it.

But due to Noah's peculiar situation, he could feel it.

And so he enjoyed it.

There in the city, as he smoked, having used a disguise cloak to hide his identity, he listened to conversations in the bar as casual players argued about which guild were currently the best in the 11th server.

"Guild Echelon of course!"

"Huh? They're just starting!"

"And so what? They have Lord Doom, they're obviously the best!"

"They're not even officially a top guild yet!"

"So what?" The other player sneered. "They're top guilds because of their deep foundations in the Heavenly Domain. In the 11th server alone, I believe that Guild Echelon is currently the biggest guild there is!"

"Anyways, I can't wait for Guild Echelon to expand to the Heavenly Domain!"

The other player looked at his friend. "You really think its possible?"

"What do you mean?"

He shrugged. "I mean, the Heavenly Domain is the playground of the top guilds. It's a big map, and they rule it with an iron fist".

"I don't believe that they care that Lord Doom is God Noah. They won't let him do what he wants at the Heavenly Domain. I believe they'll suppress him; they won't let Guild Echelon grow there".

"They're free to try," his friend sneered. "I don't believe Lord Doom will fall to them".

"Hmmm, you sound like you're in love with him".

"W-w-what???" He stammered. "Bastard... get lost!"

Noah chuckled, walking out of the bar.

Listening to that silly conversation relieved his exhaustion a bit. Now, he felt refreshed.

Without hesitation, he left to face his final trial.

The Arena Challenge was no ordinary battle, nor was it one that could be won by raw power alone. To complete the Heavenly Domain Challenge and ascend to the Heavenly Domain, Noah had to win 100 consecutive duels in the Arena.

To the casual player, that figure seemed impossible.

To Noah?

It was just a walk down the park. A long, exhausting walk.

The Arena challenge was a daunting, brutal, and relentless test of endurance.

Ready, Noah finally triggered the trial.

[Final Trial: The Arena Challenge]

A voice sounded.

"Only the strongest survive. Only the most skilled endure".

"100 battles, 100 victories".

"You have no allies, no second chances".

"Step into the Arena, and prove that you belong in the Heavenly Domain".

The rules were simple. To start, Noah simply needed to enter the Arena like usual and he must fight 100 different opponents in a row without a single defeat.

There were no breaks. The moment one fight ends, the next begins, unless there is no opponent to fight at all in the lobby at a given time.

His enemies are chosen at random from a massive pool of powerful players in the Arena lobby.

There is a rating for Arena battles called the Arena rating. The Arena adapts to Noah's performance, meaning each opponent has a progressively higher Arena rating, meaning each opponent is stronger, smarter, and harder to defeat.

The restrictions? No outside help, and limited healing items.

Noah took a deep breath, and then he entered the Arena.

The moment Lord Doom entered the Arena, the entire 11th server shook.

Unlike the previous trials of the Heavenly Domain Challenge that are between just the player and the system, since the Arena Challenge takes place in the Arena, it meant that other players could join the Arena lobby and spectate the battles.

Lord Doom's arrival in the arena wasn't some quiet, anonymous affair. It was a war cry that echoed across the entire Warstar community.

Afterall, the moment Lord Doom hit level 60, all of the 11th server knew about it since they all paid attention to his level.

And now him entering the Arena meant only one thing..., he was already in the final lap of completing his Heavenly Domain Challenge.

The news spread like wildfire in a dry harmattan.

Warstar forums exploded, guild chats went into chaos, streamers abandoned their current matches to spectate.

And just like that, a once-private challenge turned into the biggest PvP spectacle in the 11th server's history.

This Lord Doom..., he never seemed to do anything without causing a storm.

In minutes, the Arena lobby was overwhelmed.

Thousands of players flooded in, their presence turning it into a coliseum of roaring spectators.

The Arena's public leaderboard displayed a live feed of Lord Doom's progress, and the betting markets ignited as guilds, pros, and spectators wagered on his chances.

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\*Lord Doom's in the Arena? No way!

\*100 matches..., if anyone can do it at this stage of the 11th server, it's him.

\*Who's queuing up against him? That's instant death.

\*No, no, each opponent is gonna be tougher. By match 50, he's up against top 100 players in the 11th server EASY.

\*By match 80? He's fighting tournament champions!

~~~~~

Among the crowd, high-ranked professionals, elite PKers, and notorious warlords gathered. Not as challengers, but as spectators.

Even those who wouldn't get matched against him wanted to see how far he'd go.

And like usual, a certain friend group didn't miss it for anything.

Genevieve, Aria, Caleb, and Benjamin secured a front-row seat in the VIP spectator box in the Arena lobby.

~~~~~

[Private Group Chat:]

\*Genevieve: "He always makes things dramatic".

\*Aria: "Tch. He better not lose. That'd be embarrassing".

\*Caleb: "Statistically speaking, his win rate in high-pressure situations is..."

\*Benjamin: "Shut up. I'm watching".

\*Caleb: "..."

~~~~~

Even players from other servers tuned in. No one wanted to miss this, no one wanted to miss anything Lord Doom-related these days.

This was no longer just a trial; this was a show.

Lord Doom stepped into the battlefield, his presence electrifying.

Knowing exactly the commotion that his Arena Challenge caused, as the first fight loaded in, Lord Doom grinned and waved at the audience.

He gave an exaggerated bow and said in French. "Preparez-vous pour un bon spectacle".

"..."

The public chat exploded.

In the VIP lobby, Aria's eyes twitched. "Bloody showoff!"

Chapter 135: Lord Doom, the greatest showman

The first fight loaded in.

His opponent, a mid-tier duelist entered the Arena.

This guy was pumped at the idea of fighting against God Noah.

He had trained for months, fighting in countless PvP's all for this moment, and now he was ready to show what he had.

But against Lord Doom, what could he really do?

Well, from the very first match, Noah made a decision. If the world was watching, then he would give them something unforgettable.

He wasn't just going to win.

He would entertain.

And that was why he gave the exaggerated bow. "Preparez-vous pour un bon spectacle".

And thus, the greatest PvP spectacle in the history of Warstar began.

Since he created his Lord Doom Avatar, Noah was just shattering records left and right and today, he shattered a new one.

His opponent may be pumped, having trained for months but none of that concerned Noah at this moment. At this moment, all he cared about was giving a show worthy of the guild leader of guild Echelon, and that was what he did.

His opponent? The poor guy lasted only 14 seconds.

The crowd erupted. The chat exploded.

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\*(Crying emoji) (Crying emoji) (Crying emoji)

\*FIRST BLOOD. HOLY SH\*TTTTT!!! LORD DOOM IS ABOUT TO GO ON A F\*CKING RAMPAGE!

\*14 SECONDS?! LMFAO!

\*That poor dude just got vaporized.

