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Chapter 41 Trust me, it'll definitely be 100% successful

A Battle Chief, even a peak Battle Chief, respectfully greets Mike with a "Hello, Master!" Mike, not one for vanity, simply nods with a slight smile.

"Greetings, Battle Chief Senior." This respectful address hits the right note with Blaze, who finds the young man before him increasingly agreeable.

"Not bad, this young man is quite impressive!" Given that he's registered as a tier one Battle Soldier, his strength probably isn't overwhelming, and he's likely young. Blaze is well aware that this individual's potential and value far exceed those of an ordinary Battle Chief, which is why he's willing to address him as 'Master.' Equals meet as equals.

Blaze materializes two flaming hands and greets him again with respect, "Greetings to you, Master."

"Long have I heard of the name Blazing Fury, and seeing you today, you truly live up to your reputation." Mike's casual remark sends a jolt through Blaze Morrow, who takes a fresh look at him.

"This guy, they've only exchanged a few words, and he's already discerned my true identity? This young man, even if not a Battle Chief-level powerhouse, must be close!"

Blaze Morrow, shocked yet intrigued, thinks, "Such an extraordinary person shouldn't be unknown... Right, with Thor emerging as a potential supreme being, many hidden figures are stepping into the limelight." The man before him is likely one such figure.

Blaze Morrow can't help but regard this mysterious powerhouse more highly. He smiles and says, "Let's dispense with the formalities. How should I address you?"

Mike, the fourth human to awaken an SSS-tier talent and destined to become the fourth supreme being, responds, "You can call me Fourth Bro if you like."

"Fourth Bro? That's an unusual name." Blaze Morrow, a man of stature who became a Battle Chief not just through brute force, doesn't dwell on the name but immediately responds, "Fourth Bro, I have a matter that's somewhat tricky, and I hope you can swear an oath of secrecy."

"No problem." Mike agrees, curious about the secretive matter.

Under the witness of a realm wisp, Mike swears an oath of secrecy, promising not to reveal Blaze Morrow's secrets.

"Fourth Bro, here's the situation..." Blaze Morrow briefly explains the events surrounding his granddaughter, deliberately omitting Mike's involvement, merely mentioning her accidental second awakening to an S-tier talent.

Mike reacts as if hearing it for the first time, casually remarking, "That's some good luck."

Blaze Morrow, a bit boastful yet feigning modesty, replies, "It's also thanks to a good samaritan's help."

Of course, I know about the good samaritan's help. Mike rolls his eyes internally, as that good samaritan is himself!

"Senior, is the matter you need help with related to your granddaughter?" Communicating with Blaze Morrow, Mike maintains an air of aloofness, fitting the persona of a master.

Indeed, he addresses Blaze Morrow as senior, while Blaze calls him Fourth Bro, a confusing mix of formalities.

"Indeed, Fourth Bro. My granddaughter can summon otherworldly beings to assist in battle by sacrificing special items. Could you help identify them?" Blaze Morrow asks earnestly.

As for equipment, weapons, and items, he's well-stocked, having prepared everything for Jessica.

Stepping back, there's no need for a master smith like Fourth Bro to handle low-level equipment!

"I can try, but I can't guarantee success," Mike modestly states.

Eye of Truth: [You're being too modest, trust me, it'll definitely be 100% successful.]

"Good, good, good!" Blaze Morrow says thrice, smiling.

"Tonight, my granddaughter will reach level 10 and undergo her class change. After that, I'll bring her to the Trade Secret Realm, and I'll need your help, Fourth Bro."

"As for the payment, it will surely satisfy you!" After discussing Jessica's situation, Blaze Morrow brings out a Battle Chief-level weapon for Mike to help identify upgrade conditions.

"Upgrade conditions: Burn the phalanx of the sixth demon god to ash, apply it to the handle every 12 hours, six times before it can be upgraded."

After identifying it, Mike can't help but internally complain, "Such stringent upgrade conditions, who would have thought?"

Why did Mike's post on the Wolf's Den forum resonate so strongly, stirring up emotions? Everyone has equipment needing upgrades but lacks the means to identify the conditions. And master smiths capable of equipment appraisal are exceedingly rare!

Not all master smiths excel in appraisals. [HammeredHearts], a master smith himself, had to request Mike's services, highlighting the scarcity and prestige of a master appraiser!

Pleased with the weapon's appraisal, Blaze Morrow feels cheerful, having recently experienced a series of good events.

"Fourth Bro, let's discuss the payment." Known for his generosity, he says, "I saw on the forum that you want to imprint forbidden spells, how many times?"

"Twice."

