

Undead 281

Chapter 281: Kill The Wolf! (2)

Skullius backed away further in the dark as the eye sprouted.

It twitched with an unsightly squirm as the purple iris constricted and focused on him even in this darkness!

'The heck?' Skullius thought as he reignited his 'Radiant Awakening' preparing to attack, however...

The burning wolf suddenly rose and opened its mouth wide.

The spots of lights that glowed bright within its mouth had the hues of green, red and white positioned in a triangular formation.

They had a saturated glow, lighting up the peculiar dark space within the wolf's mouth that was akin to a lonely void.

The green light shone with a brighter intensity than the other two and in the next moment it overshadowed the others with its luminance, growing into something akin to a bright green gem that revolved within the creature's maw!

The wolf instantly chomped down on this gem, a verdant brilliance covering the entire wolf immediately!

What followed was something Skullius didn't expect, as the wolf went on to jerk and shudder, its body suddenly releasing a unique flash of white mana that pushed the flames away from its body, its flesh that had been burnt and torn by his sword and flame ballooning to growth right then!

The blackish-red fur regrew and the wolf looked lively again, having driven away the flames.

Skullius frowned as he held [Demion's Dance], his flashy figure bursting forward to decapitate the wolf before it did what it fully recovered!

The moment the sword whistled out of its sheath again, Skullius felt more of his strength being used as every grain of power he had was sucked in by the blade as he bulleted ahead and swung with all his might!

The darkness around him trembled from the aura of death that sprang within Skullius' body, energising him further!

His hair rose and he felt the sword wiggle with glee as it tore through the neck of the large wolf easily, the head of the creature flying off without much resistance!

Skullius only stopped in his tracks after he was six meters away from the body of the wolf that was surrounded by his dying flame!

As he finished his flashy attack, Skullius slumped as his 'Radiant Awakening' died down, revealing his detailed image.

He felt heavy from the discount exhaustion he felt and frankly, he didn't feel secure still.

He turned to the body of the wolf, the severed neck still leaking blood and saw....

'Come on bro?!'

Instead of the slumping body that he expected to see, Skullius saw the stump left in the wake of his sword's strike tumble and bulge before flesh ballooned from it, rapidly shaping itself from being a nasty lump of pink veiny flesh, into the wolf's furry head!

Regeneration!

High level regeneration at that!

The wolf this time didn't dally, opening its mouth while to reveal in the dark space within, two spots of light of the colours red and white, appearing blinkingly in parallel positions to each other!

The red light suddenly bulked up, becoming what seemed like a red shiny gem which the wolf instantly chomped down on!

The moment the wolf did, Skullius had a really bad feeling.

To back up this sensation, the purple eye at the forehead of the wolf glowed bright, pulsing with a thick surge of Primus while the wolf emitted visible swaths of glowing steam from its mouth while its belly drooped as if something had suddenly appeared in its stomach!

The wolf's purple eye faced Skullius and before the Discount Human could even think to make a move, the beast opened its mouth unnaturally wide, something flooding out of it with a horrifyingly sinister force!

A massive blast of energy like a stream of pressurised steaming water erupted from the wolf's mouth, bearing a dark red hue that foretold of nothing but destruction!

As the [Perfect Night Domain] fed Skullius everything that happened within this space, the Discount Human felt the stream of energy that headed towards him plough through the surrounding [Evil Darkness], augmented heavily by the purple eye that supplied to it Primus energy!

As Skullius was in complete control of the domain, his intent could prompt the darkness to do his bidding, unlike with the [Bead of Malevolence]!

He was catapulted upwards by the darkness and he felt himself barely escape the stream of destructive energy that nearly grazed his legs but destroyed everything else in a clear line!

The force he was flung with was so intense that he exited the domain from above, his figure appearing in the outside space where crackles of lightning, waves of sand and flashes of gold flickered in his peripheral vision.

Below, his darkness suddenly ruptured at its end, a burst of red energy obliterating much of the domain easily!

The beam of energy was relentless as it went on to pound on the wall on the other side, demolishing its integrity!

The [Perfect Night Domain] started to break down as its source, Skullius, was no longer within maintaining it.

But this was of no consequence as Skullius had more moves up his sleeve!

He would still hammer on attacks before the wolf was completely freed from the remnants of darkness.

[Crude World Projection]!

A dark figure streamed from out of Skullius' body, tearing through the air as it looked down, it's shape vaguely looking like a human's with creases and depression that outlined Skullius' body.

The Discount Human waved his hands in an authoritative fashion, the darkness which remained suddenly becoming lively again as it rushed towards the body of the wolf that was starting to get exposed from the disappearing domain!

It formed a large encirclement that started to compress and blanket around the broken domain as Skullius' dark figure brought his hands together as if he was gripping the distant darkness himself, moulding it as he saw fit!

The dark shuddered as it compressed and overlapping on itself, Skullius' intent being to capture the darn thing he had surrounded with the darkness and figure out a way to kill it in the next few seconds!

'Now. All that's left is to... what?'

...!

No way.

Impossible.

Skullius quivered for a brief moment even in this form as shockingly, he found that the wolf was not in his blanket of darkness!

He had trapped nothing but air!

His senses drew him to turn his head upwards, and for the Null Life of him he could barely believe it when he saw five claws darting down from the red-furred creature that looked down at him with three bloodthirsty eyes!

Skullius was frozen for a fraction of a moment from shock but he was prompted to act only when the wolf opened its expansive mouth, steam brimming from it as a stream of energy coagulated in its gut ready to fire in the next instant!

'Flesh me sideways!' Skullius thought begrudging.

Chapter 282: Kill The Wolf! (3)

Fast!

Absurdly fast!

This was all Skullius could think of as he looked at the impending doom that was coming for him!

How on earth could this sockethole he had seen to still be trapped in the remnants of his [Perfect Night Domain] be up here with him?!

What kind of speed was this?!

Skullius knew full well that the stats of those with blue mana cores had ten times more weight than those of white cored individuals but holy crap!

He could only watch as the five claws swiped down at him at a speed faster than his ability to call forth the darkness on the ground while at the same time, the blast of energy was ready to deal the finishing blow!

SWISH!

Five steel-like claws dug down as they held concentrated traces of mana within them, and...

...!

They passed right through Skullius, failing to do him any harm at all!

That's right!

Physical attacks, didn't really work on him. Or rather, this was the first time Skullius had been attacked while in this form so he was also finding this out!

The Discount Human's glee didn't even register as right after the wolf discovered the futility of its first attack, it released the second as Skullius was starting to descend at his top speed!

VOOOM!

Like a burst of artificially collected energy firing from a canon, a stream of highly concentrated red power beamed from the wolf's mouth, aiming for Skullius without pause!

'Dammit! Dammit! Dammit!' Skullius screamed in his mind as sweat tried to appear over this Projected form of his!

The best that the Discount Human could do at this moment, was try to inch to the side to minimise damage!

Physical attacks may not work, but this one seemed to be able to do him harm, as it had done to his domain, courtesy of the purple eye!

FZHHH!

Before Skullius had gone and done what he set to in detail, the laser-like stream of energy razed through him!

The Discount Human actively felt something of his being blown away, disintegrated from existence without the pain he expected!

As this occurred, the Discount Human pulled his utmost concentration to try and draw himself towards his body which was thankfully, not in the line of direct fire after having landed just now!

Skullius was drawn back into his body, his dark form which was fragmenting as it barely had limbs and a head left, darting in!

The blast of energy slammed into the ground, causing a ripple of energy that pushed Skullius' body away, flinging it with bits of damage into the distance as his dark Projected self swiftly got absorbed into it!

"Ah!"

The moment Skullius' Projected form sank in, his Discount Human form exploded with extreme damage from the chest to his abdomen, blood leaking everywhere as it stained his armour!

...!

Skullius collapsed as he felt his flesh turn into mush, the only thing that remained being his right arm where his torso was concerned!

His legs detached from the rest of his body as he plummeted on the dirt and stared wide eyed into the air.

'The hell happened?!' he thought as he blinked, but his mind raced as the urgency of the situation still registered.

Right.

Now it made sense.

One thing that wasn't related to his soul as he had thought before was probably his Insurgent Magnus powers. Or rather, the Fruit of World Myths!

The darn thing was in his body, attached to his Discount Human form in some way that wasn't exactly physical.