~~~~~

But that was just the beginning.

To Noah, the first ten matches were warm-ups.

His opponents were all mid-tier duelists, skilled but unprepared for the monster before them that was him.

After that lightning-fast obliteration of the first opponent, for his second fight, he put out another statement victory.

[Loading 2nd opponent, please wait...]

[Character, Ironfang has entered the Arena!]

[Level: 60]

[Time elapsed: 10 seconds]

Like Noah, this guy was already level 60 but he was yet to complete his Heavenly Domain Challenge like everyone else.

Against him, Noah opened with pure intimidation, standing still as Ironfang rushed at him.

The moment Ironfang attacked, he dodged with millimeter precision and countered with a single, perfectly lethal strike.

A perfect KO.

All the right conditions aligned for Noah to be able to do that, and it required insane technicality to execute. But well, Noah wanted to give a show.

And visually, it was incredible to the viewers.

"10 SECONDS?!" They screamed. "What the actual f*ck???"

"This man just stared at him and he DIED!"

The spectators were going crazy, and their reactions emboldened Noah.

After his first 2 fights, the tone was set.

Lord Doom wasn't here to grind through fights, he was here to perform.

[Loading 5th opponent, please wait...]

[Character, Venom Jester has entered the Arena!]

[Time elapsed: 31 seconds]

Noah played with his opponent, dragging the fight out for dramatic effect and then at the last second, countering with exact precision.

As he attacked, he still had the time to type in chat mid-fight.

{Sorry bro, you're a step too slow.}

Emotional damage!

The crowd loved it.

The spectators erupted, some laughing, others trolling, more screaming in admiration as they showed their Lord Doom fanboyism.

A few minutes later, Noah completed his 10th fight in the Arena.

And now, fights 11 to 30 started loading.

From here on, skills players finally entered the battlefield.

The opponents this time were from PvP guilds, some with real tournament experience and skillsets chosen specifically for PvP fights.

It didn't matter though.

Like usual, Noah breezed through challenger 11 to 14.

[Loading 15th opponent, please wait...]

[Character, Shade Reaver has entered the Arena!]

[Level: 60]

[Ranked #9 in Assassin PvP Rankings]

[Time elapsed: 48 seconds]

Shade Reaver specialized in stealth, controlling an assassin Avatar. As the fight progressed, having managed to drag it out for long, he finally vanished into darkness to strike from the shadows.

But unbothered, Noah simply closed his eyes and listened.

When Shade Reaver struck, despite his eyes being closed, Noah reacted immediately, dodging mid-air and counterattacking in one move.

BAM!

He impaled the assassin mid-fall.

A perfect read.

Once again, the fanboys were left raving about the fights.

Noah continued, forging his legend and putting out the greatest show in a long time to the excited fans.

Not even the Pro Alliance provided this level of excitement.

After a few more victories, the 25th opponent finally loaded into the Arena.

[Loading 5th opponent, please wait...]

[Character, Stormhawke has entered the Arena!]

[Level: 60]

[Ranked #5 in EU Gunner Rankings]

[Time elapsed: 1 minute, 12 seconds]

This time, it was Gunslinger's duel.

It was a pure western-style duel and why it took so long.

Both opponents paced, they aimed, they fired with eerie accuracy. But against an opponent like Lord Doom, this guy was doomed from the beginning.

Noah parried bullets with his battle lance.

Stormhawke managed to damage him severely, almost winning but having calculated it from the beginning, Noah's last-second Sniper's Focus shot turned the fight around, one-shotting the poor guy.

"Dammit!" He cursed as his Avatar faded into motes of light.

Noah chuckled. "Try harder next time".

After the first 40 fights, the next 20 fights to 50 started loading. And from here on, with the Arena rating of challengers increasing steadily, now, only high-ranked PvP players remained.

[Loading 40th opponent, please wait...]

[Character, Valent has entered the Arena!]

[Level: 60]

[Honorable Title: Former top player in the 7th server]

[Time elapsed: 2 minutes, 24 seconds]

A veteran finally challenged Lord Doom.

Valent was a well-known player. His main account, Valent was a max level 100 account in the Heavenly Domain.

He was an ex-champion in the Arena, a PvP god of an older era.

This was a clash of generations.

Against this guy, Noah was even more excited. He fought defensively at first, analyzing every move, and then he dismantled the poor old guy in a stunning counterattack.

The reaction among the spectators were even crazier this time.

And then, the 50th fight.

[Loading 50th opponent, please wait...]

[Character, Celestia has entered the Arena!]

[Level: 60]

[Ranked #3 in EU Mage Rankings]

[Time elapsed: 3 minutes, 12 seconds]

Just like the old guy, Celestia was no ordinary opponent, even more terrifying.

Controlling a Mage Avatar, she wielded immense magic power and battlefield control. To win against her, Noah had to use everything.

He held nothing back, dodging meteors, breaking her shields, using Levitate mid-fight to control space, everything he could to snatch the advantage.

And then he did.

The final strike was cinematic, inducing reactions from the spectators.

Among the audience, Aria scoffed again. "Show-off!"

After the 50th duel, the Heavenly Domain Challenge system announced.

[50 duels cleared! 50 to go...]

"This is a goddamn tournament!" One of the spectators yelled excitedly.