"I'll handle it!" Blaze Morrow explains, "Even for a Battle Chief, using a forbidden spell comes at a significant cost, hence the term 'forbidden.'"

Using a forbidden spell can impact a Battle Chief's combat effectiveness, with weaker Battle Chiefs even entering a period of weakness. Of course, with sufficient resources, various healing potions, and scrolls, recovery can be swift.

Thus, imprinting a forbidden spell is a resource-intensive task!

Blaze Morrow states plainly, "I'm not involved in frontline battles or exploring the Tower of Truth right now, so it's a good time for imprinting."

Generous as always, Mike doesn't hesitate, "Then please, Senior Blaze, imprint the [Sea of Flames] and [Flame of Life] forbidden spells for me."

"Excellent choice!" Blaze Morrow can't help but admire; these two spells are his signature skills, exceptionally effective.

While not the strongest spells Blaze Morrow controls, they are the most convenient to use.

[Sea of Flames], a wide-area AoE, inflicts massive fire damage around, burning everything and dealing extra damage to aquatic creatures. Beings below the level of

Battle Chief stand no chance of survival. Even a Battle Chief, if unprepared, would be injured by [Sea of Flames].

[Flame of Life], a life-saving skill, lights up to eighteen lamps of heart around the caster. As long as the lamps remain lit, the caster will not die. Of course, excessive damage can still be fatal. In the face of absolute power, all else is insignificant. However, as a life-saving forbidden spell, [Flame of Life] is exceptionally effective.

Taking the Forbidden Spell Scroll, Blaze begins imprinting the spells on the spot. [Sea of Flames] takes two attempts to succeed, and [Flame of Life] four.

Returning the Forbidden Spell Scroll to Mike and wiping sweat from his brow, Blaze explains, "Sea of Flames should cause hundreds of millions in fire elemental magic damage, a casual strike for a Battle Chief."

"Flame of Life, I succeeded on the first try but wasn't satisfied with the effect, so I re-imprinted it three times. It should light sixteen lamps of heart, ensuring safety unless a Battle Chief intervenes."

"Thank you, senior Blaze." Mike appreciates the gesture, noting it mentally. Blaze Morrow's actions are not just to pay for the appraisal but also to pave the way for his granddaughter.

"Senior, I have other matters to attend to, so I must take my leave now."

"Take care, Fourth Bro." Blaze Morrow watches Mike leave, nodding slightly.

"This young man is likely nurturing a successor, a protege!"

"These two forbidden spells, given Fourth Bro's true strength, are quite trivial, better suited for protecting a younger generation."

Blaze Morrow's keen insight immediately discerns that a Battle Chief would have no need for such spells.

As for who Fourth Bro is grooming, Blaze Morrow grows curious.

"Regardless, they can't be stronger than my granddaughter Jessica!"

"Second awakening, S-tier talent, haha, my old comrades will surely be envious!"

...

After leaving the Trade Secret Realm, Mike returns to the real world. Through the Lone Wolf badge, he politely declines other appraisal requests. Currently, he lacks neither money nor forbidden spells, and today's five appraisal slots are nearly used up.

Blaze Morrow's imprinting took quite some time, and it's now nearly noon. Mike also needs to prepare for his upcoming journey in the Tower of Truth.

Tick-tock, tick-tock—

The second hand and hour hand meet again.

12:00!

Mike activates the Tower of Truth mark.

"Welcome to the Core City of Truth!"

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Chapter 42 Maxen Stoneheart

"Welcome to the Core City of Truth." The familiar prompt sounded again. Mike didn't immediately enter the Tower of Truth for exploration; instead, he headed to Wolf's Den.

"Hello, I'm here to submit a mission." It was the same sweet-voiced receptionist, warmly greeting Mike, "Okay, scanning your Lone Wolf identifier, please wait..."

"Mission: Investigate Arthas Bloodscribe. Please select the form of completion: provide clues, capture alive, or kill."

"Kill. A Lone Wolf mark was left at the scene."

"Verifying..."

Mike wasn't worried about the verification failing. According to the Lone Wolf faction's guidelines, as long as a Lone Wolf mark is left upon completion of a mission, it is guaranteed to be recognized. Wolf's Den has special methods for verification.

"Verification complete, issuing your mission reward now!"

"Mission rating: S-grade, completion: 100%, you have earned 2000 Lone Wolf points, and your Lone Wolf tier has been upgraded to [Gold]!"

Beyond the division of combat power, the Lone Wolf organization also has an internal tier system: Bronze - Silver - Gold - Platinum - Diamond - Star. Whether there are higher tiers, Mike is not yet aware.

