

Undead 321

Chapter 321: Unbreakable! (1)

As the descent of the island which had spawned from the stream of light that jutted out of the staff was upon the city, most were crippled of hope!

The overbearing force of wind from above gave an unsettling feel that just made everyone stop to gape for a few moments and then start running.

"RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!"

"Cowards! Come back and fight!"

"DON'T YOU SEE WHAT'S ABOVE YOU, DAMMIT!"

"Yeah! We'll die if we stay here!"

"Save some of the civilians at least!"

"Do I look like I can carry a weight, fight and run at the same time?!"

"PLEASE HELP US!"

"Stop and fight for us you hypocrites!"

The distressed voices of many echoed out throughout the entire city as mercenaries, Knights and civilians alike rushed towards the entrance from various positions within the massive settlement!

It was the natural thing to do when confronted with such a tragic situation.

Unfortunately, the hundreds upon hundreds of grey-skinned calamities immediately responded by attacking with even more zeal, their barbed tentacles making short work of normal people while they successfully stalled the Knights and mercenaries!

This attack was too much and the overhead calamity-in-chief would definitely destroy the entire city as well as slaughter millions instantly, especially when considering the number of civilians!

The top half of the island couldn't be seen, but vestiges of plant life could be made out if one was a sufficient distance away.

Tulnas who had used Alphat's water manipulating abilities to cushion his fall, could only gape at the falling mass as in no conceivable way could he image how this could be stopped at all.

By conventional means at least.

He couldn't afford to gawk at the island for too long however, as the beasts that he had dropped off through the sand had started rushing back towards the city and he was the only thing standing between them and the hundreds of thousands of lives!

If only the mercenaries and Knights that were tied up at the front of the city could get some leeway, they could join him.

Or perhaps Renialid and the others, if they were close enough.

'Any ideas?' Tulnas questioned the fox that dwelled within him.

'Maybe if we use the False Territory while suspended in mid-air, we could cause the island to break apart, mitigating its velocity...' the fox responded intelligently.

Tulnas thought about this but couldn't see it as a sure-fire way to nip the problem in the bud.

Unfortunately, he wasn't the only one tussling for an answer to the massive riddle as Terian also wore a troubled face as his hair and beard were rustled by the blowing wind.

In addition to this, he also had to deal with revamped beast in front of him that looked utterly pleased at the prospect of the colossal waves of damage that were about to ensue!

Its new appearance made Terian back away further as it was that much more monstrous!

A purple hue now washed over its body instead of the grey while what had been boils over its skin had now become akin to pale marbles imbedded superficially over its flesh, half protruding from it!

Its face remained the same, but the tentacles that once draped over the ground now floated up while being parted, divided into two sides over its visage like a flying moustache!

A burly body with a tout layers of thick flesh could now be identified as the creature confidently stood, revealing its chest pads and abs that oozed of sparkly slime as if to emphasise its hulking muscles!

Terian who had dissected what had occurred for it to uddenly change this much was gobsmacked.

Nomatter how much he had tried to reject this observation, it still shone above all other theories as the dreadful reality!

'Utterly ridiculous! So that's why it constantly takes in mana!' he thought. He had witnessed the creature take in extraordinarily deep breaths and in the process draw vast quantities of mana twice.

'Its using this natural ability to replace having to actively kill other beings in order to acquire their cumulative mana! This means... it just used all the mana it has absorbed to evolve just now!'

Exactly!

As Tulnas had mentioned before when describing Alphat's powers, certain beasts had unique natural abilities that didn't require mana, notably Cluster beasts.

This was one such ability.

In Aigas, it had always been the norm that taking a sentient life allowed for one to acquire the cumulative mana from their body and strengthen oneself, but this creature ignored this entirely through its ability!

Terian could barely believe it, and his inner scholar yearned to study this, but unfortunately two colossal problems plagued his sides!

The purple beast suddenly took steps forward towards Terian but the old man did not see anything but a blur before his neck was clutched firmly by the monster's thick hand, his elderly mass raised into the air!

...!

This speed!

There wasn't even a sound that he perceived as the creature moved!

Gin who had been having trouble standing up in the presence of the creature gnashed his teeth as he used every ounce of strength he had left, firmly holding his sword as he exerted strength in his legs to lunge forward.

Yet...

Pop!

One of the pale marbles over the skin of the octo-beast popped out and shot towards him before he could take his step!

As it approached, Gin was only able to try and knock it away with his bastard sword when...

BOOOM! SPLURT!

A viscous explosion occurred as the marble erupted with a highly condensed air force while at the same time, a dark liquid splashed over part of Gin's face and right arm!

The impact shot him away violently while the dark liquid seeped through the gaps of his armour and stained the skin on his arm!

"AUUGHHHH!" Gin screeched as he flew, his skin started to change wherever the liquid had touched as half of his face instantly turned grey with boils swarming over his skin while on his arm, the limb lost its firmness and started to transform into a long, slimy tentacle that wrapped around Gin's neck tightly!

The man stumbled over the ground as he tried to use his other hand to set himself free but the irritations over his face from the transformation eroded much of his strength and sanity as on top of this, he couldn't even breathe!

Terian eagerly struggled against the beast while also taking short glances to the sky where the brownish-red crust of the island could be seen!

The Hawk of Conflagration behind him screeched as it flapped its wings offensively at the purple octo-humanoid but the creature merely slammed its staff into the ground which released a bright white force that countered the bird's own, driving it a bit of a distance away!

Terian tried to cast another spell but the beast strengthened its hold over him, challenging his nerves' tolerance!

The beast looked at him deeply, as if it was trying to peer through his very soul.

It had noticed the high quality of his mana but for some reason, it couldn't draw it from him with just a breath from its natural ability.

With the continued cruel hold, Terian's eyes had started to become hazy as oxygen ran out from him, his body starting to turn weak as his faculties failed.

He blinked as he tried to maintain his focus when he saw...