And then was the 51st to 80th challengers.

Now, every opponent was an elite. Every fight was harder, longer, and more intense, requiring more mental output from Noah.

[Loading 60th opponent, please wait...]

[Character, Erebus has entered the Arena!]

[Level: 60]

[Time elapsed: 4 minutes, 56 seconds]

In this fight, Noah realized one thing immediately. 'Pro players are finally entering the fray huh?'

He grinned, not discouraged. He already expected this the moment that his Arena challenge turned into a public spectacle.

He was extremely famous in the 11th server, but that's the thing about fame, its 2-sided. Hated by millions, loved by billions.

But still, a lot of people hated him, including pro players.

When the news spread that he was about to complete his heavenly domain challenge to enter the Heavenly Domain finally, Noah had no doubt that pro players would use alternate accounts to try and hold him down.

Afterall, if he maxed out his Lord Doom Avatar, it didn't matter if they liked it or not. Next season, he would be another worrying rival in the Pro Alliance.

The most they could hope to do was slow his growth down.

But this?

Noah grinned. 'Not enough'.

Against this pro player who played as a Blademaster, it was a pure sword duel as Noah also pulled out his twin blades to match him blade for blade.

It was a pure sword duel. No magic, no tricks.

Parries, dodges, and counters as both players moved like ghosts.

It was an intense pro-level battle but, in the end, the final moment was instant. Noah flickered past Erebus, landing the final hit.

By now, the atmosphere among the spectators was electric.

"How did he win that?!"

"This is literally anime!"

And then, the 75th duel.

[Loading 75th opponent, please wait...]

[Character, Highlord Vayne has entered the Arena!]

[Level: 60]

[Time elapsed: 31 seconds]

Another pro player hiding his identity.

After the initial clash, Noah could tell immediately that not only was this guy a PvP expert, he was also a master tactician.

'Troublesome'. He acknowledged the threat, but he was not deterred.

Noah was pushed to his limits, forced to adapt on the fly. It was a chess match of abilities, counters, and feints.

But like every other battle before this one, at the end, Lord Doom prevailed.

He was... inevitable.

"This guy is unbeatable!"

Chapter 136: A pioneer

At this point, Lord Doom was more than just an expert that was born in the 11th server.

Despite the fact that they now knew that his real identity was God Noah, it didn't matter to most of the 11th server fanatics. To them, Lord Doom was a character that was given birth to in the same server as them.

And now, Lord Doom was more than just an expert or a legend. In a way, he was the pioneer of the 11th server.

Lord Doom was not the first Avatar in the game to reach at level 60, but there was never any doubt that he would be the first to enter the Heavenly Domain.

And now, that dream was closer to reality than ever before.

Against Highlord Vayne, another pro player who came to test Lord Doom's limits, Noah was able to stand his ground, wiping the floor with another pro player to show just what kind of material he was made of.

That was his 75th fight.

And subsequent fights were not getting any easier.

The 76th to 80th match all seemed to involve experts, if not pro players, then extremely talented players that decided not to enter the pro scene due to different reasons. They all pushed Noah, but only pushed, never defeat.

No matter how good the opponent performed, there was never any moment where the spectators thought that Lord Doom was about to lose.

No matter how much he was pressured, Lord Doom always seemed to be in control, and at the end he always prevailed.

He seemed unassailable, inviolable, inevitable.

And then came the 81st to 99th fights. This time, Noah had no doubt that every single opponent that entered the Arena lobby to fight him was a pro.

When he fought against one specific Blademaster, he almost thought he was dueling against Aria again.

They were that good but still, whether by luck or not, he was still winning.

And then the 90th fight.

[Loading 90th opponent, please wait...]

[Character, Sol Invictus has entered the Arena!]

[Level: 60]

[Time elapsed: 7 minutes, 42 seconds]

The hardest fight so far.

Against this guy, it was almost like a real Pro Alliance game as Noah was forced to take up almost the 10 minutes allocated to individual duels in the league before he could win.

Sol Invictus was a mage, a terrifying mage. This guy had a solid grasp of the game, and his Avatar was a hybrid mage.

Hybrid Mage, meaning that even as he specialized in normal arcane magic, he also specialized in certain focuses of the Summoner path.

With his powerful offensive power paired with his clever use of his summons, this guy pushed Noah to the wall.

Another thing was that of all the Avatars that faced Noah in battle, this was the only one with a powerful unique skill, an A-Ranked unique skill that made his summons significantly harder to kill.

With it, this guy was a menace.

To win, Noah had to use everything, his full arsenal of skills.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

It was a flurry of arcane light and steel as the battle progressed.

The crowd watched in stunned silence as the final blow landed, wondering who the hell that guy was to push God Noah so far.

But still, they could not help to focus on that figure.

"Match 90...! My God, he's really doing it!"

"Not doing, he's done it already!"

"We're literally witnessing history right now!"

"When last did any challenger ever complete the heavenly domain challenge in one go? And to think terrifying challengers like this will even show up, and still not able to stop him".

"He's called the Godfather of Warstar for a reason".

"Go God Noah!" A fan cheered enthusiastically.

Noah smirked, moving on.

And then, his show finally hit its climax, the 100th fight.

[Loading 100th opponent, please wait...]

[Character, Daemon has entered the Arena!]

[Level: 60]

[World PvP Champion!]

Pro players were acknowledged across England as the best that the game has to produce, but a pro player was not the one holding the record as the world PvP champion though. Rather, it was a Warstar YouTube streamer.

This guy's life changed through the revolutionary video game, Warstar.

Instead of switching to the pro scene, this skilled player made his living by playing the game all day, livestreaming exciting bits of his adventure in the game.

Daemon was the widely recognized PvP champion.

A few days ago, Daemon bought a level 60 11th server account, changing its username to Daemon and he showed his fans through a livestream.

He didn't tell his fans the reason why he bought the account but the smarter ones already guessed it. And now, Damon showed his true objective.

He was not in the pro scene. And even if he was, this season, he did not have the opportunity to challenge the Godfather of Warstar in an official setting.