After completing this mission, Mike moved directly from Bronze to Gold, skipping an entire tier!

Mike's Lone Wolf badge now sported a dark gold trim, understated yet luxurious.

"Here is your mission reward, 100,000 gold coins, please accept it."

The receptionist, noticing Mike's first promotion, couldn't help but add, "The internal tier of Lone Wolf carries significant value. As a Gold Lone Wolf, even though you're just a tier one Battle Soldier, you'll enjoy the privileges of a Battle General at official functions."

"Your stipend has been increased from 30,000 USD per month to 90,000 USD."

"At the Wolf's Den internal store, you can enjoy a 2% discount, and you currently have 2000 points available."

"If you later upgrade your combat tier, your Lone Wolf tier will automatically drop one tier." That is, if Mike upgrades from Battle Soldier to Battle General, his tier will automatically drop to Silver.

Listening to the introduction, Mike nodded slowly, hearing about these details for the first time. Ordinary missions do not reward Lone Wolf points!

Clearly, Arthas Bloodscribe's special status played a role, and the higher-ups at Wolf's Den likely already knew that Arthas was the son of the fourth demon cult Leader!

All things considered, Mike scored big on this mission! 100,000 gold coins, equivalent to 100 million USD. For the current Mike, this was not a small amount, but rather a moderate sum.

The most valuable asset was the 2000 points, equivalent to purchasing power of 200,000 gold coins! And being promoted to a Gold Lone Wolf, Mike would enjoy many conveniences in the future.

"Also, you have now entered the [Battle Soldiers—Gold List], ranked 9812 globally."

"You can enter a pseudonym or your ID on your Lone Wolf badge for commemoration."

Global rank 9812, huh? Mike nodded, indicating his understanding.

He then asked, "I have information on a demon cult traitor related to Arthas Bloodscribe's father, can you report it upwards for me?" Mike hadn't forgotten the high-level list of the fourth demon cult he carried.

This list needed to be submitted as soon as possible; those traitors to humanity must be brought to justice swiftly! Mike wasn't greedy for money; these people remaining within humanity were always a threat and needed to be reported early.

If left unchecked, who could predict the consequences they might cause!

The receptionist, seemingly unaware of the severity, smiled back, "You can register the report right here; there's no need to trouble the higher-ups, and the corresponding rewards will be issued as usual. Unless it involves high-level demon cult members, even Battle Chiefs can be reported here."

Clearly, she was unaware of the true identity of Arthas Bloodscribe's father. He was the fourth demon cult Leader, a former Battle Lord of humanity! Otherwise, she would have done as Mike suggested.

Mike insisted on his point, repeating, "Please help me escalate this information; someone should handle it."

"Okay, please wait."

The receptionist submitted the information in the system, assigning it to a higher-level Battle Chief in charge.

Tick-tock, tick-tock—time passed slowly, the decorative clock on the wall moving sluggishly.

A minute had passed since the message was submitted.

"Sir, the information you provided may not be sufficient to attract the attention of the higher-ups, could you possibly reveal more..."

Her words were cut off by a loud noise!

Boom—

The doors of Wolf's Den were violently kicked open, a gust of wind rushed in, destroying nearby tables and chairs, creating a mess. Several patrons were blown away, tumbling across the floor, looking up in anger.

"Who dares..."

Their words stuck in their throats, unable to continue.

The culprit who kicked open the doors of Wolf's Den was a burly figure, tall and imposing, striding into Wolf's Den. On his shoulder, he carried a massive Lone Wolf badge, shimmering with the light of stars!

Someone exclaimed, "Battle Lord tier, Star Lone Wolf!"

"Nine linked stars above, it's the nine-star Lone Wolf, the first on the Star List, Maxen Stoneheart!"

Someone recognized the newcomer's identity, immediately drawing everyone's attention.

Maxen Stoneheart walked up to the bar, ignoring all the stares, and looked directly at Mike, his voice booming.

"Kid, was it you who reported this information?"

The receptionist beside him trembled slightly, unable to form a complete sentence, only managing to nod, "Yes... it was him..."

She never expected that the information Mike asked her to report would bring Maxen Stoneheart here! Her superior was just a Battle Chief, and Maxen Stoneheart was her superior's superior's superior.

How did she manage to draw the attention of this legendary figure?

It wasn't her fault for being flustered; the labels on Maxen Stoneheart were simply too overwhelming: [Battle Lord tier—Star List] no.1, nine-tier Battle Lord, SS-tier talent, godson of a supreme being... Each label, taken alone, was as heavy as a mountain.

Maxen Stoneheart, who had collected all these terrifying labels, said, "Kid, falsely reporting information is a serious crime, think carefully before you speak!"