It was now clear to Skullius why using Enriching gems boosted his ability to last longer with [Crude World Projection]!

Because it was tied to his physical body in one way channel where increased constitution allowed him to use the Fruit of World Myths more effectively!

'Great. This revelation won't help me though! I only have a few points of mana remaining anyway!' Skullius bombed himself as he perused over his limited options.

It didn't help that he also felt extremely heavy from using [Swindling Death Dance] and considering the state of his body, he highly doubted that Luminous Healing could handle this amount of damage especially with his limited mana.

With his hand which was mostly functional, he gripped [Demion's Dance] and immediately used the skill that had the weird name.

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[Skill: Irisa You Whore]

The remnants of the unfaithful Irisa shower the user with healing light meant for her side lovers each time they sustain an injury, bringing them to full health. This effect only occurs once a day.

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The skill was meant to heal all physical damage he accumulated once a day, restoring him to perfect health.

The moment he thought of the skill, Skullius almost thought to cross his fingers and hope it worked as advertised.

Wait, what was crossing fingers?! GAH, dammit, this wasn't the time!

With Skullius' anticipation heavily factoring in, he eagerly waited for the results.

Then...

"Huh?"

Skullius... found himself standing up.

"What the..." he wondered.

His body was fully intact, flesh and bone all healed up with traces of blood staining his Fleeting Ghoul's Adornment.

Just like that?

It was as if he was an animated scene that had parts missing from when he was injured to when he was healed.

Furthermore...

"My mana! It's.. it's all back! How?!" he exclaimed.

His tank was full again!

Didn't the skill say it healed physical damage?

Was this some kind of hidden effect or was this what the skill meant by 'back to full health'?

Skullius didn't have the time to wonder more about this as before him, the menacing wolf appearing in all its all height and intimidating mass.

It drooled as it looked at him with all three eyes.

Skullius gulped.

He didn't have a lot of options and if he didn't play his cards right, he would be fleshed up again.

WHOOSH!

FFLSSHH!

Skullius saw his arm fly away as the wolf vanished from sight!

"Dammit!" he cursed begrudgingly.

Fizzy blood leaked out as he sustained what would normally be a fatal injury for most.

The wolf appeared a distance from him, its mouth curling up as if smiling.

'Even with Radiant Awakening, I'm not fast enough to attack this thing. Using [Perfect Night Domain]... probably won't help as long it still has that eye...' Skullius thought.

WHOOSH!

A leg flew off, leaving Skullius to fall to the ground.

'DAMMIT!'

Skullius had been thinking of ways to boost his mobility so as to dodge the attacks at least but now...

The Discount Human suddenly opened his eyes wide.

'No... the answer is...'

He didn't need something to boost his speed!

He just needed to stay still!

Just like...

That's right!

An idea coiled in his mind as he looked at the wolf that was circling around him with a grin.

Bursts of darkness suddenly surrounded him and formed a closely packed stacks of floating bars like a fence!

These bars all exceeded him in height and right after making these, Skullius used something that had been frustratingly hard for him to grind all this time.

[Just light]!

Streams of golden white energy flowed from him in limited amounts, covering every single one of the bars of darkness in faint halos!

'Now come on you flesh head. Come at me!' Skullius thought as he looked provocatively at the wolf that growled in rage as a response.

Did this weakling think he could stop its charge with something like that?!

Pathetic!

The creature's purple eye gleamed as it lowered its body, vanishing from its spot as it burst forward with immense speed above what it had been using before!

This fool would know just how fast and strong it was!

Skullius gulped.

This was it.

The moment of truth.

If his plan failed...

Before all his thoughts could turn to turn to fueling his terror...

BAAANG!

A blunt sound akin to something heavy bashing against an immovable wall sounded with the appearance of the wolf, a visible flash of blowing wind exploding outwards!

The large creature had rammed into the collection of closely arranged bars, coming at an extreme speed!

The result was that the wolf felt like it had smashed against all the iron the world, formed into a singular wall!

The force of collision had been so powerful that Skullius had been pushed back within his own encirclement!

The wolf staggered as it bled from its nose, its body shuddering as the recoil of force broke its bones and damaged its brain!

'Yes!' Skullius thought as he immediately formed a [Bead of Malevolence] and shot it towards the creature's eye while it was still in a daze!

The bead seamlessly penetrated the stunned creature's forehead where the purple eye was, passing out the back with Skullius himself following with his [Demion's Dance] as he slashed with all his might at its head, splitting the thing into two!

Blood splashed as the figure of the creature finally fell, Skullius only breathing out in relief and kneeling on the ground when he finally saw the notification...

Chapter 283: One Slash

Pheew...

Skullius breathed out a sigh of relief.

Finally..

His gamble had paid off.

As the bars coated in light which he had summoned vanished, his eyes roaming over the corpse of the Tier 5 Devouring Lantern Alpha Wolf, he couldn't help but wonder what could have happened had his plan not worked.

The whole idea of his plan had spawned from his earlier fight with the carp in the lake.

When he had conjured the spots of light to illuminate what was happening in the water, he had noticed that nomatter how much force was applied on them, they wouldn't budge from their position!

Be it the raging waves of mana saturated water, or the Primus coated waves of energy that were emitted by the powerful boss carp, nothing would push them around from the position they were directed to move in by Skullius.

If that indeed was a basic trait of [Just Light], Skullius intended to use it to stop the fast figure of the wolf.

However, at the moment, his manifestation of [Just Light] lacked a tangible attribute. It was no more than simple light that had no substance.

Perhaps this was because his affinity towards [Just Light] was still, nil.

Thus, Skullius had coated it around bars made from [Evil Darkness], hoping that this would solve the issue.

Thankfully, it had worked.

The light gave the bars the immovable attribute that resisted even the incredible force of the speeding wolf!

As for the idea of making bars specifically...?

Well, Skullius had spent seven days in a cell, so one could decipher from that what they would.

The Discount Human edged towards the body of the creature and extended his hand, absorbing the Null Life Essence.

"Thankfully, I managed to kill it myself, otherwise this whole thing would have been for nothing. Then again, no one would help me even if I was in danger..." Skullius thought.

If one recalled, the description for the Vehement Bone Nullmancer skill, [Apostle Summon] was to kill the target for the skill by oneself which meant that outside help was not permitted.

This had been one of the reasons Skullius gave Red Rage the consent to help Gertreld as he really wanted to make sure he was dealing with the wolf ALONE.

"I hope time isn't an issue for the summoning..." Skullius said as he stored the corpse of the wolf in his ring.

Luckily, it was already approaching evening and with his experience from raising Red bro, time didn't seem like an important issue.

"ARRRGKKK!"

Skullius was torn out of his thoughts by an inhuman shriek!

The Summoner who was a distance away stumbled and fell as one of his limbs seemed to have been severed!

He held the stump to his right hand which bled profusely and grit his teeth, sweat flowing from his temples as he madly yelled at the retreating six wolves that remained from the nine, the rest being in pieces on the ground!

The lone figure of Natalika that remained sitting with her sword on her lap before... remained exactly as so.

The blind swordswoman hadn't made any physical motion or gesture but three wolves had been killed!

The serene Aura that had expanded before was still radiating around her, creating the illusion that it wouldn't cause harm if one approached, but anyone with even a lick of IQ could tell that this was not true.

"Attack you fools! We're bound by a contract for Boron's sake! Kill her!" the Summoner screamed as the portal he had been about to conjure disappeared when his hand was severed from nowhere.

The wolves rushed ahead, three of them opening their mouths where a darkness welled within, three radiant lights flickering with different colours in a triangular formation!

The vibrant red lights glowed brighter than the others, becoming tangible gems that the wolves swallowed as in the next instant, they got down on all fours and emitted slim bursts of energy that hurtled towards Natalika!

The other wolves followed from behind the between the beams, going for the kill with their claws.

As the beams of energy which rattled the ground with their trailing lights reached Natalika's Full Body Aura, they... were severed.

The beams of bright red energy bounced off Natalika's Aura as if they had hit a sturdy wall and became perfectly sliced pieces of energy that dissipated after they were detached from their source!

The wolves that had shot the attack were shocked but those that had advanced did not stop, the one which led the charge slashing with its mana coated claws as it reached Natalika, doing the exact same thing its dead partners had done.

As it did, it felt the force of their claw attacks... ricochet back to its body, from its paw to its chest clean slashes splitting its body!