A distance away, where Gin had fallen, the Knight struggling with his own predicament, he saw someone crouching over him!

As he noticed this, it seemed like the beast that held him also noticed something and turned.

A young man with flowing dark hair held up Gin's head as he then swiped with his hand at an imperceptible speed, the tentacle which was Gin's arm being lopped off!

The Purity Knight felt his neck loosen and took a sharp breath before sitting up!

He looked up at the emerald green eyes of the young man who had saved his life and after a moment nodded wordlessly, the young man rising with a slight smile as his chiselled build revealed by the fact that he wore nothing but a tied up brown cloth at his waist to cover his privates, oozed of power!

Terian looked immensely relieved at seeing this man.

'Finally...' he thought.

Finally... he was here.

So damn late but here!

"Regression brings Strength..." the young man with dark hair said as he crunched his hand into a steady fist that became saturated with billows of heavy, deadly and suffocating mana!

...!

The purple beast was shocked!

This man's core...

It spilled voracious volumes of thick mana, like deep waves of the ocean into his body, giving the well toned body of this new arrival a transcendent feel in its senses!

His core....

It was a light shade of purple like its own!

What Frock had told Skullius for a golden price on their first meeting was now coming to fruition!

There was only one individual with a purple core in this entire city!

And that... was the man who stood before the Cluster beast at this moment!

The man's emerald eyes flashed with an outline of horrendous mana, his sunken cheeks becoming filled with air as he took in a deep breath!

Before what was known as a millisecond could be counted all the way through, the dark-haired man.... was already flying past the purple beast with his figure streaking through the turbulent atmosphere, his throbbing vein covered fist which trailed behind sinking into the beasts face with a nasty crunch!

POW!!!!

The breeze brought on by the falling island was nothing compared to the ring of devastation that rippled when the punch from the black-haired slammed against the octo-humanoid's face!

The ground had rose, flying as it couldn't take the sudden burst of horrendous power that was released!

Within a range of over a hundred meters, the hard crust crumpled and spewed up dust as the Cluster beast that had met this attack was sent piercing through the air and smashing against the city wall only to blast out the other end as it kept on going for over a few hundred meters more!

WUUUU....

Terian had used his Hawk of Conflagration to keep himself anchored and safe while Gin had plunged his bastard sword into the ground to keep himself from flying with his remaining hand!

The aftermath of one punch was this extensive as the young man with dark hair that draped over almost to his waist emitted a hot breath that cleared the dust all around the vicinity!

His tanned body got into a forward leaning stance as he seemed to want to rush on ahead, but not towards the beast.

"Strength brings Salvation..." the man said with a soft voice as he...

VUBOOOM!

The ground was superheated and eradicated under his feet as he lunged forward like the god of speed!

A distance away in his course, a battle to survive was taking place as the tension was visible and audible among the participants!

"KEEP IT IN PLACE, DAMMIT! I ONLY HAVE ONE SHOT REMAINING!"

"You come and try to hold it place if you can, bastard!"

"Don't just stand there! Attack!"

"I'm doing my best!"

"STOP FIGHTING AND FOCUS ON PILING DAMAGE!"

Six mercenaries who had been having trouble facing one of the grey skinned beasts, especially when the oppressive force of the island that was falling was bearing down on them yelled and flung their attacks at the creature while risking their lives.

They were on edge seeing as they could easily die, much like their companions on the ground.

As some used their shields while another shot an arrow, another barely dodging the barbed tentacle swung across the entire street, all six of the mercenaries saw a darting blur pass by them...

SPLAT!

At the same time, the beast they had been fighting hard against, spontaneously exploded into a mass of blood, organs and fleshy chunks that rained all over them by the time they blinked!

"..."

Huh?

What the hell just happened?!

The mercenaries and Knights who had been battling the beasts in their collective groups while also trying to distance themselves from the city found the same happening to their foes!

Masses of flesh would be left flying after the darting blur passed by them, hundreds of the tentacled beasts within the city being dispatched in but a measly FOUR seconds!

However, the sheer quantity of these beasts was too much for this young man to deal with when the threat of the island was still afoot!

He had to address this first.

After culling at least half of the monsters in the city, the black-haired man stormed towards a rather tall building, scaled up its height and then without stopping, hunkered down and leapt up with all his might upwards!

The building he had used folded in on itself from the immensity power!

The man's naked upper torso revealed his muscles turning firm and compact as he gathered all his strength and cocked back his arm which radiated with the blinding white hue of mana!

Mana condensed many times over what any blue core individual could ever dream of, filled every ounce of the young man's body, saturating it to the utmost limit!

This fist carried an unimaginable force, the young man huffing in air as his cheeks became inflated again, his eyes opening wide as he grimaced before he launched a straight punch whose whistle as it soared upwards was heard throughout the city...!

Chapter 322: Unbreakable! (2)

A fist with a mission hammered forward!

A punch with a lot of Regretful zeal thundered ahead!

A blunt attack with an enormous amount of power and force shot beyond with a sound akin to thunder, tearing through the air as it met the edge of the falling island!

The black-haired man grit his teeth as he put every ounce of the strength that was generated from his vibrant purple core into this one punch, hoping that he could prevent the total destruction of the entire city!

BOOOOOOOOOM!

Throughout the entire city beneath, everyone and everything was smashed into by a visible shockwave which held an atrocious force, emanating from the point of contact between the dark-haired man's fist and the bottom edge of the massive descending construct!

It was as if gravity was suddenly in a bad mood , as all constructs without a structurally sound integrity were crumbled under the immense force!

A distance away, the beast that had been given the punch of its life watched with a bloody face as a massive shockwave descended from where the man had struck the island, into city and expanded outwards as it blew rubble and dust away!

Then...

....!

CRACK! BOOOM!!

A second noise erupted moments after as the massive island... broke apart!

Six large portions of the island were torn off as dark dust, rock and dirt flew even higher from the overbearing force, the pieces splitting off into different directions!