Maxen didn't believe that this tier one Battle Soldier before him could provide any useful information. However, since he had killed Arthas Bloodscribe, perhaps he did have something valuable to report. That's why Maxen Stoneheart made the trip.

"Do you want me to speak now?"

Facing Maxen Stoneheart, Mike didn't show the fear others did; instead, he appeared quite composed.

Maxen was momentarily taken aback, not expecting the young man to take control of the situation. Then, he laughed heartily, "Good kid, you almost had me fooled. This isn't the place to talk."

"Come on, let's go inside."

Saying this, Maxen Stoneheart led Mike further inside.

They arrived at a secluded office deep within Wolf's Den.

"Sit down. The content we discuss here, except for the supreme being, no one can eavesdrop."

Maxen Stoneheart sat on the sofa, occupying it completely, and looked at Mike, "Now, let's talk about Terenas Bloodscribe, shall we? Or would you prefer to call him—the fourth demon cult Leader?"

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Chapter 43 Insufficient Authority, Request Denied

The Fourth Demon Cult Leader!

A Battle Lord-level powerhouse, even when the headquarters of the fourth demon cult was breached and surrounded by other Battle Lords, managed to escape unscathed! His threat to humanity is even greater than that of a demon god. The demon god is too far, the Leader too close. Catching him sooner will eliminate a hidden danger sooner.

"Before we discuss him, take a look at this list." Mike handed over a list with dozens of names on it.

Maxen Stoneheart casually took the list, glanced at it, and his body jolted, his eyes sparking with intensity as he suddenly stood up, his expression extremely serious. "What is this list?"

His tone was inquiring, but from his expression, he seemed to have guessed the answer and just wanted Mike's confirmation.

Mike nodded, affirming Maxen Stoneheart's suspicion. "Yes, this is a list of high-ranking members of the fourth demon cult."

Bang— Maxen's face twisted in rage, veins bulging on his arms as he clenched his fists, the list in his hands disintegrating into dust. He gritted his teeth so hard they creaked, pulling a roar from deep within his throat like a wild beast, "Scoundrels, they deserve to die!"

Mike interjected, "Cough, cough... you've just destroyed the list, and that was my only copy."

"You should have said so earlier!" Maxen Stoneheart rolled his eyes, then raised his palms, and all the paper dust swirled in his palms, reconstituting the list in less than three seconds. "Check for any errors."

With Maxen Stoneheart's capabilities, even a casual glance was enough to imprint the list in his mind. After confirming there were no errors, Mike handed the list back to Maxen Stoneheart.

After the initial burst of anger, Maxen Stoneheart calmed down. "Where did you get this list?"

He pondered, "This matter is of great importance, we must be cautious. You know, many on this list still hold high positions in important departments. Accusing them of being demon cult followers is no small matter! It's best to have evidence."

Mike had his explanation ready. "After Arthas Bloodscribe died, I found a small box among his belongings, which contained this list. I glanced at the list, and the box automatically locked itself."

Saying this, Mike took out the black box and placed it in front of Maxen Stoneheart. "Have you opened this box since then?"

"No."

"How do you open this thing?" Maxen Stoneheart held the box in one hand and scratched his head with the other. He was tempted to smash the box but feared destroying the list inside.

Mike casually remarked, "I thought you could open it quite easily?"

Maxen Stoneheart paused, his expression changing slightly. He couldn't admit that he was unable to open it—that would be too embarrassing. "Of course!" he bluffed.

Mike seized the opportunity, "Once you open it, you'll know whether the list is genuine or not."

In truth, Maxen Stoneheart already believed in the authenticity of the list. One-third of the people on it were already dead. After the headquarters of the fourth demon cult was breached, their identities were no longer secret. However, the remaining two-thirds were still deeply hidden.

These individuals posed a significant threat. If left unchecked, the shattered fourth demon cult could quickly resurge. Only by uprooting them completely could the problem be fundamentally solved.

In other words, the list Mike provided was invaluable. "We will verify the authenticity of the list in various ways. We won't wrong the innocent, nor will we let the guilty escape," Maxen Stoneheart said calmly, having regained his composure. "As for your reward for reporting, it will be issued in full once the list is thoroughly verified. Is that acceptable?"

Before Mike could agree, Maxen Stoneheart added, "This payment will be substantial. If you want an advance, just say the word—up to one hundred million gold coins."

Wow—typical of a nine-tier Battle Lord, casually mentioning a hundred million gold coins! However, Mike wasn't in a hurry for money; what was his would not escape.

"No need for an advance. I didn't report this just for the money. There is still righteousness in the world!"