Natalika remained still as this occurred while the Summoner's heart beat quickly as he panicked.

What was this?

What manner of Swordsmanship was this?!

The other wolves that had been about to attack retreated after seeing what had happened to their companion.

Their steps lead them back to their Summoner who didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

'Seriously?! Was it all for nothing?! All those contracts I made, promising these beasts sustainable use of Master Boron's power...! It's all wasted! If only I was given a blessing, I could have...!' his thoughts chaotically pounced against the walls of his brain. 'No!

I'm not done yet!

The Summoner pointed his remaining hand ahead, a portal appearing before him!

This one oozed of a vicious power, its height almost reaching four meters while its girth matched that number as well!

Incredible!

The power which radiated from the portal was immense and from it, a massive snout started to emerge, with scaly, wrinkled nostrils protruding from the massive construct!

Something huge was about to come out!

The Summoners trump card!

The man pushed all his focus as a look of relief plastered his face. Relief mixed with joy!

"THERE! Let's see if your lousy sword can—"

SHIIIIING!

Before the Summoner could finish his sentence, Natalika appeared a meter before the stunned wolves who stood in front of the large portal and slashed with her striped sword in a beautiful but cold downward arc!

Her sky blue Aura waded from around her and coated her sword's edge, turning it into a bright, sky blue curve as Natalika used a Technique that was only relevant when she used this once a day aspect of being an Advancement Stage combatant!

'Demented Blindsword Technique, Crazy Cleave!'

As Natalika's sword left a trail of after-images in its descent, multiple slashes appeared over all her enemies.

Vertical incisions split the wolves into six bloody parts before they even knew they were dead while, shockingly, as Skullius witnessed...

The portal was split into twelve perfect strips!

...!

The energy construct was split by Natalika's blade!

The snout which had been in the midst of emerging sustained shallow cuts over it but still, the whole portal started to spark and crackle as it was actually torn to pieces by a sword strike!

However, besides from it being slashed by Natalika, the portal also started to dissipate because...

Its Summoner who was behind had also been sliced into six pieces!

"Argh...." the Summoner breathed his last as he fell to his death.

Natalika breathed out a sigh as she watched the portal break down, the creature that had been about to come out of it retreating before the portal collapsed completely.

'What a waste...' she thought, referring to her use of Full Body Aura.

She had thought she'd have to face the Alpha wolf but with her unnaturally keen senses, she could already infer that Skullius had beaten her to it.

Her technique which allowed her to manipulate vectors of force was unique to her, birthed by her honed senses which she applied to discern forces that she could direct anywhere she wanted.

Demented Slash for instance, reversed whatever the trajectory of her sword slash would be in order to confuse her opponents.

With her more advanced techniques, like Crazy Cleave, she could multiply one force, like her slash, into multiple attacks that were far stronger than those of her base.

With this technique, she was fairly recognised as the third strongest in the Harem's Guild, behind Tulnas and Renialid, though that position wasn't hers alone.

Natalika stored her sword as she thought more about what she had sensed from Skullius' battle more than her own, wondering if she could ask Skullius a million questions regarding it.

However...

'Looks like this fight is getting heated. A victor should emerge soon...' she thought as she turned in the direction where sand and lightning tangled in a hostile mix.

Chapter 284: Mage Vs. Tamer

'She's really trying to fry my ass...' Tulnas said as he darted left and right, relying on Bradd for cover!

It was pretty much evident that he couldn't effectively react to the bolts of lightning when Gwendelina was really trying to kill him and that fact had gotten quite a bit of emphasis when he had stopped paying more attention to the fights around him and started focusing on his own!

He reverse handled his blades as he darted to and fro and rushing over the cold ground as he then ordered the giant sand bear to make a move on Gwendelina.

From Bradd, waves of sand exploded, covering large radius as they stormed over to the Mage who looked on at this impassively.

A bolt of lightning coagulated and shot towards Tulnas, but it was notably slower than the one that had got him beforehand.

It crackled with power as it curved over the wave of sand, accurately heading for Tulnas' head when a wave of the heavy sand with numerous sparkling blue particles rose and covered him!

PTSKKK!

The lightning crackled as it left the cover of sand with a red and heated patch that smoked!

Beyond that, it did nothing beyond what could remotely be called heavy damage!

'That sand. It seems to have some strange energy disrupting properties. My lightning should have done more than just that...' Gwendelina observed.

Tulnas who was under the cover of tamed beast remained calm and stop moving.

The wave of sand finally reached Gwendelina who raised her slender hand and stretched out her palm in the respective direction!

A torrent of wind blasted from her hand, its vicious rotations making it visible as it circled in a spherical shape that covered the Mage as she looked on with confidence.

The sand was parted as it rained over her, being unable to penetrate the cover of rotating wind around Gwendelina!

Still though, the Mage noticed the sand pushing back against the gusts of wind which fought it off.

This sand truly was unique!

At this moment, all around her, waves of flowing sand in a golden-brown hue as well as gem like particles that reached up to her neck could be seen.

If she hadn't protected herself, she would have sank into the sand as it kept rising, trying to overpower her barrier!

Suddenly, from behind her, the large figure of Bradd appeared from the vast sea of sand, rising from it like a fish as it went on to bring its arms together in a bear hug!

Its large arms were writhing with palpable waves of mana that sought to break both Gwendelina's barrier as well as her body in one fell swoop!

'Too easy,' Gwendelina thought as before the big sand bear could reach its arms around her, an erect bolt of bright lightning shot from the Mage's body, rising up as it aimed towards the creature's chest in an upward streak!

TZBOOM!

Chunk of burnt sand flew after a bright flash of light and thunder, Bradd's chest being revealed to be blown away all the way to his head as now, only its seated legs and lower torso remained with glowing patches of sand that emitted smoke.

'How ruthless...' Tulnas thought as he observed from afar while riding the waves of sand like he was in the ocean.

"Is that all you amount to, Tamer?" Gwendelina said from the comfort of her barrier.

"You could say so..." Tulnas said as he flashed her a smile.

From beside him, the sand rose as the figure of Bradd appeared, in full health as it continued to summon more sand.

Gwendelina was not surprised.

She could feel Bradd's energy situation well enough and thus could tell that the Bradd that had attacked her was merely some kind of double.

Furthermore, she could feel a tether of golden energy that linked Bradd to Tulnas.

"Let's try something a bit more fun..." she said as she raised her hand, mana hanging on her fingertips as it then started to crackle with condensed power.

A bolt of lightning shot from her finger and into the air.

As it travelled, it created a large orb which hung in the airspace, then another when it flitted in another direction and streaked to another location and another and another!

The lightning bolt formed varying sizes of these orbs which were known as nodes all around the space that Gwendelina and Tulnas were battling!

Tulnas felt vibrant energy in each of the nodes as they now floated in the air, spontaneously crackling with blue and white energy that promised to kill instantly.

The young Guild leader smiled as felt the looming danger.

"This will spice things up won't it?" Gwendelina said as she flashed a shallow smile.

"It sure will..." Tulnas said as he grabbed Bradd's arm, sand flowing from the bear's limb, rapidly forming a simplistic heavy sand armour over Tulnas, helm and all to cover his own, which had been blasted over one side earlier.

Gwendelina chuckled as in the next instance, one of the larger nodes shot a thick bolt of lightning at Tulnas!

The bolt almost blinded Tulnas with its brightness, its speed being utterly ridiculous as by the time Tulnas noticed that he had been struck, he had flown over four meters away bumping against the waves of sand!

The Tamer slid over the sifting masses, hurriedly standing up over the fluctuating waves as he then looked over his chest where bits of sandy glass had formed, with some of the material having turned black from the heat!

Sand rose from the waves on Bradd's command and covered the burnt up spot.

'Keep supporting me, Bradd... I know you hate violence but this is a reaaaaally bad woman...'
Tulnas sent a mental message to his large bear which nodded and increased the intensity of the flow of sand!

Tulnas then took a stance and darted forward.

He rushed over the waves of sand before lightly leaping up and starting to ski over them at a shocking speed!

ZAP!

A bolt of lightning shot from one of the smaller nodes, thundering down accurately at Tulnas head!

SMACK!

A mini explosion rocked Tulnas' helm covered head, the young man spinning in the air until he steadied himself and continued to ride the waves towards Gwendelina who smiled diabolically as her dark eyes showed a half-languid attitude.