Mercenaries, Knights and civilians alike all looked up at this in awe as the power of a certain individual whose existence wasn't exactly a secret in Inhone City was on full display!

Just moment ago, this same man had left their hands free of the many beasts that raced throughout the city and now...

Such a level of power...!

With naught but a punch!

The Guilds and Knights below fighting for their lives felt a rush of adrenaline as the hopeless situation didn't seem so hopeless anymore.

With grit, sweat and a little bit of the sacred armour of legends (plot), perhaps they could pull through!

Inhone could live to see another day!

For the trump card of the Capital Service, of Inhone City, was here!

A little late, but here nonetheless.

It was the one and only... Unbreakable!

The dark-haired man began falling, but on his face, one could see that he wasn't happy at all.

As he looked at the entire thing above him which had even halted its descend as it broke off into six, he was sure that unless something was done, the City would still take immense damage when it inevitably began falling once again!

"Salvation brings... Peace..." the dark-haired man said to himself as he took in a deep breath.

At this point, it was clear that this man, was the same old man from the College of Battle Arts.

The same old man that Skullius had met on the day he had wished to get enrolled and when he had just finished his seven-day training with Oliviana.

The same old man who always emphasised his regret whenever he opened his mouth to speak.

He was a trump card offered to keep the city safe in very trying times, assigned to Inhone by the higher Authority in the Capital Service.

The man had lived for 83 years but he was still capable of fighting because of his technique which shakily treaded the boundary between Special and Super!

The Regret Technique.

This was a powerful technique that he had created when he was 67 years old, many years after finding out that he had made a grave mistake.

As he had monologued before to the Discount Human at the gate, he had ruined his life with his youthful zeal by doubting the Direction he was given by the Deities.

He had called them statues without sentience or omniscience as the Priests constantly declared and went on to power through with his own desires, ignoring his Direction that told of him being of a class not known for combat.

A Healer.

This class belonged to the Energy Forming category but the man in his younger years with boiling blood that sought to tear beasts apart had rejected this, spending his years adopting a Warrior's training regime instead.

Over the years, he had earned himself a purple core because of the high quality of his mana, but...

That was the extent of it.

He failed to learn any proper technique in his lifetime as everything he learned seemed to simply evaporate after a day or two from his mind.

Even after decades, the only thing he managed to gain was the ability to punch and kick with subpar skill!

He had even been so unfortunate that the Tasks he received didn't suit the class he had chosen for himself and thus, the height he had been able to reach in his life was the early Advancement Stage.

Such a treacherous fate he had brought for himself. One that had almost gotten him killed as the only reason he managed to survive up to his sixties was because he had cultivated a basic purple core.

As he felt his life fade to wastage by his own hand, he had dedicated himself to forging a Technique that at least allowed him to revert his body to its prime.

A technique that allowed him to use his purple core more efficiently, and in the process of forging this technique, the man shockingly achieved an incredible result that somewhat salvaged his life...

Unbreakable at the current moment, saw from the corner of his eye a flaring white light from the far distance shoot in his direction with a horrifying as he fell!

Its milky white glow gave a false pretence of a harmlessness but he could effectively sense the destructive power imbedded within it!

Yet, even in the face of this attack, he didn't guard or feel any sense of impending doom as the ray of energy smashed into his torso!

The air was blown away by the horrendous power, some chunks of island which had been nearby being obliterated into fine dust!

The beast which had launched this attack with its staff huffed as this time, it didn't prematurely celebrate, learning from earlier events.

Surely, it narrowed its eyes as it saw an unbelievable sight.

Unbreakable resumed his descent without so much as a scratch on his body!

Something that had taken Terian his Genuine Incarnation to deflect, Unbreakable had blocked it with his bare body devoid of any enhancements!

Learning the nature of this white beam would make this feat even more ridiculous as the truth behind the Regret Technique was revealed!

When Unbreakable had successfully forged this Technique after decades of work, he had found that when he would chant the mandatory words to regress into his youthful body, the purple core would spill its highly condensed mana into him, giving him a ridiculously sturdy body that had NEVER been injured before!

This was not normal at all as no one else achieved something like this with the same method.

The dark-haired man had thought that perhaps it was because of the blessing he had been given or perhaps it was a mocking depiction of what he had been meant to be... a Healer, but none of that mattered now.

With this incredibly powerful body, the man turned to using it for the greater purpose assigned by his superiors!

Unbreakable landed back on the ground and when he did, he was swarmed by hundreds of the tall, tentacled humanoids that raced towards him with incredible speeds, strategically arranging themselves as they flung their barbed tentacles at him!

Others sprayed the dark liquid from the tips of their slimy tentacles, the nasty ooze raining over Unbreakable's skin while others leapt over and delivered deadly punches to his face and body!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Yet...

None of this, did anything at all.

The liquid did nothing to mutate Unbreakable's body, the punches thrown at him turning into masses of broken flesh and bone as they struck him while the tentacles broke off without doing any damage!

Nothing!

Absolutely nothing at all!

The man suffered no damage at all!

Nothing even bruised the man's perfectly toned body!

The octopus humanoids did not relent however as they seemed to not have the luxury of backing away even as they screamed in pain.

Unbreakable sucked in a breath and blew out a mana infused gust of vicious wind that flung the hordes of beasts away from him a spherical arc!

Immediately after, the dark-haired man clapped his hands with a shocking level of concentration as a visible distorted vibration shredded the nearest creatures into chunks while making the others that heard it spew blood from their orifices!

Two fifths of the beasts that surrounded him died instantly and Unbreakable stormed over to those that remained as with his bare hands, he mercilessly killed them all in a little more than ten seconds!

Blood rained in this gruesome massacre, the stern face of Unbreakable bearing retribution for all the humans that had fallen.

When the man was done, his vision darted over to the creature outside the city that was also staring at him with hateful eyes.

'Its sturdy... I thought I gave it a good one. As expected. While my body is strong, I can't output enough power to kill it in one shot without any more progression in my Stages...' Unbreakable thought begrudgingly.