But this hurdle blocking him was solved by the Heavenly Domain Challenge.

Having started his own challenge before Noah started his, Daemon already progressed in his Arena Challenge to the 100th opponent. After hitting there, like he predicted, no one was at the 100th opponent to fight him immediately.

Taking advantage of the opportunity, he logged out and waited.

And now, when Lord Doom finally fought the 99th opponent, he made his appearance, bursting into the scene.

"It's DAEMON!"

"I'm not blind, I can see".

"OH MY GOD! IT'S DAEMON! I can't believe it!"

"This match is definitely worthy of the final stage!"

"Will the World PvP champion prevail or the Godfather of Warstar will?"

Daemon was undefeated in his PvP record, and now he was pitted up against the most talented player that England has ever produced.

Noah may be old now, but no one doubted how good he was.

At the beginning when Noah decided to turn this into a show, one of his greatest fears was the mental exhaustion that would come with fighting 100 back to back fights since the gathered crowd meant he would never run out of opponents to fight, prolonging the Arena Challenge till he completed it.

After 99 straight Arena fights, some of them that forced him to actually put in effort, Noah's brain felt like it was filled with lead.

But still, facing this opponent, he grinned, relishing the challenge.

The battle against Daemon was a true test, a test of endurance to Noah to see how much he could keep on going even while exhausted.

KABOOM!

Two titans clashed.

The world held its breath.

This wasn't just a battle; it was a war.

While Noah represented the peak of what the Pro Alliance could produce, Daemon represented the peak of what casual players could produce, and these 2 approaches to the game clashed in the epic duel.

The fight lasted 10 minutes!

Every second was a brutal test of skill, both players turning into a storm of arcane energy and harrowing steel.

Noah was pushed beyond his limits, and yet he held still.

After 10 minutes, none of the 2 opponents was on the floor but the time elapsed, and the HP decider algorithm automatically kicked in.

After the first minute of clashing with this player, Noah already created a plan to win as he accepted a fact. He was too exhausted to win with brute force.

And so he just did the bare minimum to keep the pressure on Daemon, prolonging the battle as long as he could.

After 10 minutes, Noah had more HP than his opponent.

This was why he won.

Ruthless, calculative, and efficient decision-making.

[System Announcement: Lord Doom Wins!]

Lord Doom won, his 100th straight battle.

And then, the aftermath...

BOOM!

The Arena erupted.

The chat exploded.

The entire Warstar world stood still. Again, Lord Doom did it, taking all the headlines across England despite not even being on the pro scene.

God Noah may be retired, but he was clearly not tired.

He defeated 100 players. He defeated the PvP World Champion.

He was no longer just a player, he was Warstar's greatest showman.

After winning 100 consecutive matches against increasingly skilled opponents, culminating in the defeat of the undefeated World Champion, the system broadcasted a global announcement, marking Lord Doom's completion of the Heavenly Domain Challenge.

[System Announcement: Player "Lord Doom" has become the first to clear the Heavenly Domain Challenge in the 11th server!]

While England's Warstar communities were left reeling again after another eye-catching event involving Lord Doom, stealing all the headlines, Noah no longer paid attention to all of it because his Avatar already left the beginner domain.

Lord Doom appeared in a pristine white void.

There, the familiar system notifications lit up before him.

[Congratulations! You have completed the Arena Challenge!]

[You have received the following rewards:]

*+1000 Skill Points

[SSS-Rank Unique Skill, 10x Skill Points have been triggered, please wait...]

[1000 Skill Points have been upgraded to 10,000 Skill Points!]

*NEW! Title: Uncrowned King.

>Uncrowned King: An exclusive PvP title that increases PvP damage by 10%, reduces incoming PvP damage by 5%, and automatically grants a temporary stat boost when facing a higher-ranked opponent<

{Bonus Effect: Lord Doom's Arena entrance animation changes, becoming customized, with the system creating a throne-like holographic display behind him when entering a match.}

Noah grinned, happy at the new title that he just got.

But with that out of the way, the notifications that he anticipated the most finally appeared.

[You have completed the Heavenly Domain Challenge...]

Chapter 137: Ghost

[You have completed the Heavenly Domain Challenge!]

[Calculating completing rating, please wait...]

[Calculation complete!]

[Your Heavenly Domain Challenge completion rating is S!]

[Congratulations! The legendary reward tier has been unlocked!]

[You have received the following rewards:]

*+2000 Skill Points

[SSS-Rank Unique Skill, 10x Skill Points have been triggered, please wait...]

[2000 Skill Points have been upgraded to 20,000 Skill Points!]

*NEW! Passive Skill: Unyielding Will.

>Unyielding Will: The lower Lord Doom's HP, the more damage he deals<

*NEW! Active Skill- Combat Mage: Judgement Strike.

>Judgement Strike: A devastating attack that ignored defense, scales based on the opponent's Arena Rating, and deals increased damage against undefeated players<

*You have received a 11th server exclusive Title. i.e, you can only use it against Avatars that were created in the 11th server.

[Exclusive Title: God of the Arena]

>God of the Arena: Increases all PvP-related stats by +10%. Grants passive Arena Rating boost. Enemies suffer increased cooldowns in duels against the title holder. This title is unique and cannot be obtained by any other player. You are the first to complete the Heavenly Domain Challenge in the 11th server, therefore, you are the God of the 11th server Arena<

*+10,000 Arena Prestige Points.

>Redeemable for exclusive PvP cosmetics, rare gear, and unique PvP-oriented skill books<

*You have been rewarded with a Unique Mount: Celestial Warhorse- Chariot of the Gods.

>A flying mount with unparalleled speed, immune to crowd control effects, leaves behind a golden trail in the sky, signifying its legendary status, and it grants +20% movement speed in all terrain<

*Hall of Fame induction.

>Your name 'Lord Doom' has been permanently engraved in the Hall of Fame board of the 11th server. In the 11th server, NPCs and Arena players will recognize and acknowledge you as a historical figure<

*You have gained Ascension.