Bradd the large bear slammed both his large hands into the sand, a trail of sand spikes jutting from the flowing sand around Gwendelina, stretching over to the Mage!

"Good!" the Mage called in feeble excitement.

Some of the nodes overhead shot bolts at the spikes that continued to appear, trying to pierce through Gwendelina's wind barrier but they were all blown to bits!

Behind her, a couple of meters away, the invisible barrier that housed the robed figures was effortlessly blocking the wave of sand while Guissepo who had been standing in front of it had moved a few steps back, entering within its protective space to not be buried by the waves.

Tulnas noticed this, his eyes focusing over the activity behind this barrier a few meters away as he launched forward.

With Gwendelina using the nodes to focus fire over the constantly spawning spikes, it looked like he had some breathing room, but...

TZAAAP! TZAAP!

Two large bolts stormed two different directions at the same time, their lights temporarily overpowering the inherent darkness of the cavern as they shot towards Bradd and Tulnas!

Two excessive explosions ignited at the two positions, cocking up a large amount of sand and making reverberations over the ocean of sand that caused a loud rumble that shook the cavern!

The Mage looked over the two spots, her inherent ability to sense energies notifying her that her two opponents were far from dead.

Bradd reappeared over the sand and continued flinging sand spikes while Tulnas...

'Hmmm?' Gwendelina thought as she looked down at the sand. 'He's... under?'

Sure enough, Tulnas was within the ocean of sand, swimming within it at quick speed.

In his hands, his short swords sparkled with lightning as they started to activate their unique attributes.

What would these attributes be?

Tulnas swam in Gwendelina's direction much to the Mage's surprise.

'Does he plan on attacking me up close?' she thought with a scoff.

But...

To her surprise, Tulnas' presence which was underneath the sand passed by her as it continued to rush over in the direction of the invisible barrier!

'Un, un. Should I do it now?' a voice rang in Tulnas' head.

'Yeah. Do it. I'm ready.'

Chapter 285: The Support Character

Ginie was the weakest among the Harem Guild members present.

Her ranking as per the Guilds Association evaluation was only C+ while Tulnas, Natalika and Gertreld's were B.

However, she had a special set of abilities that made her valuable as a support type combatant.

Her unique usage of Mind Casting, the Mage-Form Mimicking Art!

This was a collection of Mind Casting techniques that mimicked certain Mage spells that she had witnessed or heard of.

Therefore, Ginie's whole shtick was to create abilities that made her seem like a Mage or produced effective results reminiscent of a Mage!

She has cultivated her mind to a degree where she was able to output a lot of mental energy specifically for this purpose while also abusing the resources of the Harem Guild in order to Class Branch into the Energy Forming category, mastering how to better perceive energies even as a Mind Caster, a Form User.

Earlier, she had held down Tomin for Gertreld to land a decisive strike on him but unfortunately, when the bastard used his Full Body Aura, that had thrown off her grip.

As for helping with Natalika's situation, she had decided against it as she had seen Skullius' involvement which could screw her over.

Now, she had taken to focusing on the task that was evidently left for her as was the trend with most missions that had a similar setup.

Tulnas would be the one to set her up as well.

The robed figures that were around the formation behind the invisible barrier.

'Un, un. Should I do it now?' she sent a mental link to Tulnas, sensing that he was headed over to the invisible barrier.

'Yeah. I'm ready. Do it,' Tulnas gave her consent.

All the Harem Guild members knew and acknowledged how Ginie's abilities worked.

The farther the distance when it came to her targets that she was supposed to handle, the more she needed checkpoints that focused helped her focus her strength.

These checkpoints were other people's minds that she could use as points to enhance her Mind Casting abilities.

For obvious reasons, she couldn't just approach the invisible barriers as she could be fried by Gwendelina and thus needed to keep her distance.

Therefore, she had to use Tulnas' mind to act as a checkpoint.

'Un. Here goes,' she thought as she held her staff tight, feeling all her mental energy rush towards Tulnas who was swimming within the sand.

She saw her vision rapidly stream over and bolt into the helm-covered head of Tulnas under the brown sand, the moment she did, her consciousness feeling a delightful sensation, as if she was swimming over warm waters.

Soon, her vision changed, turning to see a layer of passing sand as this was what Tulnas was seeing.

'We don't have much time. You better make it quick. The barrier is probably supported by Primus, but it should have a limited effect over mental abilities. Screw over as many of them as you can,' Tulnas said.

When Ginie would hop over to checkpoints, the individual being used wouldn't become unconscious but would rescind a portion of ownership of their minds to Ginie, which in most cases would limit their abilities.

'Un, right!' Ginie's consciousness rang from Tulnas' mind as she then sent out a wave of mental energy to more clearly pinpoint how much free reign she had as they neared the invisible barrier.

Her mental energy was partially blocked as it stormed over the barrier but part of it managed to seamlessly pass through - weaker portions of it.

The energy looked like glowing webs that had interconnecting portions in her vision and this was what Ginie would use to connect to the minds of the men and women in the barrier, though she made it a point to not even try to approach Guissepo whose eyes twitched as if sensing something off.

'Un, I have to hurry!'

Her consciousness raced through the weak, glowing networks, passing through the invisible barrier as it immediately settled into the mind of one of robed figures.

The obvious question would be, if an invaded individual wouldn't fight off Ginie's influence?

The answer was circumstantial.

In this particular case, Ginie had it easy because her targets seamlessly to focusing on one activity, which left them open to attacks as they left all the fighting and caution to the others.

This is why she hadn't tried this with Tomin and the rest.

The person Ginie invaded was a rather tall man with an edgy appearance and he quickly noticed something off but, Ginie who was experienced with mental invasion didn't give him a chance to fight back as she used her limited mental energy to use a technique from her Mage-Form Mimicking Art.

'Exploiting Illusion!'

The man suddenly felt a pulse in his body and turned to his side, his mind beginning to feel distraught as all kinds of thoughts began to roam within.

He looked to one of his companions at his side and strangely, he didn't see a human being seated in a meditative pose like he had expected, but... a large, red berry!

It looked so good, droplets of cool water dripping from it as its supple flesh called to him with a cool sensation he imagined for himself given the visuals.

This man, along with the others had been looking over this formation for the past few weeks, their bodies acting as pillars to absorb the Primus that leaked from the connection established by the formation as that was what supported them.

But that wasn't food!

These men and women had had denying themselves nourishment for so long!

The man's hunger overtook him as in his mind, he heard his own voice going, 'Just one little bite.'

Before long, the man leapt over his companion and sank his teeth into his cheek!

The man at his side screamed as he was bitten and his first instinct was to punch the daylight out of this mate of his!

Ginie quickly exited the mind of the raging man and jumped into another where she once again used another one of her techniques.

'Combustion!'

She stormed a woman's mind this time, using her mental energy to instil a rather evil idea that the woman who had been set on one thing for weeks instantly believed!

"ARRGHHHH! Fire! I'm on fire! HELP! I'm on fireeeee!"

The woman screamed as she started to quiver over the ground, her senses which were being manipulated believing that the body was actually being devoured by flames!

Ginie jumped again, doing the same thing over and over again.

Guissepo turned to the madness occurring behind him.

His mind quickly raced as he weeded out those exhibiting peculiar symptoms as then, in the blink of an eye his body darted towards all these individuals!

The four of the ten that remained who had been invaded by Ginie were instantly killed, their heads rolling over the ground as Guissepo confirmed that those that remained were not showing strange signs as well.

Ginie immediately rode the webs of energy she had constructed as she returned to Tulnas' mind.

'Un. That man is scary,' her thoughts echoed in Tulnas' mind with a hint of fear and disappointment. 'I wanted to at least get five of them but...'

'Don't worry, that's more than enough. With this, I should be able to break the rest apart if I use THAT. Leave the rest to me, you've done well.'

Ginie felt a wave of happiness.

She was once again reminded why she called Tulnas her guiding light.

The man who acted as her brother made it easy for her overcome the darkness she feared on a literal level and on a figurative level.

With Tulnas' confidence giving her a shed of optimism, she darted back to her body which retained just enough strength to remain standing.

As she returned to her body, she couldn't help but smile and start sweating.

This experience had made her very nervous, but she quickly calmed down, looking towards the inside of the barrier where the chaos had settled.

She looked intently at Guissepo whose eyes were looking to her right as if giving a knowing look to someone.