Furthermore, the split up pieces of the island were now gaining momentum from when he had punched them twenty seconds ago.

He didn't have enough time to fly up and punch them all before they fell and this was his immediate concern as he looked over the city.

The dwindling population he saw as his wide senses supported his awareness stretched over the city, clutching onto the fear, anxiety and trepidation that saturated the city.

The sense that he had let everyone down gripped him but he didn't allow it to overtake him as he had had enough regrets for one lifetime.

This Technique was supposed to be an atonement for his past mistakes!

He had to make the most of it!

Unbreakable began to race around the city as he spotted a building he could use to launch himself up to further de-size another one of the falling islands but...

Something appeared in the sky as he looked up.

Something dark... much like the grey mist that had been emitted by the octopus beast's staff but with a more natural appearance!

It was a large collective swirl of dark clouds that coagulated over the dark sky in a tranquil yet menacing manner!

As the city darkened even further, many raised their heads once again as they saw the massive thunderclouds that started to glow with a bright blue flashes of light!

What now?!

Where did this cloud come fro?!

One particular individual who was beyond shocked by this phenomenon was Terian.

He hadn't sensed it with his advanced senses, but had only seen the massive extra darkness it cast overhead which made him raise his head!

Even with this however, he still felt nothing from this thundercloud!

No massive influx of mana for the visible lightning that it carried within!

Nothing!

Then...

Without a sound, two large bolts of blue lightning as thick as an adult human shot from the thunderclouds with an eerie intensity that targeted nothing but the two largest free falling pieces of the island!

ZHRRRR!

The only sounds to resound out in a spectacular fashion were from the collision between the turbulent lightning bolts and the islands!

BOOOM!

The two falling pieces were mostly broken apart as with a peculiar recurring impact that continued to rupture the chunks of mass, one would find that two out of the six looming threats were swiftly taken care off!

...!

Terian trembled!

Only he realised that what he was seeing right now... wasn't lightning!

It didn't feel like lightning and it certainly didn't act like it when he focused his senses upon it!

As he gawked at this scene, he saw something golden rise up into the sky at a quick speed as it hurtled towards the remaining falling masses!

"What...?" Terian said as he looked closer to see a gold adorned man with a long cape!

The old man had to do a double take to ensure that he was seeing this right!

What the hell was this?!

He then shifted his gaze to where this golden man had flown from and saw a scene that made him shudder for multiple reasons.

A tall figure donning a dark armour wrapped in chains sat over a large, terrifying beast as he looked up!

While he didn't emit any presence to note, his appearance as he and his 'steed' stood over the torn down remnants of a building was nothing short of imposing...!

Chapter 323: The Second Bro (1)

Technically two days ago...

"Ahh....it's finally time, Red bro," Skullius said with a delighted voice as his four burning sockets gazed at the corpse of the Devouring Lantern Alpha Wolf that he had killed.

He had just pulled it out from his spatial storage ring and now, he could attempt to smile as the prospect of having another useful Apostle to fill the gaping loneliness that threatened to swallow, another Apostle to fight for him.

Seeing the split head of the creature and its unimpressive stance as it laid down in the pathetic stillness of death made him really wonder if something like this had truly happened to him before.

He wasn't the idiot he had been before. He now knew that at some point, he had lived and died.

"Let's get to it then. I really hope that time passed is not a problem..." Skullius said with a hint of anxiety in his voice.

"TOMATO FLINGER! WHAT HERETIC TREACHERY ARE YOU ABOUT TO CONDUCT NOW?! I WILL NOT STAND FOR THIS! I WILL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I AM NOT OFFICIALLY COLLUDING WITH YOU IN YOUR UNDEATH PROSPEC-"

"Be quiet, will you?!" Skullius roared. This bastard just had to ruin this touching moment.

"For the last time, I'm not an undead! I'm about to fulfill a goal I've had for weeks now and if you don't mind, I'd like my peace!"

"HMMM..." Sila hummed before resorting to watching the ordeal in silence lest he get pushed back into his silent corner of Skullius' soul.

Skullius sighed. Or at least tried to. His double life led to him trying things in his Penetrator form that were only possible in his Discount Human form.

The Penetrator extended his bony hand towards the corpse with hope, excitement and just a little bit of apprehension.

'Please let this go my way!' he thought. It wouldn't hurt to hope. After all, if wishes were milk carts, the skeletons would drink.

Skullius focused on the dead wolf and finally said the thing.

"Riiiiiiiise, Second Bro...." a solemn voice flowed out of the Penetrator as he spoke with as much majesty as he could conjure. He had to at least live up to the Vehement Bone Nullmancer's potential hype.

While speaking this phrase that would later be used for each of the coming Apostles, he activated [Apostle Summon] at the same time and just like the very first time he used the skill, mana rushed out his hand and his vision trailed along with it!

The internal structure of the Devouring Lantern Alpha Wolf became clear in the Penetrator's vision and he felt Null Life Essence wash over the creature in a rather concentrated form that he didn't normally get to feel even with [Unbound].

He felt the bones of the creature quiver as a spark of flame raged within it, making it rise!

The bones shed from the flesh, much like with undeath, but they retained a sort of sanctity about them as they appeared spotless.

Skullius' vision returned to his body and he watched the skeletal structure of the large beast that had given him quite the bit of trouble stand, in its sockets a blue flame shimmering with intensity!

"TOMATO FLINGER! THIS..."

"Not now you bastard! Oh, that's right, I can shut you up!" Skullius said as he immediately blocked off Sila from further interrupting his mood and this moment.

It would take time until the piece of soul was used to his abilities, worse yet the guidance field.

[Congratulations! You have summoned your second Apostle!]

[A high quality carcass has been detected. Medium chance bonuses related to evolution options and original skill retention apply]

[Would you like to name your Apostle?]

Skullius looked at the bony body of the creature in relief before anything else.