Mike's emphasis made Maxen Stoneheart look at him strangely. "This kid... he couldn't really be reporting just for the bounty, could he?"

Regardless, Mike's delivery of the list was a significant service to humanity. Maxen Stoneheart didn't dwell on the details, secured the list, and returned to the topic he cared about most. "You mentioned earlier that you have information on Terenas. Is that true?" The list was important, but the fourth demon cult Leader was even more critical. Capturing the demon cult Leader would be more significant than capturing ten, a hundred Battle Chiefs!

"It's true. I know his next move."

Under Maxen Stoneheart's expectant gaze, Mike spoke calmly, word by word, "He's coming to Florida."

"Florida? What's he doing in Florida? Oh right, his son died there."

Maxen Stoneheart's expression froze, then he looked up sharply at Mike, a bold idea forming in his mind.

Could it be...

Mike nodded, confirming Maxen Stoneheart's guess. "Yes, he's coming to kill me."

Mike had not only thwarted his plans but had also killed his son. The fourth demon cult Leader had sworn on his life to kill Mike. If he wanted to fulfill his vow, he would have to come to Florida, even return to the scene, to track down Mike's whereabouts.

Undoubtedly, Mike was in extreme danger, being targeted by a Battle Lord was no small matter!

Maxen Stoneheart was silent, walked over to Mike, and patted his shoulder, saying solemnly, "Eat what you like while you can."

Mike: ??? Your tone makes it sound like I'm about to die!

Bring out your nine-tier Battle Lord strength, brother. It's just a demon cult Leader!

"Just kidding." Maxen Stoneheart forced a stiff smile and advised, "Keep your identity hidden. I'll have someone watch the scene and ambush the demon cult Leader. Maybe we can capture him directly."

"There's not much you can do being targeted by a Battle Lord. Leave it to fate."

With that, Maxen Stoneheart escorted Mike out, "Go to the Tower of Truth and improve your strength as soon as possible. The enemy might not come personally. Even so, his minions alone, being Battle Chief-level, will be quite a challenge for you."

Maxen Stoneheart had to admit, even if it had been him at Battle Soldier strength facing this situation, it would have been extremely dangerous. Mike's composure was commendable.

"Maxen Stoneheart casually mentioned, 'Lone Wolf's death benefit is quite generous.'"

Mike: ??? Did you just say what I think you said, buddy? Is that really appropriate?

Maxen Stoneheart escorted Mike to the door of Wolf's Den, saying solemnly, "Take care."

Mike couldn't wait to leave and hurried to the Tower of Truth.

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After Mike left, Maxen Stoneheart actually smiled. "Sly kid, daring to play tricks on me with that box. If I didn't scare you a bit, I wouldn't be Maxen Stoneheart!"

Previously, Mike had made Maxen eat humble pie with that box. Maxen's scare was a way to even the score.

"That said, being targeted by a Battle Lord-level figure, that young man really can't survive on his own!"

Saying this, Maxen Stoneheart took off his own Lone Wolf badge and started operating it, "Requesting [Guardian Shadow] for the best possible protection. If we can get one of the top forty from [Shadow] to temporarily protect him, this young man's life will be absolutely safe."

Of course, Maxen didn't hold much hope. [Shadow]-level powerhouses were the top echelon of [Guardian Shadow], assigned according to the potential of Lone Wolves. In his day, Maxen had [Shadow Twenty-Three] by his side, indicating he was ranked twenty-third in potential among his peers.

Requesting top forty [Shadow]-level protection, even temporarily, was incredibly difficult.

Still, it was correct to enhance the young man's security, at least secretly assigning a Battle Lord to protect him.

Less than three seconds after Maxen submitted the request, he received a response. Looking at the message, Maxen was stunned, frozen in place like a statue.

His Lone Wolf badge displayed four bold black letters: [Insufficient Authority, Request Denied].

He was a nine-tier Battle Lord, first on the Star List, and he didn't even have the authority to make the request?!

"That kid... what is his background?! What is his identity?"

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Chapter 44 The big boss was coming

Leaving Wolf's Den, Mike headed straight to the Tower of Truth. He summoned the Core Crystal of Truth, placed his palm on it, and was engulfed in a white glow.

"Transferring, current level: 2."

"Best of luck in conquering the Tower of Truth."

When he opened his eyes again, Mike found himself in a desolate landscape, scarred and strewn with debris. The sky was covered with heavy clouds, pitch black and oppressively dense, making it hard to breathe.

"Tower of Truth Second Level—Class Transition Realm!"