Ginie frowned as she followed his line of sight and when she saw what he was looking at, she had a bad feeling...

Chapter 286: The Objective: One Down

(A/N: Bonus Chapter)

Gertreld hurled up the short and naked figure of Tomin from behind, her gauntleted hands locking around his waist as she arched back and slammed the uglified man into the ground in a supplex!

Tomin slammed down with his head into crumpled ground with a loud rumble as he grit his teeth, the halo of red Aura from Gertreld blasting against his skin!

The combination of Gertreld and Prisma's attacks were fierce, the lady's brutal punches and kicks delivering with them the De-beautifying effect that shortened him and warped his bodily features which in turn actually limited his abilities.

His strength, speed and overall burst power had been reduced by quite the large amount, his mana becoming hard to control as his proportions no longer matched his core!

On the other hand, Prisma's attacks were disorienting and the two blows he had received earlier from [Greatest Physical Damage Refraction] were still aching at his chest.

The constantly flight and swinging had left him all but bitter as he found it hard even retaliate against this fiend, as that would only allow the golden Knight to damage his more but returning the fisty favours!

'Argh!'

As Tomin smashed into the ground, her found Prisma's figure shooting down like a shooting star to bear down a punch at him in full force!

His face sank deep into the ground, as part of it was even swollen from his Full Body Aura flickering, letting all the damage slip in from time to time!

Tomin pulled his head up only to see Prisma cocking back his arm again to fling another knuckle-full punch!

His eyes darted to the right, their keen acuity noticing Guissepo's gaze.

'Of course... you won't lift a finger as long as I'm here, will you? Extravagant bastard...' Tomin thought as he spat blood, stealing Guissepo's habit of abusing a particular word.

While his mana was harder to mobilise, his blessing was accessible so long as he had the stamina to spare, though said stamina was downed in huge chunks for each use, which made it harder to blessing than before as well considering the condition of his body. But still...

'Infinite Instance!'

Tomin pulled away from Gertreld's grip as he then escaped Prisma's punch!

He shot away, tumbling over the ground like speedy tumbleweed!

The ground itself which looked like it had been stomaching the effects of a large scale war hurt to slide over and in the next moment, a flying golden figure appeared above Tomin with extreme speed seeking pound him into the same ground!

"Not so fast, Petty fool!"

Prisma launched a punch at Tomin, the gauntleted fist reaching the man's head when suddenly...

Tomin disappeared as if he wasn't there in the first place!

Instead, he appeared ten meters away, tumbling over as he had done when he escaped the Pelvis-Hegemon's punch moments ago!

Gertreld flashed over to his side with a murderous visage, her gauntlet glowing as it dug into his abdomen immediately!

However...

Tomin vanished once again, appearing ten meters away, tumbling over the ground before he could feel the full impact of the growing attack!

...!

Both Prisma and Gertreld noticed this strange sequence and rushed towards the naked man, but Tomin wouldn't tell them that it was futile.

His blessing, Infinite Instance, worked by making an action he had already done, turn into multiple instances.

Of course, with more complex actions like dodging attacks which required more than just his input, he couldn't recreate as many instances as he wanted because of his lacking mastery, but for now, what he was capable of, was sufficient.

As the two approached him, his eyes burned with a malicious glint as he suddenly darted towards Gertreld!

Prisma flew in to come between the two, the trident-like symbol on his chestplate flashing to blast Tomin but the man cocked back suddenly opened his mouth and spoke.

"Infinite Instance, Speed!"

Tomin's figure bolted forward even as he felt the unfamiliarity with this speed on his altered body!

He zipped by Prisma before the Pelvis-Hegemon could even notice and appeared behind Gertreld who was sensed his presence behind her.

Unfortunately, it was too late!

Tomin launched a quick but powerful jab at Gertreld as he harnessed all his Aura into his fist even as it flickered!

Gertreld who had begun to turn her head to him was smashed by the darting punch right in the chin with crippling might!

BAM!

Gertreld felt a shuddering wave of pain as her body felt feeble from the blow which disabled her cognitive abilities!

Her vision wobbled and the basic form of action for her became immensely difficult as her body then turned limb!

Tomin's eyes flashed as he immediately slung her over his shoulder and dashed away!

Prisma quickly rose up in flight to chase, blasting forward at top speed to catch up to Tomin but once again, Tomin ground his teeth as he uttered, "Infinite Instance, Speed!"

His figure literally soared over the ground as he ran forward, his racing body vanishing from view time after time as he exhibited insane speed to leave Prisma in the dust!

Prisma halted in mid-air after seeing that his pursuit was meaningless and instead pulled out a large blow and arrow from his spatial storage ring.

The bow had a rough appearance, like rough cast on a wall with a beige colour over it making it look menacing.

The arrow was golden in colour with its head akin to a sharpened crystal.

Prisma nocked the arrow and drew on the bow to 30% of its capacity, as that was his current capability, and in the next moment, he released the arrow which whizzed through the air at blinding speed!

The arrow covered the growing distance between Prisma and Tomin in a blink, emitting a low whistle as it headed for the figure of Tomin that was almost at the invisible barrier!

The arrow swiftly caught up and shot right into Tomin's chest, the naked man growling in pain as he felt strength get sapped from his body!

He grit his teeth and leapt forward, being fortunate enough to spill himself and Gertreld into the barrier before he slumped and before Prisma had loosened the second arrow!

Tomin stumbled after he entered the barrier, falling over with Gertreld's body which was twitching as she tried to regain control.

Tomin tried to steady himself, but he failed to remain calm. His skin started to turn pale and thick, blue veins popped from his skin, squirming under his skin!

He pulled out the arrow that was in his back and flung it away while wheezing.

'Damn it. I knew there was something dangerous about these arrows!' he thought as he thought back to when he had caught one aimed at his head earlier.

On top of the effects of the arrow, he felt his body screaming in pain from being restructured by Gertreld's Form Using ability, Classic Bombshell Beauty.

This solidified a theory that had been ongoing in his mind that Gertreld's ability actually had a terrifying scope, as if she were to evolve beyond her current level, she could end being able to transfigure human beings as she willed.

Potentially.

Tomin grabbed Gertreld and set her in the middle of the formation where strips of energy suddenly held down the lady by her arms and legs, her red Full Body Aura which was still flickering around her, being incapable of helping her.

Tomin looked up with his pale face as he coughed horribly at Guissepo who looked at Gertreld with a somewhat pleased look.

"You managed to catch on to the extravagant blessing that this woman has. Didn't think you could catch her on your own..." he said as he looked at Tomin's appearance. "Though with a heavy price.

"Of course I did. Though that doesn't seem to impress you much!" Tomin retorted.

"Extravagantly so!" Guissepo said much to Tomin's fury as a vein popped up from the side of his head. "Well, now we have to deal with the rest of this extravagant charge."

A short distance away, Tulnas' vision pierced through the barrier as he saw Gertreld's captured figure.

This was beginning to escalate dangerously.

Chapter 287: Final Act (1)

(A/N: Bonus Chapter)

Tulnas resurfaced from the sea of sand with his heavy armour, his focus being on what was happening behind the invisible barrier.

He narrowed his eyes as he saw what the people in the barrier wanted to do to his woman.

However, someone took the chance to attack as he was bouncing above the waves of sand without making a move.

A familiar magic formation appeared under his feet before shining in a harsh orange light that produced a firey explosion in the next moment, flames roaring as they pushed away much of the sand on ignition!

Gwendelina squinted as she looked at the aftermath of her attack. Bradd had ceased his attacks at the moment when Tulnas had surfaced from the sand as per the man's silent orders.

His figure then sank into the sand sea, disappearing within.

Aroused dust and smoke covered Gwendelina's view of what had become of Tulnas after her attack and when she tried to discern Tulnas position with her senses, she found it to be extraordinarily difficult.

'What's going on?' she thought.

As the visibility improved, Gwendelina saw something she didn't expect!

A massive hazy elephant was positioned where Tulnas should have been, its mass of starry lights floating above the sand as its tusks and eyes sparkled with flashing light!

It blew on its trunk like a trumpet making a sharp call, its cheeks suddenly ballooning up with the sound of bubbling liquid echoing within them!

In the next instance, it blew out with its trunk, a continuous stream of condensed water like a plasma beam jutting towards Gwendelina!

The beam of condensed water struck against Gwendelina's wind barrier, the colourless liquid splattering against it with a sound akin to spinning rubber against spinning rubber as it was restricted from entering.