No problems there.

He then paid attention to the second notification that held information he hadn't seen before.

"Bonuses huh? Red Rage gained the blessing for being my first... first Apostle...that sounds better. This guy... I guess being Tier 5 differs from how you were," Skullius said, saying that last sentence while looking at the Pelvis Boar-Man.

Looking at the wolf now though, it no longer had any fancy features; the horns that had been on its shoulders, the metallic tail and all which seemed a little... demotivating.

Was the high quality really because of the Tier or was it because it had been summoned from an unknown dimension?

Or maybe it was because it was a special breed of some kind?

This was left in the air for now.

As the Penetrator looked at the creature's status, he deflated. He came to a realisation that had been obvious from the start but difficult to actually pinpoint when the one case study he had, had been low levelled to begin with.

"All the creatures I use to create my Apostle are taken back to Tier 0, huh? It makes sense I guess..." Skullius said as he tried to lift his spirits up.

If these creatures had to be modified with Null type abilities, it made sense for there to be a reset but the second notification alluded to the possibility of regaining their previous abilities.

Red Rage had retained some of his abilities which he never used, probably a perk from being the first Apostle while this one...

"Oh. It seems you gained some of your past abilities. I think I recognise this [Lanterns of the Pure] skill. Good for you bro..." Skullius said to the now officially named, Null Lifeform Bone Wolf which simply stared at him.

"Now... for the good stuff..." Skullius said as he went on to pump this new sucker with the Experience he had saved to raised it to Tier 1 immediately!

The Bone Wolf trembled as its sockets flared with mad blue flames as notification prompts began to appear before Skullius!

[Apostle '...' has broken past many hurdles and reached LV10. Apostle '...' is now able to evolve into the First Tier of power. Do you accept?]

"Yep!"

[Bonuses apply! Higher quality evolutions are added]

[Loading possible evolution options for 'Null Lifeform (Bone Wolf)'...]

[Possible evolution options for Tier 1:...]

"Hit me!" Skullius excitedly yelled.

~~~

[Six-legged Flash Dipper]

A powerful Bone variant whose main strength lies in speed and spatial travel. The Flash Dipper has a powerful body equipped with two additional limbs that help in generating more speed with its acceleration.

The single most interesting facet of its body however, is the Null core within it, connected to its magic core, an item which gives the Flash Dipper the ability to traverse the countless dimensions of the 'Null Verse'. The Flash Dipper has abysmal levels of raw strength as such things need to be supplemented with mutations.

The bulk of its selling point lies in beating opponents with speed and potentially acquiring temporary unique abilities from the countless dimensions it can travel to.

(Due to its unique powers, the Six-legged Flash Dipper has inherited a flaw to balance its existence among the natives of different worlds.

The Six-Legged Flash Dipper MUST be claimed and detained indefinitely by a random dimension as a penalty for having the ability to freely traverse the Null Verse.

—

<Stats>

+2000 Mana

+150 Strength

+4550 Agility

+640 Health

+70 Intelligence

<Skills>

-Sonic Rush

-Dimensional Dip

-Unstoppable Charge

-Dimensional Haul Licence

-Dimensional Trailer: Forced Awakening

If you choose this race, you will have multiple evolution choices within this series all the way up to "&#x2191".

-The retained skill [Lanterns of the Pure] will be edited accordingly.

-Possibility of gaining a random mutation in the next evolutions.

---

[Blood-Risen Emperor's Keeper]

A very special bone variant that was created by the Blood-Risen Emperor to safeguard his most favoured Treasure Castle. The Blood-Risen Emperor's Keeper has a vicious temperament, only being loyal to its master and no one else, as it will attack anyone if not disallowed from doing so.

This bone variant has a rather bulky size which offers it absurd strength and the extraordinary ability to split, forming functional doubles whenever it sustains heavy damage.

The Blood-Risen Emperor's Keeper's doubles have a 10% chance of obtaining different racial evolution traits of other beasts in the Null Demon family upon and during their manifestation as their number cap at 3 at the current level. All the doubles will possess enormous strength as the original but just like the original, they are weaker in terms of all else.

(Due to its unique powers, the Blood-Risen Emperor's Keeper has inherited a flaw to balance its existence among the natives of different worlds.

The Blood-Risen Emperor's Keeper is UNABLE to manifest full loyalty to the Nullmancer as it is most loyal to the Blood-Risen Emperor. The effect of favourability is thereby inapplicable to this entity as well as the benefits that come with it.)

-

<Stats>

+1200 Mana

+4365 Strength

+100 Agility



+2000 Health

+40 Intelligence

<Skills>

-Unlimited Awakening: Double Assimilation

-Hulk Out

-Continental Howl

-Blood-Risen Rage: Unbound Might

-Null Fortress

If you choose this race, you will have multiple evolution choices within this series all the way up to "&#%^!".

-The retained skill [Lanterns of the Pure] will be edited accordingly.

-Possibility of obtaining the Blood-Risen Emperor's forbidden treasures in future evolutions.

---

[Limitless Body Null Demon Hound]

An exceptionally unique bone variant that has an astonishing level of creativity both in mind and body. The Limitless Body Null Demon Hound has the natural ability to produce malleable Null Life Essence materials known as Unliving Threads that are unbound by any restriction in terms of what they can create, the only limit being its current level of power.

By extension, the Demon Hound can also manipulate its bone body as it pleases, the extent of this ability being limited to size regulation and preferred natural form shaping. In terms of physicality, the Demon Hound has balanced stats which lean more towards intelligence and mana as with the right motivation, this bone variant knows no bounds.

(Due to its unique powers, the Limitless Body Null Demon Hound has inherited a flaw to balance its existence among the natives of different worlds.

The Limitless Body Null Demon Hound **MUST** be RESET immediately after any intense or strenuous confrontation. If not, there is a **CHANCE** that it will forcefully evolve into the world-ending Null Terror, the Full Deck BoneTender. You have been WARNED.)

-

<Stats>

+3400 Mana

+220 Strength

+190 Agility

+590 Health

+400 Intelligence

<Skills>

-Limitless Self-Forging

-Amorphous Sampling

-GENIUS!

-Demon Thread Weaving

If you choose this race, you will have multiple evolution choices within this series all the way up to "&#%^!"

-The retained skill [Lanterns of the Pure] will be edited accordingly.

-Possibility of gaining a new type of thread with every evolution.