DING!

[Do you want to enter the Heavenly Domain now?]

[YES?] [NO?]

In the white void, hit by all these sudden notifications that he anticipated but never knew the content of till now, Noah was stunned at first and then a big smile blossomed across his face.

'Damn! These developers went all out in this 11th server design this time'. He thought, chuckling to himself.

The Heavenly Domain Challenge was never just a test of skill, it was a battle to claim divinity in the PvP world.

And he didn't just win, he ascended.

He now had the qualifications to enter the Heavenly Domain, the first Player/Avatar in the 11th server to achieve the feat.

And still, despite all this, Noah could not help his astonishment. He did not expect all these rewards.

He literally just got 30,000 Skill Points in one go!

For even max level 100 Avatars in the game, 10,000 Skill Points was a ridiculous amount not to talk of 20,000 skill points.

Noah always knew that his 10x Skill Points unique skill was OP, but like he expected, he would not see its true advantage till he got to the higher levels where he would get more skill points.

Afterall, the more skill points he got, the higher the multiplier factor.

Apart from the ridiculous skill points that he just got, Noah was also surprised by the other rewards that he got.

The God of the Arena title, even the Uncrowned King titles that he got were new updates to the game that were not here before the 11th server. Noah was most likely the first Avatar in all of Warstar to have them.

The passive skill and active skill that he got was not so surprising, even his Stinger of War Avatar got 2 new skills when he completed his heavenly domain challenge back then in the 1st server.

But the 10,000 Arena Prestige Points that he got was a first, including the Hall of Fame induction.

Noah was visibly surprised. "Since when was a Hall of Fame board created?"

It was clear that the developers were making a lot of updates, and they wanted to expand the horizons of the game even more.

'A good think though'. He thought.

Of all the rewards that Noah got though, the most shocking to him was the Unique Mount, the Celestial Warhorse, Chariot of the Gods.

Again, this was something that was unprecedented in the game.

In Warstar, there is a Summoner class but no Beast Tamer class. In all his years of playing the game, Noah had never heard of Avatars with mounts that they can transverse the world of the game with.

He was pretty sure that his Lord Doom Avatar was the first to get a mount.

'Crazy!' He thought.

Noah was pretty sure that he only got such an exclusive opportunity like this from the developers because of his S-ranked completion rating.

Apart from that, he had no other explanation for this.

'I keep exceeding their expectations, huh?'

'But this..., are they not worried that my Avatar will end up breaking the game or they have counters for it already?'

Despite the thoughts in his head, Noah didn't think too deep about it.

He was more excited to see his mount.

And then, clicking on the new blinking icon on his interface that was written 'mount', Noah accessed his unique mount.

[Avatar Status > Mounts]

...

[Mount Name: Celestial Warhorse]

[Mount Type: Horse]

[Movement Speed Bonus: +20% in all terrain]

[Special Trait: Can transition between flight and ground movement seamlessly]

[Level: 60]

[HP: 100/100]

[MP: 100/100]

[Passive Skills: Divine Momentum]

>Divine Momentum: Gains increasing speed the longer it moves uninterrupted (stacks up to 30%)<

[Active Skill: Aetherial Charge]

>Aetherial Charge: Temporarily becomes invulnerable while dashing at high speed, dealing massive impact damage to enemies in its path<

[Summoning Effect: A blinding burst of golden light as the Warhorse descends from the heavens.]

[System Remark: This is a unique Celestial Warhorse, the Steed of Conquerors!]

[NOTE: You can rename the Celestial Mount once.]

"Damn!" Noah muttered, impressed by what he saw.

He stared at the image of the Celestial Warhorse that was on his interface.

The interface showed the mount in various motion forms, showing it stationary, when in motion, when flying and when engaged in a blistering charge.

Forged from pure divine essence, the Celestial Warhorse was a steed of those destined for greatness.

With a body sculpted from radiant, living light, its golden mane flowed like molten sunlight, and its hooves left trails of star-fire with every stride.

Unlike ordinary game mounts, the Celestial Warhorse does not simply run, this guy literally surges across the battlefield like a comet, an unstoppable force of motion and momentum.

Its armored plating, seamlessly integrated into its form gleamed with celestial inscriptions, shifting and pulsing with an inner radiance.

The Warhorse's wings, vast and resplendent, are not feathered but composed of energy, folding and unfolding in waves of shimmering aether.

When in flight, it leaves a luminous trail, a streak of golden brilliance cutting across the sky.

Noah could not help excitement bubbling in him as he stared at this mount.

'Damn! Lord Doom is going to get a mount!'

Noah had no idea if something like a mount when made known to the world would be allowed in the Pro Alliance.

Afterall, this was not like a Summoner's summon.

The mount was his beast, he required 0 MP to summon it from wherever plain it was. And unlike summons, the mount could exist independently from him.

It could carry him as a regular mount, and it could also fight for itself.

Afterall, it had its own health points and mana points.

At this point, Noah didn't care if when he eventually made his return, the Pro Alliance would let him enter the stage with his mount.

All that he thought of at this moment was how cool it looked.

Noah chuckled. "To think I will be making my entrance into the Heavenly Domain on top a mount. Even I am feeling goosebumps".

"At this point, I'm just aura-farming". He laughed.

But it didn't matter, Noah was eager to summon his mount. But before that, he thought of a name for it.

Noah didn't think too long.

With a grin, he inputted the name on the system which registered it.

And then, he finally hit the summon button, another new icon in his interface that was made available to his Avatar after he got the summon.

[Summon: Ghost]

A pillar of celestial light erupted from the void, a beam of pure radiance splitting the heavens apart.

The clouds twisted and swirled around the descending force, golden arcs of energy crackling through the air like divine thunder.

Then, within the luminous storm, it emerged, a silhouette of pure power, a being sculpted from light and legend.

The ground trembled as Ghost touched down, his hooves striking the earth with a resonant, bell-like chime. Not a single speck of dust lifted; his very presence rejected impurity.