The female Mage raised her hands and directed the nodes above her to shoot their charges of lightning against the creature!

The air flashed as dozens of bolts of lightning assaulted Alphon, the giant elephant remaining in place as it actually let the attacks reach it and surprisingly...

The bolts of lightning entered its hazy starry body, and instead of doing damage, they arched up with their bright and destructive power, speeding up and out of its body as they then went on to smash against the cavern ceiling that crumpled and dropped debris all over!

'What kind of creature is this?!' the Mage furrowed her brows.

She was about to try another strategy when...

Her eyes shot open!

She sensed it!

Tulnas' presence!

Her eyes darted to the left as she ignored Alpat, but by the time she turned, the presence she had sensed vanished!

'What?!' she thought as then sent a bolt of lightning towards the spot she had sensed Tulnas' presence from, thinking that perhaps Tulnas was setting up some kind of trap.

The fulgurous bolt smashed against the sand with intensity, but unfortunately it hit nothing but the sea!

Gwendelina started to grow anxious.

This was impossible.

How could a mere Tamer be able to confuse a Mage's senses?!

No way!

Once more, she felt a flicker of Tulnas' energy signature wiggle in and out of her senses and she was left turning her head to nothing but the sand that sloped and dived without rest!

'Something like this....' Gwendelina scowled as she thought.

She had only ever experienced something like this when she had faced an Assassin with a advanced class!

The bastard had enjoyed toying with her senses until she had found some backup and finally put him down.

Now, the same thing was happening but with someone who shouldn't even be adept at close combat.

What was with this man?!

He had battle prowess geared towards Form Using, like he was a warrior.

Now he was exhibiting the ability to dampen his presence, like an Assassin!

A bloody Tamer?!

"You won't get the best of me," she called as she raised her hands and swung them down, prompting for the dozens of nodes that were floating in the air to brighten up as they hissed with lightning until they spat out bright and quick bolts all over!

The terrifying streaks of expelled lightning rained down on the sand with extremely destructive power that burnt up the sand into patches of glass or simply into burnt versions of it!

The reverberations echoed throughout the cavern as the power released was simply too powerful!

The sand darkened and glowed from the extreme heat, portions of it turning molten with loud explosions that roused the sand into the air, leaving plumes of smoke rising with incredible thickness into the air.

Gwendelina remained vigilant even after launching this all out strike, her eyes darting around with anxiety.

'I doubt that killed him but...' she thought, lamenting at the fact that she hadn't received a blessing yet as she was also fairly new to the Evenfall.

The fact that the evaluation didn't take her initial power and class into account was something she was extremely dissatisfied with but she could only swallow it up and move on.

It was unfortunate that she had only managed to gain enough coin for the Elemental Patch, the most basic form of Magecraft at an Academy in a large city, the rest of her advanced courses deferred as result of lack of coin to advance further.

The Evenfall had promised to sponsor her continued studies and her formations were the newest addition to her arsenal.

With this much, she could ignore the fact that she hadn't yet qualified to attain a blessing, but this situation made her yearn to earn something so significant.

As Gwendelina's thoughts spiralled, something darted in her direction as she was encased in the wind barrier!

It was a short sword that darted through the smoking air, aimed at her head!

Surprisingly, the sword crackled with lightning over its blade as it approached and when it struck the wind barrier, slim bolts of the white energy sparkled on impact!

The metallic noise that resounded as the sword was deflected made Gwendelina turn her head as she hadn't even seen the weapon!

The Mage's confidence waned as she saw that attacks she couldn't even see were beginning to come!

She fiddled with her hands, streaks of lightning dashing from the nodes to wrap around her like a ringed cage above the wind she already had to protect her!

"Where the hell is he?!" Gwendelina said with fits of sweat trickling down her brow.

Right then...

Gwendelina felt a sword press at her neck, the cold steel licking her skin!

She turned her head and found to her shock, a figure donning heavy sand armour standing in an offensive stance right beside her with both her lightning ring cage and wind barrier opening up welcomingly for him to pass through without consequence!

...!

He held both his short swords the other of which had sand dripping from it as Tulnas held it at the ready.

From behind the helm that Tamer wore, a chilling voice came out.

"Now that your life rests in my hands, would you do a little something for me? It would make my life a whole lot easier if you did."

Gwendelina felt the sword at her neck dig deep into her skin, blood leaking out as the blade had easily bullied her defences!

From this, she inferred that these blades weren't simple weapons!

As the weren't.

They probably had attributes that made Tulnas a terrible opponent for her!

The Mage was torn as she already knew what Tulnas wanted as she could see it from the corner of her eye, bound to the formation that was surrounded by six figures.

To act against her fellow cultists was a serious offence in the Evenfall even when put in a tough position. Furthermore, she had been supported by this group in a way that was different from the rest of the world that would only lust for her class.

She had no reason to betray it.

She raised her chin with pride and resolute eyes as she faced Tulnas with the same apathetic eyes she had shown him at the beginning of their fight.

"You bested me. You might as well kill me," she said.

Tulnas' eyes flashed as the air around him turned murderous.

"As you wish."

His hand surged with strength as he moved the sword on the Mage's throat to kill her when...

"Unfortunately, I can't let our Mage die such an unextravagant death by the hands of a heathen..." the man with black and purple hair suddenly appeared between Tulnas and Gwendelina with an overbearing energy that drove Bradd's sand away and, his hand holding the Tamer's firmly.

"Kindly back off."

Tulnas immediately felt a palm strike to his chest that he didn't see coming, shatter not only the heavy sand armour he wore, but the black and green armour underneath before it bashed against his body, causing him to fly away as he streaked through the billows of sand...!

Chapter 288: Final Act (2)

Tulnas flew a very great distance, smashing into the wall on the other side as bits of popping colours like fireworks sprang up all around him, spawning from the chest where a powerful palm strike had slammed into him!

The distance he flew was quite vast given the fact that three separate large scale battles had taken place here without either disturbing the other.

Him flying to the other side from where he was initially was a strength feat for Guissepo on its own!

Bradd's sand was blown away with a peculiar burst of force which rushed from Guissepo's body, the giant bear's body appearing as it withdrew quickly to Tulnas side, Alpat who had been floating above the sand sea doing the same.

Guissepo looked at Gwendelina who stood dazed with blood trickling from her neck, with a subdued smile.

"The draw on Primus has been extravagantly reduced because of a few of our own's deaths. Go and help the others and begin the connection for the sacrifice for that girl with an extravagant blessing. I'll bring the rest half-alive. Except perhaps one," he said as he patted the Mage's shoulder.

Gwendelina promptly nodded as she came to her senses, rushing back to the invisible barrier where she seamlessly passed through and went to assist.

Guissepo then focused on the figures of these heathens, half of them rushing up to Tulnas who coughed blood as he dislodged himself out of the wall he had been imprinted to.

The Guild leader dropped and stumbled, his torso now laid bare with his powerful muscles twitching as the single strike from Guissepo had torn both his layers of armour.

He waved his hands to dismiss his two tamed beasts as he groaned.

'Argh... my blades can perfectly mess with the elements, what's his excuse?' Tulnas thought as he held his head.

In his mind, he was still hung up on the fact that Guissepo had seemingly ignored Gwendelina's cage of lightning and the wind barrier to appear between the two and knock him away without a problem.

He could do so because his two sword swords were Unique rarity items that had the ability to sample energies and replicate their signature which then gave Tulnas the ability to manipulate a target's energy-type ability.

Because he had been blasted multiple times with lightning, both his blades had sampled that element and when he had flung his short sword at the Mage's wind barrier, that had effectively led it to sample the wind element she produced.

But Guissepo...

He had just waltzed into the destructive powers without taking damage.

'Either my assumption was right or it has something to do with his blessing instead. Though, that would beg the question on what this is then...' Tulnas thought as he saw the lingering bits of multi-coloured fireworks that were just now dying down from his chest.

He forced himself to stand as Natalika and Ginie rushed up to him.

"Are you hurt badly?" asked Natalika as she supported him.

"Un, un, let me help," Ginie said as she was about to use her Mage-Form Mimicking Art.

"It's alright. I'm fine. No need to waste energy when our enemy is still at full health, uh..." Tulnas replied as he stood strong despite the several broken bones in his body.

His confidence could still be seen.

He suddenly shook his head as if responding to another unheard question.