~~~

"..."

Wow.

Skullius was speechless for a moment.

These options.

"What's with these options?!" the Penetrator held his head as a choice, was really going to be atrociously difficult with these.

Chapter 324: The Second Bro (2)

Each of these options had something that made Skullius pretend to salivate. Juicy abilities that would be incredibly useful and fun to play with especially when Skullius looked to the future, where he was beginning to think of lawlessly diving into Clusters.

However, as with his and Red Rage's evolutions, the flaws were atrocious!

Skullius could wager that the flaws on Red Rage's possible evolutions were actually somewhat more lenient compared to these.

Another problem that arose when he looked at these evolutions was the fact that even though he had been garnering towards an Apostle with outstanding speed, the available speed type evolution wasn't as perfect as he wanted it to be.

The Six-legged Flash Dipper had a rather troublesome flaw.

'Indefinite detainment? Bonus my Pelvis!'

The speed aspect was pretty good though and the upside to this variant was that the description seemed to imply that its flaw responded to the variant's use of its dimension diving powers, which in themselves were pretty darn cool.

So, if he chose to limit its use of this ability, it was likely that he wouldn't have to deal with the flaw altogether.

'I could be wrong though,' Skullius thought as this was thing that hindered him from choosing this one.

The beast was notably weaker in all other aspects and it seemed this Dimensional ability was meant to supplement for its weakness but...

GAAH!

What if it was detained for a week? Or a year? Or ten years? This was ridiculous!

As he re-read through the floating screen before him, he found that another one of these evolutions was likely to be out of the running as per his preference.

"This Blood-Risen Emperor's Keeper... its abilities are incredible...undoubtedly even more unique than those of the other two. That is if we take away that ridiculous flaw!" Skullius exclaimed.

This thing had the most ridiculous drawback of all.

How on earth was he supposed to call this thing his Apostle if it had a shaky level of submission?!

Would he have to evolve into the Blood-Risen Emperor himself to attain its loyalty?!

Was that even possible?!

Furthermore, this meant that the bonus he could acquire by having the Apostle reach 100 favourability with him would be gone too!

That could do more harm than good!

"Ugh... flesh this...." Skullius muttered as he scratched his skull.

The abilities were really good though!

This thing would punish you for harming it and produce other creatures like itself!

The last option, which seemed to be the more balanced was also rather unique.

The Limitless Body Null Demon Hound.

This thing was said to be pretty smart on its own and with its ability to morph the Unliving Thread that it could produce as well as its own body, Skullius was sure that this was a good option.

However, the first thing that ticked him off was how this would deviate from his goal of having a speed type Apostle.

That was out of necessity!

That had been the plan originally.

BAH!

The second thing that ticked him off was the flaw.

World-ending Terror, the Full Deck BoneTender was it?

For obvious reasons Skullius was pretty scared of this. It made him hesitate greatly.

If this thing could really destroy the world...

What was with this flaw to begin with?!

At the moment, it seemed like the Six-legged Flash Dipper was going to be his choice.

But still, he couldn't come to a decision on the fly.

"Hmmm... wait. Does this guy has a class? If he does I might as well see what's in store for that side first," Skullius said.

As he twiddled with the guidance field, he found to his surprise that things weren't as simple. Or rather they were, but he just hadn't put two and two together.

[Apostle '...' is now legible to obtain a mutation. Do you accept?]

"That's right! Mutations."

As the Penetrator had done his fair share of studying on this world, he had learned about mutations, the beasts' way of attaining additional forms of more refined strength.

Skullius had formally learned that the distinction applied according to which natural evolution a beast had followed.

For instance, the goblins he had faced before had classes because they took to the humanoid route that was attuned with classes.

The Darewolves he had fought back in the Tremur had mutations because of the fact that they had a different evolutionary path was more geared towards attaining powers that were relevant to their body structures.

In this case, he found that his new Apostle was obviously more attuned to the latter.

"Hmm. Why did Red Rage transform into a human-like form then?" Skullius asked himself while turning to the gifted Pelvis-Boar-Man.

The Apostle merely shrugged.

"Whatever. It must have been because of your blessing. Or is it because you just wanted to kill more efficiently, you bastard?"

Red Rage fidgeted which made Skullius suspicious.

Skullius shook his head and he focused on the task at hand, looking through the mutations which had shorter descriptions.

~~~

[Available classes for 'Null Lifeform' Bone Wolf:-]

-----

[Inorganic Null-Burst Engine]

An amalgamation of burst type Null lifeforms' parts that create a part bone, part flesh organ which can continuously boost the physical stats of any Null lifeform by way of two Pistons.

<Effects>

- Affects all aspects of the user including skills

-

-Stat bonuses apply-

-

-Main Piston-

Passively grants the user a 350% boost to selected stat. Selection is permanent.

(Caution: If selected stat is already high proportionately, boost will be deducted)

-

-Secondary Piston-

Temporarily boosts a stat of the user's choice by 100%. Usable thrice a day.

-----

[Pseudo Spirit Walker's Hide]

A shawl-like hide that possesses a portion of the Class, Spirit Walker. It dwells over the body of the beast that acquires.

<Effects>

- Erases the presence of the user as well as their appearance with their consent, doing the same with all other aspects of the user.

-

-Stat bonuses apply-

-



[Spirit Walk]

The hide assimilates with the user's body to allow them to 'walk' within the soul of a target. Usable once a day.

(Caution: Level of the target determines effect)

-

[Spirit Touch]

The hide assimilates with the user to allow the swift manipulation of the target's body. A parasitic effect is attached which allows for 2% stat retention after use. Usable thrice a day.

(Caution: Level of the target determines effect)

-----

[Stern Bone Multi-Carapace]

A partially realised hardened shell from one of the infamous Null Badubs of '^#&%#'.  
???

???

<Effects>

-Information acquisition possible after the mutation is chosen-

~~~

Hmmm...