His golden mane flowed like molten light, a cascading river of brilliance, while his body; sleek, muscular, and sculpted from divine essence shifted between tangible form and ethereal glow.

Ghost's golden eyes opened, fixated on its master.

There was silence, moments where Noah felt his blood boiling.

He wanted to maintain his composure but he could not.

"DAMN!"

Chapter 138: Ascension

WHOOSH!

Ghost surged forward, a single, casual step sending him gliding across the void with impossible grace.

A ghostly afterimage followed him, a faint trail of starlight in his wake as he came to a stop again beside Noah, his eyes, burning embers of divine energy locked onto his rider.

He did not bow. He did not lower his head.

Ghost was no mindless beast; he was a unique force of nature, a legend in his own right.

Noah smirked, placing a hand on Ghost's neck as he finally got over his initial excitement. The celestial warhorse huffed, an unspoken agreement passing between them.

"Yeah," Noah murmured. "You'll do".

Then, with effortless motion, he swung into Ghost's back. The moment he did...

BOOM!

Ghost reared onto his hind legs, his wings flaring open in a blinding cascade of light and the very moment his hooves touched down again, he exploded forward in a streak of golden brilliance.

Aether surged around them, the momentum building instantly, faster, faster, faster... until the wind roared past Noah's ears.

In his 11+ years of playing the game, Noah had never moved that fast.

Riding on top the celestial warhorse, he grinned, feeling a new thrill of the game, Warstar engulfing him and giving him a surge of dopamine.

As the horse charged, Noah accessed his interface again.

DING!

[Do you want to enter the Heavenly Domain now?]

[YES?] [NO?]

This time, he no longer ignored it, clicking on yes.

As soon as Noah clicked on yes, the blinding radiance of ascension covered him and his mount, and then the sound of something shattering reverberated as cracks spread through the void, and then...

Noah was taken out of this void, alongside his mount.

And just like that, the legend of Ghost had begun.

The transition was instant. One moment, Noah was engulfed in the blinding radiance of the ascension sequence. The next, he already arrived.

BZZZ!

A crisp breeze swept past him, carrying the scent of fresh earth and wildflowers.

The warmth of a golden sun kissed his skin, the sky above stretching endlessly in a perfect azure expanse. The Heavenly Domain.

Finally, Noah was here.

He emerged atop a vast, vibrant grassland, a rolling sea of emerald green stretching as far as the eye could see.

The blades of grass, impossibly vivid, shimmered under the sunlight, swaying gently as if whispering secrets of the wind.

Patches of flowers, luminous blue lotuses, crimson sunbursts, and delicate silver lilies dotted the landscape, their petals pulsing faintly with energy.

It was all so realistic.

Even nature itself here held an ethereal glow, charged with the raw essence of the Heavenly Domain.

Noah sat atop Ghost, his Celestial Warhorse standing proud, his radiant mane flowing like molten gold in the wind.

The warhorse's hooves barely disturbed the grass, his very presence leaving behind a faint, shimmering trail of starlight where he stood.

In the distance, rolling hills gave way to towering crystal-streaked cliffs, their surfaces reflecting prismatic light across the land.

Waterfalls of liquid silver cascaded down their sides, their descent slow and deliberate, as if gravity itself had been refined in this realm.

And further beyond, the silhouette of an immense citadel, a city of soaring spires and floating platforms loomed against the horizon, a beacon of divine craftsmanship. The first human settlement that Noah would meet in this domain.

The air itself hummed. Not wing sound, but with power.

A sense of boundless potential, of infinite possibility, filled the very fabric of this world. This was no mere game environment, it was the proving ground of legends, the Heavenly Domain.

Noah smiled and exhaled, his gaze sweeping across the breathtaking expanse before him. Then, ever so slightly, he leaned forward.

Ghost understood.

BOOM!

The warhorse kicked off the ground, not galloping, but soaring.

Aether surged beneath his hooves, lifting them into the sky in an effortless glide, the world below rushing past in a blur of gold and green.

The Heavenly Domain stretched before him, vast, untamed, and waiting.

Noah smirked.

Feeling mischievous, he screamed. "I'm back!"

And that scream... alerted them.

...

Few minutes earlier...

Far away, in a remote location of the Heavenly Domain, a group of 10 Avatars stood at the foot of a mountain chain clearly modeled after the Himalayas.

This mountain range was a dangerous and popular location of the Heavenly Domain called the Misty Mountains.

All 10 Avatars were max level 100 accounts.

One of them was a famous Avatar.

[Avatar- Crimson Saint]

If any casual player saw this Avatar currently in the game, specifically those of the Scarlet Rose persuasion, they would literally lose their minds because of the Avatar itself and also because of the identity of its controller.

Afterall, this was the captain of club Scarlet Rose, Jonathan.

Just like Dain Ironvalor was to Club Phoenix Rising and Stinger of War was to Club Cyber Squad, so was the Crimson Saint to Scarlet Rose, the pro club's only God level Avatar account.

As for the reason why this old Warstar veteran decided to come to the game today, it was simple. One of his oldest friends and rivals was coming today.

Of the 10 Avatars present today, only 2 were of the Paladin class, his Crimson Saint and another Avatar that stuck close to him.

Jonathan briefly looked at his time and asked. "How is the broadcast going?"

One of the Avatars went silent as if he went offline, and then it moved again. "Lord Doom just left the beginner domain".

"Good, get ready, he'll come here anytime soon".

"Be ready, let's give him a good welcome".

"Yes, captain".

The other Paladin Avatar hesitated. "Umm, captain, is this right?" His voice sounded juvenile. Clearly, he was a teenager.

Jonathan looked down at the Paladin. "What is?"

"This...", he hesitated. "Ganging up on him like this. Besides, he is still just level 60. Umm, t-this doesn't feel right".

Jonathan chuckled. "Young Chris, listen to me, the target we're going after today is not just anybody".

"He's the most shameless, unscrupulous, and treacherous villain there is".

"There's no need to pity him at all".

"Just follow, and observe. You'll know soon enough".

And then, a device that the Crimson Saint held blinked.