"Not yet, I'm fine," he mumbled with a click of his tongue. "Using that for something like this would be a stupid trade off."

He then looked at Skullius' approaching figure along with Red Rage.

"Glad you're still alive," Tulnas said with a cheeky smile.

"Yeah, sure," Skullius said. "I thought you died from that blow."

"Not yet. Though someone will be soon, if we don't hurry."

Tulnas expression changed as he looked to activity behind the barrier.

"But....we have to deal with him first," Tulnas pointed at Guissepo who smiled as he took subdued strides towards them, his voice crossing over the large distance to reach the group.

"You all seem a little drained after your battles. It'd be a shame if someone were to take extravagant advantage of the situation and put you all down like the heathens you are..." Guissepo said, prompting for everyone to turn cautious.

Tulnas walked forward but he then realised that he didn't have his swords anymore. He had dropped them when he was struck by the powerful impact of Guissepo's palm strike.

'Dammit.'

From the over two hundred meter distance the Evenfall cultist continued to speak.

"Did you know, there are only three steps to an extravagant victory?" he said as he stopped moving, his eyes gleaming innocently.

"The build-up."

"The trajectory."

"And.... the kill."

WHOOSH!

As soon as he finished his sentence, Guissepo bolted forward but his movement was...

It was... dangerously fast!

The air visibly blew air from his speed, washing over the party as he took two steps to cover the distance!

And with this movement that he took, no one had seen his advance until he was right before his first victim, his palm already delivering a fatal attack!

POW!

With an extraordinarily harsh force of impact that razed through the ground and air behind the individual who had been struck, bits of multi-coloured fireworks sparkled around the body as blood flew along with entrails and torn flesh!

Everyone's eyes opened wide from shock at both the speed and sudden movement as well as the fatality that was before them!

"You're an anomaly I'm not willing to tolerate. Be glad that I at least granted you an extravagant death," Guissepo said as he pulled his arm out of the victim whose entire torso he had just blown a hole through!

He then gently held the individual's head as they turned pale and twitched, unable to even scream in pain as the light of life instantly started to die out from them!

"U...n..."

Genie tried to speak as she was gently placed on the ground while bleeding from her mouth, Guissepo giving her a rather sympathetic look.

Two individuals showed expressions with an emotion beyond terror at this moment, as they both felt turbulent emotion but for different reasons.

At the same time, a blade laced in blue light stormed through the air as a bloodthirsty Aura thundered down on Guissepo's neck!

'Demented Blindsword Technique, Crazy Cleave!'

Natalika flared with subdued rage as she attacked with her full might. She held herself back from acting solely from anger as she tactfully spammed her sword attacks at Guissepo to give time for someone to do something about the situation!

Guissepo easily dodged, his body turning into a hazy outline as he slipped away from Natalika's Aura covered blade.

The blindfolded swordswoman gritted her teeth and went for another strike, but Guissepo merely gave a sympathetic smile as his eyes focused on the two figures running up to Ginie, one with a quick pace, the other... with hesitation.

Tulnas reached Ginie's body as his heart raced.

'Dammit! Dammit! I should have kept her at her safer distance!' he thought as he sweated, his hands actually quivering with indecision and fright.

Two of ladies were in trouble now and he had a single trump card that could only save one of them when activated but... if he chose to sacrifice it for another one of his cards, he could save the other!

"Bro...ther...." Ginie said as her mouth leaked blood, her tiny hands reaching for him as she convulsed in pain with her eyes dreadfully bloodshot!

Tulnas gritted his teeth as one part of him wanted him to let loose his emotions and work by them, but another ordered him to remain calm and rationalise the situation!

"I..." he stammered as he knelt before Ginie whose breaths slowed.

His keen ears were even keeping track of Natalika who was trying to keep Guissepo busy.

This was Tulnas' first time being led to such indecision of a personal scale.

Was his strength still not growing fast enough to at least allow him to keep his people safe?

Was his arrogance getting too inflated?

Perhaps.

The young man's mind opened wide as even as this experience stung he religious mind fabricated the idea that perhaps, this was set by his Direction.

As a believer, he brought his convictions to support him.

To tell him that he was perhaps supposed to face such a situation today, to learn to not jump for every opportunity.

This was the basis of his arrogance.

That everything had a reason in this world judged by the Deities.

But... would the Deities he revered truly sacrifice his cherished women for this...?

Tulnas' mind churned as his eyes almost lost focus with stress.

Perhaps...

Huh...?

Another hand popped up in Tulnas' view as he was about to make a choice he knew would cause him pain in the future.

Someone else crouched down and stretched out their hand.

Tulnas turned and saw...

Festos?

Chapter 289: Final Act (3)

As Tulnas looked at the man to his side, he couldn't help but be surprised.

Festos of all people?

His first thought was to push him away as he didn't know what would happen from his curse but...

He found to his surprise that Festos was in some form of a daze as tears leaked from his eyes.

A surge of energy wiggled out of Festos' hand and rushed into Ginie's body, her broken flesh under the robes beginning to quake as shockingly, an incredible healing factor applied over her!

Tulnas was shocked!

His eyes turned to Festos once again and he saw the man mumble words to himself as he showed affectionate care for Ginie but the words... as he listened closer, were nothing more than contradictory statements that made his gesture... confusing.

"I hate you.... I know you loved me too... I don't regret your death... but I... wish you hadn't died... Please don't die!

I was wrong... No! You evil wretch, do you have any idea what you have done?! Yes....I forgive you..."

Tulnas was lost for words.

He was only brought back to reality when he saw Ginie's body completely healed as the burst of energy from Skullius kept rushing into it ceaselessly, having regrown all her organs and closed up her open torso!

At the same time, he heard a loud resounding echo of steel clashing against something heavy and sturdy!

Natalika's blade was blocked by Guissepo as he raised his unprotected arm to guard!

Guissepo's gaze turned to Tulnas and Skullius.

"Extravagant indeed. So you both have other resuscitative trump cards?" Guissepo said as he looked on with a peculiar smile, pushing his arm to force Natalika away.

The swordswoman stopped her attacks as she focused her senses on Ginie, finding her to be turning stable.

She sighed in relief as her spirited felt rejuvenated.

Tulnas on the other hand cranked his mind as he instantly read between the lines while watching Guissepo's reaction to Ginie's healing.

'So this bastard used Ginie as a way to see if we had more tricks up our sleeve?' he thought as his eyes turned cold.

"Brother... brother Tulnas...." Ginie said weakly as she blinked, her face no longer contorted in pain. She started breathing heavily as she looked like she was about to cry.

She remembered full well what had happened but not why had saved her.

Tulnas started stroking her head as he wore a gentle expression.

"You're safe now," he said, his eye turning to Festos before returning to her. Ginie got the hint as she looked to Festos.

The man seemed to look confused as he frowned, looking between Ginie and Tulnas.

He opened his mouth to speak but couldn't find what to say. He was quite distraught as didn't know what the flesh was happening to him nor understand what he had just done.

'I see...' Tulnas thought as he saw Festos' reaction to his own deed. From this, he inferred that there was probably so much more to the curse on this man.

"Thanks."

"Huh? What? What did..." Festos started babbling but Tulnas was already walking forward with large strides towards Guissepo who smiled at his advance.

"I sense extravagant enmity. Did I do anything wrong?" Guissepo asked to which Tulnas didn't render a reply.

He simply reached Natalika's side and patted her shoulder.

The female swordswoman immediately drew back as she headed to Ginie.

'Let's do it,' Tulnas thought, sending his intent to a certain being that nested within him. The last of tamed beasts. 'But first the barrier...'

Almost instantly, the ground under his feet shook as his body cooked up a rather strange power that gushed in excessive amounts!

The energy released a golden-orange glow, which made Guissepo raise a brow!

Tulnas turned serious as his exposed muscles flexed, in the next moment, his body bulging with strength, as it became tougher and stronger while expelled a wave of heat that accompanied the bellowing stream of power that started to cause a vicious gust of trouble air to envelope the entire cavern!

His eyes turned sharper than before and he hissed from his mouth a breath of heated air as he then made his move!

Tulnas shot up to Guissepo who was shocked by the burst of speed and the brightening up golden-orange layer of light that outlined the young Tamer as he then went on to give Guissepo the punch of his life!

The Evenfall cultist was able to raise his arms in a guard before he was knocked away by the punch that turned out to be heavier than he expected, causing a loud and destructive boom when it connected as the sheer force of it then blasted him a great distance!