Skullius scratched his skull for a moment.

Incredible options were laid before him though it was clear that some of the information was not shown. This probably meant that some kind of process of assimilation had to happen especially when considering that the race and mutation were separate.

'Kek...' Skullius cackled in his mind before his sockets flared.

This was truly profound.

A path was opened by these mutations!

While the decision wasn't going to be any easier, mostly because of Skullius' growing caution and choosy nature, the Penetrator grew excited nonetheless.

Interlinking paths for a satisfactory Apostle connected in his mind and soon, he quickly came to a decision.

He had to make concessions in some places but he couldn't win it all.

Present time.

The tall armoured man with chains that twisted around his armour disembarked from the large beast he rode.

The beast itself had a bulky appearance which was constantly shifting as if made of countless squirming ribbons in a dark blue hue, its front legs looking as beefy as could be while the hind two were as sturdy as they could look.

Its deep sockets glowed with a blue light that was different from the flame, much like torches lit in its sockets while below its belly where swaths of squirming mass constantly wriggled, masking its skeleton structure, a dull golden-red pulse could be seen, contracting and expanding through the length of the entire beast with the same rhythm as a heart beat!

Two horns that grew from the beast's head, curving backwards resonated with this golden-red pulse as they too would get tinged in the vibrant colour.

As the rider who wore a terrifying helm dropped off from this beast, he slapped its shoulder before giving it an order.

"Let's get killing," Skullius said, to which the large beast that had initially stood on all fours, rose up to stand on its hind legs, its body shifting to bulk out in a humanly manner...!

Chapter 325: Go Team!

[Name : None]

[Tier : 1]

[Apostle Trait : None]

[Rank : None]

[Level : 1]

[Race : Limitless Body Null Demon Hound]

[Inv. Status : Pumped]

[Stats]

[Strength : 425]

[Agility : 330]

[Intelligence : 500]

[Endurance : Infinite]

[Luck : 5]

[Health : 815/815]

[Mana : 4200/4200]

[Skills]

[Null Life Aura | Lv. 2]

[Null Extraction]

[Lanterns of the Pure | Lv. 1]

<Racial>

[Limitless Self Forging | Lv.2]

[Amorphous Sampling | Lv.2]

[GENIUS! | Lv.2]

[Demon Thread Weaving | Lv.2]

<Mutation>

[Pseudo Spirit Walker's Hide]

> Spirit Walk

> Spirit Touch

....

~~~

Indeed.

The Penetrator had taken a stand and shifted his mind according to what was available at the moment.

The moment he had seen a mutation with something to do with the soul, he had gone right for it!

Furthermore, its name gave him a recollection of something that he had come across some time ago.

One of the classes he had been offered before as a Null Lifeform out of the four.

The Spirit Walker.

When looking at the options that Red Rage had for his classes, the Spirit Walker and the Forcemancer hadn't shown up, which to Skullius meant that they were probably not compatible with the Apostle or were perhaps not easy to come by due to how special they were.

But with this one, while the mutation had the prefix 'Pseudo' to it, Skullius could tell that his new Apostle whom he hadn't named yet for foolish reasons, had received some insane skills that he decided to nab lest they didn't show up again which was very much a possibly!

As for his earlier goals of getting a speed type Apostle, well, he still intended to do that with this current one but through other means. The [Inorganic Null-Burst Engine] would have been the perfect choice for this, but that would have been a waste.

With the [Pseudo Spirit Walker's Hide], he could attain abilities that alligned with his goals.

Yes, he could.

Though the process was quite pricey.

The Demon Hound released bursts of hot air upon Skullius' command and with its upright stance that made it look like a werewolf, it suddenly, quivered as over the countless ribbons that hid its bony body giving it a bulkier appearance, a furry coat appeared!

It was surprising beautiful, with a rather dark brown hue that was stained with indecipherable marks that emanated a luminous white light on the chest of the beast!

With this cover, the [Pseudo Spirit Walker's Hide], the Apostle looked even more beastly!

The moment it finished layering over the Demon Hound, the Apostle turned ethereal and lunged forward.

'Heh. I wonder if they will even be able to see him,' Skullius chuckled to himself as he began walking forward.

His head turned to another direction as he finally addressed something.

He had been feeling a piercing gaze which he finally paid attention to and as his sockets took in the view, he noticed it as belonging to the old man Terian who stared at him from afar with barely hidden caution.

Skullius merely nodded coolly. He hoped that this would send the message that he was an ally, provided that this man wouldn't tie his appearance with the one that Damilla specified back then.

He hadn't seen it, but he could guess, right?

On the other side, the Demon Hound darted through the streets with its ethereal form leaving dust and large marks but the truth of the matter was that no one but Red Rage or Skullius could see it!

It freely leapt over much of the debris as it finally reached a rampaging octo-humanoid!

The creature didn't cease the flinging of its tentacles as it caused mayhem in every direction, its beastly strength shredding the earth!

The Demon Hound which was currently two and half meters tall at this point after slowly regulating its size for convenience suddenly miniaturised to the point of becoming the size of ant and crawled up the body of the tentacled creature!

The size regulation effect of its Limitless Body was used while its hide made its form imperceptible!

The creature then activated one of its skills as it raced along the back of the octo-humanoid.

[Amorphous Sampling!]

~~~

[Amorphous Sampling | Lv.1]

Using Null Life to scan the intended target, the user can replicate the structure of the scanned entity with Unliving Thread, the intricacy of whether it is physical, ethereal or spiritual determining the efficacy and success with each advanced level.