[Target found: Lord Doom!]

[Location: Obsidian Citadel]

"Let's move!" Jonathan ordered.

Where an Avatar would appear in the Heavenly Domain after completing the challenge could not be predicted, and this was why he had to use a tracker.

As soon as Lord Doom's location was pinpointed, Jonathan knew what to do.

Entering the nearest city, they paid gold to utilize the NPC-operated city teleportation portal, going straight to the citadel.

And there was where they heard it.

The "I'm back!"

Jonathan was stunned. "He's already moving!"

Chapter 139: Ambush in the heavenly domain

{Rocket Salvo=}

A Launcher skill that fires a burst of rockets that explode on impact, dealing area damage.

Noah had barely adjusted to the familiar stunning expanse of the Heavenly Domain before his instincts screamed danger.

A flicker of golden light, a sudden shift in the wind, and then...

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

It arrived when it was already too late.

He could not dodge, and so taking out Aetherforge, Noah did the only thing he could do to reduce the damage, switching his weapon to its shield form and protecting himself from the explosive impact.

Noah still received some damage, but that was not the important thing.

[Your mount, Ghost has received damage!]

[HP: 47%]

[WARNING! Ghost's HP has gone below 50%!]

[Automatically leaving combat...]

To Noah's shock, after barely just receiving damage, his mount flickered out of existence, returning to the plane where he summoned it from.

Noah was stunned. 'Just a rocket salvo?!'

He recognized the skill immediately after it detonated, recognizing it as the Launcher skill, but Rocket Salvo was just a low-level Launcher Skill.

And yet, that was enough to take more than 50% of his mount's HP?

Noah didn't have the time to be shocked because he was already plummeting from the sky. And in the process, even as his brain was already calculating, he finally was able to set his sights on his enemies.

It was not just one enemy.

'Who are these guys?' He thought.

The Launcher class was one of the more complicated classes to master in Warstar, but just from that first attack, Noah could tell that whoever attacked him was good.

And also, since his mount was the same level as him, for a mere Rocket Salvo to deal so much damage, even to him too, his enemy must be very high leveled.

Level suppression was in place.

He sighed. 'Since when did I make enemies in the Heavenly Domain?'

'I literally just arrived!'

Looking at the enemies that ambushed him from the sky, Noah counted, noting 9 of them. He could not help but grimace as he noticed another thing.

They were all level 100!

And most importantly, maybe it was because he was so high up but why did one of those Avatars look so familiar?

Noah sighed; he could already tell what was happening. 'Lord Doom's popularity has finally caught up to me, huh?'

Even as he thought that, he already switched Aetherforge's form again to the Rifle form, using a skill to shoot at the ground, using the recoil to kill the speed of his fall to avoid taking damage.

Just as Lord Doom touched down though, another attack came.

BOOM!

A radiant long sword wreathed in holy energy slammed into the ground in front of him, splitting the earth apart in a brilliant explosion of force.

The shockwave sent ripples through the grassland.

Noah barely dodged.

"Tch". His smirk deepened as he lazily flicked his gaze forward, he knew that long sword.

And then, from the swirling dust emerged a figure clad in silver and crimson armor, his massive frame exuding an almost regal presence.

A golden halo-like aura burned behind him, a signature of only one Avatar in the English pro scene, the Crimson Saint.

Resting the head of his long sword on the ground, his shield on his left hand, the Avatar cracked his neck before offering Noah an infuriatingly confident grin.

"Long time no see, old friend". He called.

Noah already recognized who this was.

Jonathan, Club Scarlet Rose's Captain. One of England's most elite players and an old thorn on his side.

Behind him, a squad of elite players materialized, forming a loose semicircle around Noah. Each was armed to the teeth, their weapons gleaming under the sunlight. This wasn't a random encounter; it was a planned ambush.

As for the Launcher that shot Noah down, the guy stood on top a rock further back, his Rocket Launcher firmly pointed at him.

"Jonathan," Noah chuckled. "What an inviting welcome you have for me".

"Hehe," Jonathan chuckled back, then he spread his arms dramatically. "Welcome back to the Heavenly Domain, Noah, or should I call you Lord Doom?"

He smirked. "I see you finally crawled out of the mortal realm like a proper little caterpillar. Was the climb difficult? Need me to show you how real pros do it?"

Noah scoffed, resting an elbow lazily against Ghost's saddle. "Jonathan. Still hiding behind your fan club, huh? I swear, your baby sitters get uglier every year".

Jonathan chuckled, unfazed. "And you're still as insufferable as ever".

He shook his head. "I was hoping the grind to level 60 would humble you a little, but nah, same arrogant bastard, different domain".

Noah tilted his head. "Arrogant? Or just objectively better? Hard to tell when you're never been me one-on-one".

This group arrived with their captain, comprising of just 1 player from Scarlet Rose's pro team, the rookie, Chris who was the candidate to inherit Crimson Saint.

The rest of the team was comprised of the best players of the guild in the Heavenly Domain, including its guild leader who controlled the Launcher.

All of the followed their captain here, tensed to engage in a crazy battle with God Noah. They didn't expect all this idle talk though.

And when God Noah said that, they couldn't hold it in, some of them lost it, chuckling before quickly covering their mouths.

Noah laughed. "See? Even your guys believe me".

Jonathan snorted. "I'd be offended if you weren't such a pathological bullshitter. But hey, since you decided to make your grand entrance in my domain, I figured I'd personally welcome you... with a little friendly beatdown".

Noah yawned. "That so? And here I thought Paladins were supposed to be honorable. Ambushing a man before he even sets food in town?"

"Tsk, ts". He shook his head. "Does Scarlet Rose not teach you manners anymore?"

Even as Noah said that, his brain was thinking, desperately looking for a way to escape out of this situation.

His situation was not looking bright.

Jonathan's smirk widened. "Honor's for idiots. Winner's don't play fair, they play smart". He lifted his sword, holy sigils burning into existence around his form. "And I play to win".