Mike observed his surroundings, and information about the level surfaced in his mind. The first level of the Tower of Truth mainly served as a leveling area for levels 1 to 10. Level 10 is the first major class transition for participants.

Thus, the second level of the Tower of Truth, as a personal instance, is dedicated solely to class transitions. Participants achieve this by defeating monsters, which drop class transition items. They then select the most suitable transition item to complete their class change.

However, Mike faced an awkward situation—he had already transitioned classes! His class was the SSS-tier Stormweaver (Lightning), the most suitable choice for him. For him, the Class Transition Realm was essentially superfluous.

That's what Mike thought before entering the second level. But once inside, new information appeared before him:

[Reaching 100% Exploration Rate will grant additional rewards.]

[Stormweaver will gain an additional elemental attribute.]

"What a stroke of luck!" The [Stormweaver] class template Mike had acquired was based on Lightning, with maximum output capability. It was an SSS-tier class template, the pinnacle in terms of all attributes and enhancements.

However, relying solely on Lightning magic made him vulnerable to targeted counters, so learning additional types of magic or skills was certainly a profitable deal for Mike.

"There's no guide for this level, just brute force it!"

Mike eyed the surrounding monsters, eager to test his skills. Since his debut, Mike's method for dealing with bosses had always been to charge up and then unleash a Lightning Arrow to solve everything. Even when he killed Arthas Bloodscribe, he used the same tactic.

In fact, among Mike's damage-dealing skills, [Thunderclap Strike] dealt higher damage than [Lightning Arrow], and when the target's health was below 30%, [Thunderclap Strike] could inflict true damage.

However, outside the Tower of Truth, Mike would not easily use [Thunderclap Strike]. The reason was simple. [Thunderclap Strike] was a signature skill of the Stormweaver, highly recognizable. Using it would leave traces that could easily lead back to Thor, especially since the whole world knew Thor had transitioned into a Stormweaver.

Whereas Lightning Arrow was more common, any mage could learn it, making it hard to trace back to Mike.

"This is a good opportunity to practice Thunderclap Strike!" As a signature skill of the Stormweaver, using [Thunderclap Strike] enough times could increase its proficiency and potentially upgrade it.

With his plan set, Mike surveyed his surroundings with clear objectives:

"Goal 1, achieve 100% Exploration Rate to gain an additional elemental attribute!"

"Goal 2, use [Thunderclap Strike] as much as possible to strive for an upgrade!"

Mike opened the skill description for [Thunderclap Strike]:

[Thunderclap Strike (Lv1)]: Summons a thunderclap from the sky to strike the enemy, dealing $(200+2*\text{Intelligence})$ Lightning damage. When the enemy's health is below 30%, it converts to true damage. Each hit with Thunderclap Strike permanently increases the skill's base Lightning damage by 5 points. Enemies hit by Thunderclap Strike are 100% slowed and randomly receive a negative buff.

Mana cost: 200 points

Cooldown time: 2 seconds

With an Intelligence attribute of 285, that's $200+285*2=770$ damage! Stormweaver doubles Lightning skill damage, and Force of Nature adds 15%, making it $770*2.15=1655$ damage! Without any buffs, against a target with zero magic resistance, it deals 1655 Lightning damage! If the target's health is below 30%, it converts to 1655 true damage!

The most terrifying aspect is the scalability of Thunderclap Strike; each use increases the base damage by 5 points!

Closing the skill description, Mike looked towards a nearby two-headed ogre.

[Two-headed Ogre, Health: 2500/2500, a perfect target, oh, it has noticed you and decided to make you its lunch.]

The ogre looked at Mike and lumbered forward in a charge.

"Thunderclap Strike!"

"-1364!"

A bright red number appeared above the ogre's head, and its movements slowed as if in slow motion.

Slow buff!

[Thunderclap Strike] has a 2-second cooldown, but Stormweaver reduces it by 50%, leaving only 1 second.

"Thunderclap Strike!"

A second later, another bolt of blue lightning struck down.

"-1665!"

The ogre's health dropped below 30%, ignoring magic resistance and dealing true damage!

Boom—

The ogre collapsed, its body emitting a burnt smell.

"Experience +200!"

"Exploration Rate +0.1%!"

In less than two seconds, the ogre was defeated, and Thunderclap Strike's base damage increased by 10 points.

"Not bad!"

Mike was satisfied and looked towards more distant monsters. To him, these monsters were walking experience points, perfect for growing his Thunderclap Strike.

"Don't go, take another Thunderclap Strike!"

Boom, boom, boom—

Across the barren wilderness, thunder roared continuously, and monsters fell one after another, with Mike thoroughly enjoying himself.