Similar to how he had struck Tulnas, Guissepo's body flashed as it zipped through the air, the cultist only being able to steady himself when he had crossed over to near the invisible barrier!

He hadn't sustained any injury on himself at all but he felt the power from the punch still lightly ring in bones.

However, critically injuring him wasn't Tulnas' goal to begin with, it was to bring this bastard back to his objective so that he could kill two birds with one stone!

'Incredible! What extravagant speed and power! Sadly, it didn't come from his body. Something is supplying him with fuel for such a feat!' Guissepo thought as his body started to ooze with a strange neon light that had a blood-red hue, the substance making the space contract and trembled as it slowly rose from the man's body.

Tulnas dashed ahead, following to where Guissepo had landed as he saw this phenomenon unfold as the Evenfall cultist looked at him with anticipation!

'We were right. It's as we thought...!' Tulnas aired his thoughts. 'This man is at the Master Stage.'

However, what stage this man was didn't matter as action was needed nevertheless.

Tulnas could see the invisible barrier seven meters away from Guissepo.

And this was enough.

It was close enough.

'Thanks Festos. I'll make this opportunity you've given me count.'

Finally.

Tulnas was free to let loose.

At the moment, the Tamer fearlessly faced Guissepo who seemed to be drawing on a power that was known for Master Stage combatants - the light emerging from his back which tinted the entire cavern with a red light.

Opposite him, Tulnas scoffed as something also started to emerge from his naked back. It was a peculiar mass, throngs of flesh and hairs growing over it along with bones and teeth as they eventually formed something unexpected.

A black-furred fox!

...!

Only its head manifested while being linked to Tulnas' back, the beast GRINNING as one of its eyes began to glow with an orange light, tremendous power flowing from it and into Tulnas body!

Skullius who was a distance away was shocked to see this thing as he recalled seeing something like it!

Heck, he remembered seeing things similar to both the fox on Tulnas and the neon, rising light from Guissepo!

'Is that...' he thought, his memory stagnating.

Tulnas laid his one hand over the other before his chest in a hand seal that made casting this complicated skill easier as mad power gushed from him, blowing over the entire cavern as strips of blue and orange energy rotated around him with a powerful, starry visual!

His legs spread apart for balance as his skin only got glossier from the luminous energy he expelled, causing everyone who was spectating to feel the thrum of energy bash through him and cause them to stumble or hold onto something!

"Ready?" Tulnas asked.

"Just do it," the fox replied in a hoarse voice.

The Tamer chuckled as he finally wore his signature confident grin again while saying out the name of this high-end, Special Skill that require his and the fox's energy combined!

"False Territory Expulsion....!"

Chapter 290: Trump Card! (1)

Foundation, Advancement and.... Master.

These stages were a perfect depiction of rising trend in a body's growth, with a sharp increase existing between the Advancement and Master Stages.

While the Foundation didn't have much to offer in terms of actual raw power for an individual, at least in comparison to the other Stages, much less when considering special features, the Advancement Stage offered the Full Body Aura as an incentive for graduating from the baby stage of growth.

As mentioned before, a wide gulf existed between the Advancement Stage and the Master Stage, with the latter offering its own unique perk that was leagues above the Full Body Aura.

However, these perks or features of Stages weren't gifts that would be received the moment one entered the respective Stage.

No.

One had to work for them.

The Full Body Aura was not that hard to learn as it mainly featured things one wouldn't have experienced when growing through the Foundation Stage.

What the Master Stage offered was quite difficult to manifest and on top of that... the next Stage guaranteed that what it offered would only be unlocked by someone who understood the flow of energies.

Someone who transcended what was called a Master, particular perk that came after the Master Stage being the grander version of what Tulnas was doing now.

A loud bellow of zealous power echoed out as Tulnas released incredible waves of energy that made the entire cavern tremble as they coiled and collided in a purposeful mix, sparks of energy swimming in the air as it started to heat up and form dastardly twisted mirages!

Of all the spectators, Skullius and the Evenfall cultists were the only ones looking surprised at this phenomenon, as the long standing Harem Guild members looked with a smirk or awe.

Skullius who had his eyes glued to Tulnas couldn't help but spill his shock, his words directed at the thing that came from his back which he recognised.

"Isn't that... just like that wolf-thing that led me from deep in the Tremur?"

His mind couldn't help but draw similarities, comparing the fox he had seen guarding Fulgardt's labyrinth to this one, though they had heavily contrasting colours.

One white and the other black!

But still, without a doubt, this was a Grinning Jester Fox!

"False Territory, Frostbourne Desert!"

Tulnas called as his eyes gleamed with an orange light, a staggering force jutting out from him in an expansive, crystal sphere that kept growing, outwards as it went on to pull on Guissepo whose eyes were wide open in surprise!

The two men vanished as the crystal sphere turned to be covered by vast waves of sand that completely changed its aesthetic as it went to bash against the invisible barrier as it continued to expand!

The moment of the clash, the two barriers produced sparks of conflicting energy between them as they collided, the large sand covered sphere started to heat up as its sandy exterior turned molten but with massive amounts mana and glimmering Aura rushing over it!

Within the invisible barrier, Gwendelina had turned to trying to push out all her mana into the maintaining the barrier instead of continuing with the ritual on Gertreld as she was utterly terrified by the power gushing out of this sphere!

She sweated and gritted her teeth as now she truly felt that they had been heavily missing more members for this mission, worse when one took into account the fact that some of them were dead, a consequence of Ginie's influence, which made the process of drawing Primus energy to fuel their activity harder now!

Tomin on the other hand, could barely give a reaction to the massive sphere that shook the entire cavern with its power!

Thick veins tinged in a blue hue were running along his arms and body, as they squeezed the very life out of him!

He could barely keep his eyes open to witness everything unfold, as he felt whatever poison he had been injected with wreck his internal built!

The man finally collapsed to the ground as he took in heavy, raspy breaths.

Unfortunately, no one at this moment had the time to tend to him as they focused on the moment where the large hot sphere cracked the invisible barrier!

'What is this thing?! How on earth did that man have such a technique up his sleeve?!' Gwendelina screamed in her own thoughts as she panicked. With her still limited knowledge of Magecraft, she couldn't tell what on earth this thing was! 'Guissepo! You better come out alive!'

The man in question stood in a daze while being trapped within the massive sphere where a very unique scape was plastered over his eyes.

A massive sun was overhead, surrounded a turquoise blue sky with no cast of clouds.

The beaming mass in the sky was not the conventional sun with a blazing heat however, as it was actually whitish blue in colour, its entire figure radiating a ferocious cold that travelled through the rays of light it produced!

Its distance from the land underneath was even too close for comfort, as it brought about a biting cold over the ground with a chilling wind whoosing all around because of it, flakes of pure frost dropping down as well.

On the ground, an expansive desert of golden-brown sand could be seen.

However, many points of white snow could be seen covering portions of the sand, especially the rising dunes, one of which Guissepo stood on.

'This is... akin to an Imaginary GeoScape! Extravagant! Am I in a Majestic Territory?!' Guissepo thought as he looked around with wide eyes, his heart beating at the mere thought of it as if it was true, then this was quite perilous. However...

'No. That's extravagantly impossible. This man is merely at the middle of Advancement Stage. There is no way he could create a Majestic Territory. Then, is it-'

"Mr Evenfall. Down here," a voice called to Guissepo.

It was Tulnas.

He stood below the frost covered dune that Guissepo stood on with a smirk.

The Grinning Jester Fox on his back was no more as now, there only remained his muscular figure that looked as good as new; no bruises or wounds visible but a fresh body ready to throw some hands.

Guissepo looked at Tulnas and squinted his eyes.

'I wasn't able to sense his presence even though he was standing right there. How extravagantly troublesome. Still though. If this were a genuine Territory, given the current circumstances, I'd be dead by now. So this must be some kind of extravagantly made cheap version of a Territory. Hehe!

In that case, I'll just kill him even with all it provides!' Guissepo thought as he grinned, the neon light that flowed upwards from behind him glowing with a dangerous tint.

Tulnas got ready to attack, his thoughts churning.

'Is it ready?'

'Now it is. Remember. Two minutes. Get your timing right,' a hoarse voice said from within him.

'I don't need you to remind me of that,' Tulnas retorted as he made his move...