"Good," Noah rolled his shoulders. "Because losing to me again in front of an audience? That's gonna hurt".

Jonathan attacked.

Chapter 140: Lord Doom vs the Crimson Saint, and his crew

Lord Doom vs the Crimson Saint?

Noah truly wished it was a 1v1.

But no, this guy was just too shameless and unscrupulous, bringing a whole squad with him just to fight him with a level suppression of 40, 40!

'Sigh...', Noah truly felt like hurling curses at Jonathan at this moment but having clashed with him countless times in the big stage, he knew how immune to curses and how much of a thick skin this guy had.

And this was why, instead of talking more, he got set to defend himself.

Jonathan attacked.

In an instant, his long sword blurred forward, the force of his swing distorting the air as golden energy flared around him. But Lord Doom was already moving.

Lord Doom didn't move to face him though.

Rather, he ran!

"Hahaha," Jonathan laughed. "Run, shameless bastard!"

Watching what was happening, the other Paladin in Jonathan's group, the teenager stared with wide eyes. "G-God Noah is running?" He stammered.

He sounded shocked. "But I thought the Battle God never runs".

As he pursued, Jonathan sighed. "That is your problem Chris. You're very talented, but you're just too pure for your own good".

"And that's what I want to correct before you inherit my Crimson Saint".

"You won't go anywhere with that mentality of yours".

"Against shameless bastards like this guy here, with that mentality, you won't even know how you died".

"To win, you have to develop a shrewd and cunning mind".

Lord Doom interrupted. "So, this is a training session? Great!"

"You, shut up!"

Having missed his first attack, Crimson Saint was already moving again.

He reacted fast having predicted that Lord Doom would run. And with a movement speed, the level suppression made him close the distance instantly, bringing his long sword down in a mighty swing.

But then...

BOOOOOM!

Aetherforge materialized in Lord Doom's hand again having kept it before, in its Battle Lance form as he blocked the attack.

The impact cracked the very heavens, the grassland trembling beneath the clash of two of England's most legendary players.

But one thing was apparent immediately, Lord Doom was weaker... far weaker.

The moment their weapons clashed; the weight of level suppression slammed into Lord Doom like a mountain.

It was a crushing difference.

The raw disparity between a level 60 Avatar and a level 100 Avatar was apparent. Lord Doom's movements felt heavier, his reaction speed just a fraction slower, and the damage numbers flashing above his head were brutally unforgiving.

Noah smiled darkly. 'No wonder these bastards took out Ghost in a single strike'.

And worse still, Jonathan was not fighting alone.

As soon as he moved, the others moved.

Jonathan's Paladin aura burned around him like a second sun, boosting his team's stats while suffocating Noah's combat presence.

"Not so untouchable now, huh?" Jonathan sneered, swinging his long sword in a devastating arc.

Noah barely leaned away before a Spellblade blurred in from his blind spot, his enchanted longsword coated in blazing energy, slashing towards his side.

CLANG!

Lord Doom twisted mid-air, using the shaft of his lance to deflect, but the impact sent him hurtling backward.

Before he could recover, the Launcher in Jonathan's squad, Scarlet Rose's guild leader locked onto Lord Doom, unleashing a barrage of homing missiles that screamed toward his location.

BOOOOOM!

The explosion tore the sky apart.

A blinding inferno of flame and shrapnel erupted, swallowing Noah whole.

For a moment, there was silence, then...

"Did you really think it'd be that easy?"

A blur of black and crimson exploded from the smoke.

Noah landed behind the Berserker in an instant, his lance already driving forward. His movements were ghostly and rapid.

The moment he realized that he was ambushed and after knowing that it was Jonathan, he paid attention to his rival's crew composition.

Apart from Jonathan's Crimson Saint, there was the Paladin controlled by the boy, then 7 others; a Launcher, a Spellblade, a Berserker, 2 Elementals, a Mage, and a Mechanic, making 9 enemies in total.

Noah worked with that information as he started his desperate counterattack, pushing his reflexes to the limit.

Behind the Berserker, his lance drove forward.

BAM!

{CRITICAL HIT=}

The Berserker's health plummeted, but even that was heavily affected by the level suppression of 40 levels.

Noah grimaced. Before he could press his attack, the young Paladin showing incredible battle awareness already arrived, slamming his shield forward, unleashing a golden Divine Repulse that knocked him back.

Noah was surprised, not even Jonathan read his movements that first.

Noting his surprise, Jonathan smirked. "Shocked, huh?"

"Well, know this, this boy is my weapon to usurp your throne". He laughed. "I wanted you to have an early encounter with him".

"Chris, hold nothing back!"

"Yes captain!"

Even as Lord Doom bled and he retreated, Noah's tongue was as sharp as ever. "Beat me? Usurp my throne? Don't you think you're placing unrealistic expectations on his shoulders?"

"To even place the delusion on him to defeat me, do you want to crush him under the pressure of my brilliance?"

Jonathan smirked. "We'll see who shall be crushed, you or him".

As Lord Dom staggered back from the young Paladin's attack, the Mechanic took the opening, deploying automated turrets that instantly began locking on their intended target.

The 2 Elementalists and Mage followed up with a chain-casted bombardment, firestorms, ice spikes, and bolts of dark energy raining down on his position, cutting off Lord Doom's escape route.

A level 11 coordinated team was suffocating.

Not even Noah could escape being suffocated.

It was like fighting against an entire raid boss solo. Noah's instincts screamed at him to move faster, strike harder, but the level gap forced him into a reactive battle that he was sorely losing.

And that was when it happened..., silently, unexpected.

By the time Noah noticed, it was already too late.

{Back Stab=}

A high-damage low level Assassin skill.

BAM!

Lord Doom's HP dropped below 50% in an instant.

Lord Doom rolled forward at the last moment, avoiding a classic Assassin follow-up skill attack. That would have been a high-level Assassin skill this time and if it hit, Noah would have been done for.

But still, he gritted his teeth. 'Damn bastard!'

'To hide a 10th enemy, and an Assassin to boot!'

'Shameless bastard!'