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"Is this the second level of the Tower of Truth?" Jessica curiously surveyed her surroundings, her shoulder canary looking disdainful. She had fought in the first level for six hours yesterday, relying on her powerful pets and a temporary buff provided by Thor, reaching level 10 early.

Today, she even managed to clear with an 83% Exploration Rate!

Before entering the Tower of Truth, Blaze Morrow had specifically instructed her to complete her class transition today. A great opportunity awaited her, and missing it would be a regret for a lifetime.

Jessica didn't dare delay and hurried to the second level, ready for her class transition.

"Kill as many monsters as possible, drop high-tier transition items, and increase the Exploration Rate."

Jessica's shoulder canary once again transformed into a golden-winged roc, its golden flames sweeping across the land, continuously burying monsters in a sea of fire.

"Fortunately, the second level is a solo instance, allowing me to fully unleash my power."

Jessica thought to herself, her second awakening to an S-tier talent still needed to be kept secret. Even Blaze Morrow supported Jessica's approach. In these extraordinary times, it was crucial to keep a low profile. Only a fully grown talent could truly be considered strong.

"Based on my previous experience, reaching an 80% Exploration Rate on the second level and obtaining an S-tier class template would be an exceptional performance."

"Aiming higher would be challenging and likely to fail."

Jessica was well aware of her limits.

"Aiming for 80%, let's strive for that!"

An 80% Exploration Rate, for an S-tier talent, was already an excellent achievement.

With her mind made up, Jessica followed the golden-winged roc, embarking on their campaign of conquest.

...

"Exploration Rate at 90%."

Mike looked over the corpse-strewn wilderness, retracting his Force of Nature, his body free of any dust, appearing effortlessly graceful.

On the entire barren land, he was the only living person left.

Like the Grim Reaper descending upon the earth, wherever he went, no one survived.

"According to the guide, after killing all monsters, reaching a 90% Exploration Rate will summon the final boss!"

"Inflicting as much damage as possible on the boss can increase the Exploration Rate. Successfully killing it will bring the Exploration Rate to 100%!"

Mike's eyes were bright and alert, looking towards the sky.

"Inflicting as much damage as possible on the boss can increase the Exploration Rate. Successfully killing it will bring the Exploration Rate to 100%!"

Mike's eyes were bright and alert, looking towards the sky.

As the last monster breathed its last, the heavy clouds began to shift, emitting deafening roars, and a massive shadow loomed over Mike, as if an indescribable terror was about to descend!

Mike braced himself, fully focused.

The big boss was coming!

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Chapter 45 He's waiting for death

Thick, dark clouds slowly sank downward, making it oppressively difficult to breathe.

Mike stood atop a small hill, slightly tilting his head back, silently stacking his [Charge Up] ability. The CD for Charge Up is 10 seconds, but with Stormweaver's 50% CD reduction, it stacks every 5 seconds. It takes 30 stacks to reach full power, which requires 150 seconds, or 2 and a half minutes.

The boss hidden behind the clouds didn't keep Mike waiting too long and soon revealed its true form. It was a humanoid creature, about 10 feet tall, with muscles coiled like dragons, exuding a strong sense of power that delivered a significant visual impact. Its wings flapped in the air behind it. The gray wings were long and sharp, each flap stirring up a whirlwind, creating a terrifying momentum.

In front of Mike appeared an angel with black feathers. [This is a fallen angel with wings, yes, you guessed right, he was once an angel, but he was later corrupted by the power of a demon god.] [Oh, he also has a line to say, let's hear his cliché opening speech.]

"Mortal, worship me, kneel before me, and you shall gain immense power!" As expected, an extremely cliché opening line.

Mike continued to stack [Charge Up], casually responding, "And what's the price?" "Price? True power requires no price, only a heart that desires to grow stronger!" The fallen angel crossed his thick arms and looked down at Mike arrogantly, "I serve the fifth demon god, the former ruler of the Tower of Truth. Just offer your soul to me, remain forever loyal, and I will grant you great power!"

Mike couldn't help but roll his eyes. This spiel from the fallen angel was more suited to fooling a three-year-old. It had no effect on Mike! Mike was more curious about another issue. Since the second level of the Tower of Truth is a solo instance, and everyone encounters different monsters and bosses, how did this fallen angel precisely find him? Clearly, the fallen angel didn't know that Mike was actually Thor! That means...

"They've collectively corrupted the entire level of the instance. Anyone entering the second level during this period will encounter a demonized boss!" This was the only reasonable explanation! Mike need to find a way to purify the second level.

Mike's gaze towards the fallen angel gradually filled with murderous intent. This filth, better to be cleaved into ashes sooner!

Mike glanced at his [Charge Up] stacks—20 layers now, just 10 more, 50 seconds left. The fallen angel, seeing that Mike was not swayed by his words, understood that mere promises wouldn't convince him. Anyone who could reach the second level at this time must be a genius of the human race, with either high IQ or EQ.

"Mortal, kneel before me, and you shall obtain what you seek!" As he spoke, the fallen angel extended his right arm, a ball of light emerging in his palm. "This is an SS-tier hidden class transfer item. Even if you defeat me, you can only get a reward of this level!" This might be tempting for others.

But for Mike, an SS-tier class template meant nothing. He possessed the SSS-tier class Stormweaver, which was superior in every aspect. Mike continued nonchalantly, "Impressive, impressive." He even raised his hand, offering a sparse round of applause.

"Hmph." The fallen angel snorted coldly, clearly seeing that Mike was unmoved. He sneered, "If you refuse me, you will regret it, for you will never have such an opportunity again in your life. This is the choice countless people dream of, what are you hesitating for?"

Mike suddenly interjected, "I'm not even 18 yet, I have a lot of time ahead, how can you be so sure I won't have other opportunities?" The fallen angel's feathers bristled, his face showing a fierce light, and he sinisterly said: "If you refuse me, I will tear you apart, crush you, and even chew every bone!"

"The most wonderful part is, during this process, you will not only be alive but also extraordinarily conscious, able to clearly feel every bit of pain, every cell's agony! How wonderful!"

"You featherbrain, I'm so scared."

Now that Charge Up was almost fully stacked, Mike couldn't even bother to pretend anymore. Both sides had reached a critical point, and a great battle was inevitable! The fallen angel's eyes could shoot fire, he swore this was the most infuriating human he

had ever encountered! This person shouldn't be a mage, but a warrior! With a natural taunting skill, taunting to the max, making one want to flay and swallow him alive!

"It seems talking is useless, you need to taste some hardship." The fallen angel snorted coldly, flapping his wings as he dove straight towards Mike!

"Wait!" Mike suddenly interrupted the fallen angel. "I actually lied to you just now."

In fallen angel's view, the disparity in strength between them was as vast as an ant versus a dragon; there was no chance for a turnaround. Listening to the last struggles of a dying man was somewhat amusing to the fallen angel. Clearly, he didn't understand the principle that [villains die from talking too much], filled with arrogance and prejudice towards Mike.

"What did you deceive me about?" the fallen angel asked.

"Actually, I'm already 18 years old." The purpose of delaying time was achieved—Charge Up had stacked to 30 layers!

A new note appeared before Mike's eyes. [His health is only 120,000, and his resistance to Lightning magic is 80%, which means, you can easily finish him now.] [You're waiting for Charge Up, what is he waiting for?]

Mike slightly smiled, adding the second half of the sentence for the Eye of Truth, "He's waiting for death."

The fallen angel's ears twitched, his eyes furiously glaring, he harshly said, "Arrogant! Watch how I end your existence, you mere...." "Blah, blah, blah." Mike pointed forward with his staff, shouting lowly, "Thunderclap Strike!"

Boom— A massive red lightning bolt tore through the clouds, seemingly piercing the sky, and harshly struck the fallen angel's head, crushing everything! It didn't even give the fallen angel any time to react!

The fallen angel's eyes retained a look of shock, gradually turning to ash with the wind, becoming fertilizer for the wilderness ground beneath. In the moment before his death, he realized something. Thunderclap Strike, a Stormweaver exclusive skill. You are... Thor!!!

Unfortunately, this secret would forever sink into the embrace of the Grim Reaper. As fate revealed just the tip of the iceberg of truth to him, what awaited him was only eternal and real death!

Just as Mike struck down the fallen angel, the dark clouds in the sky cleared, and the ground of the second level of the Tower of Truth shook violently! "What's going on?!" Jessica stood on the back of a golden-winged roc, her soul still frightened, looking

towards the ground in shock. Just now, the ground had cracked open a terrifying fissure, swallowing many monsters into it! Even Jessica nearly fell down!

"I've never heard of such a thing happening, what's going on!" While Jessica was puzzled, a crisp voice rang in her ears, coming from the Tower of Truth's world-wide announcement. "Congratulations to participant [Thor] for an SSSS-tier completion of the Tower of Truth's second level!" "Detection of contamination in the second level of the Tower of Truth, purifying now...." "Purification complete, participant [Thor]'s rewards will be calculated shortly!"

Jessica's eyes widened in shock. Thor, it's Thor again! He, he actually achieved an SSSS-tier completion again?!