Mana Requirements: Dependent on the target

Duration: None

Cooldown: 2 minutes

~~~

A circular light gushed from the body of the Demon Hound, tracing along the body of its foe and before long it vanished.

However, the deed was done.

On the back of the Hound, its hide and Unliving Threads protruded outwards as it seemed that something was building up within its body in a violent manner!

Soon, two long, slimy tentacles with a dark blue hue shot from the creature's back, their sides becoming marred with vicious barbs!

The Apostle darted towards the creature's face and immediately put its new limbs to use as it pierced them right into the creature's soft eye!

PCHH!

The octo-humanoid screeched and clutched its face but its unseen foe had already created an opening for itself and was already travelling within its body while clawing at the soft flesh!

The Apostle had determined that these creatures were far stronger than itself and decided to dispatch them in a way it saw fit and most effective!

Wrecking them from the inside!

While inside the flesh and blood infested interior of the Cluster beast, the Hound suddenly opened its maw where between its sharp teeth from all sides, supported by the Unliving Thread that constantly wriggled, three luminous light appeared!

One green, one red and the last white.

The red light became brighter than others becoming akin to a bright gem that the beast chomped down on!



Immediately, its body bulked up as its size grew bigger and bigger which clashed against the innards of the creature it inhabited!

Its chest became bloated as something hot and powerful built up and in the next second, that particular something was released as the Hound faced up where the creature's brain was and fired!

VWUUUUP!

A beam of highly condensed red energy shot out in a particularly violent manner, dismantling anything in its way in a piping hot manner!

Outside where it appeared that this particular creature was screeching horribly in pain while bleeding from its eye as it rolled over the ground, a bright red beam of energy tore through its head from the top, releasing blood and brain matter!

The beam didn't travel for a great distance before it died down, signalling the end of the skill and the creature's life!

[Apostle '...' has killed (V) LV80 Bulk Terror. 4,430,000 Exp awarded]

[Your prey...]

The Demon Hound exited the creature's body and dashed towards its next foe with rapid speed as it sought to try out different ways to kill its opponents.

The experience it received was also good and it seemed enticed by it as well as the 65 Null Life Essence points it then salvaged with [Null Extraction], a skill that it had received after reaching Tier 1.

Skullius who watched from afar could only chuckle with malice.

This new Apostle of his was going to be particularly useful especially when considered the method of harvesting Experience, Null Life Essence and Mana that he had thought of given his close ties to his two Apostles.

'Kek...'

The Penetrator then looked to the skies from the barely twenty second battle he had just watched where the figure of a golden Pelvis-Boar-Man was heaving up a massive chunk of the falling island!

Red Rage had taken to trying to protect the city as he speedily grabbed a block he could handle flew with it a distance as he generated speed and then flung it outside the city!

With his Limited Flight which only allowed him up to a height of 300 meters, his progress was hindered quite a bit but the Apostle would use some of the blocks to kill the octo-humanoids below as he threw them at the bastards from his height.

'Looks like I'm the only one who isn't doing anything,' Skullius said as he grabbed the thick chain around his body and began twirling it as he dashed forward....

Chapter 326: All Hail The Fulgurant Penetrator!

Terian was shocked.

He had just seen an unnerving development just now where an unknown giant of a man who exuded no presence at all had shown up only to disappear behind the many things that obstructed his sight.

This man had been astride a large beast which had suddenly stood on its hind feet and vanished from existence immediately after!

He had been torn about what to think but when his gaze had met that of this strange Knight, if he could call him that, he had received a nod.

'Is he a Stray Knight?' was Terian's first thought.

Up above, he had seen the golden figure that emitted golden flakes as it flew, trying to fling away the chunks of falling rock that remained after the burst of not-lightning eradicated two of the six.

Assuming that this golden figure was with the bulky man who set to do his own part, Terian decided that this was much needed help and withheld any further questions he had done until the problem had been dealt with.

Despite this decision, something kept gnawing at his brain however, but he ignored it for now.

For now, they were allies.

The old man then rose, the Hawk of Conflagration above him as he looked up.

Unbreakable's punch had saved the city, giving both time and fervour to all the human participants.

Even now, the man had just flown up to completely decimate another of the falling parts of the island completely as he prepared to take out another one.

'I should also help...' the old man said as he brought his hands together and conjured a spell that brought forth both his exquisite control of fire and his elegant hold over mana to create a giant shark that burst before his hands with a majestic golden-orange hue!

The heat it emitted instantly roasted the surroundings while giving out a bright light that turned the area he was in into daytime!

'Scorchborne Beast...'

The skill bloomed as Terian then directed the seemingly lively shark into the air where its flaming body bolted forward and collided with a falling mass the size of three, five storied buildings, obliterating it in a massive explosion of flame and light!

\*\*\*

Skullius with his bulky armour rushed forward, his steps heavy but his movement relatively fast as streaks of blue Silentburn Levin trailed after him!

He traced his way towards the enemies that seemed to be chasing after life signatures as they sought out all the humans in the area!

Soon, the Penetrator had encountered his first of six enemies in a rather spacious street that still had more intact than most buildings where his [Elevated Mana Manipulation] could sense the presence of multiple cowering human figures.

One of the Bulk Terrors noticed him with its eager sight and dashed towards with vigour!

It flailed its tentacles as it burst with a speed that was far beyond what Skullius could effectively react to while two others followed after it!

'Let's have a taste...' Skullius said as he continued to spin the thick Chains of Damnation that hooked onto the Null Devil's Aegis of Damnation.

As the first Terror reached him with its horrific speed, it suddenly slowed down as it entered within a 2 meter of his radius as it squinted its eyes!

Its slimy skin started to sizzle as if burnt and its steps drew to a complete halt!

'Kek... That's right...' Skullius chuckled to himself.

A skill within the armour he donned wouldn't allow just anyone to reach his presence!

[The Forge!]

The skill which made all those who approached the armour experience a glimpse of the hellscape from which it was forged!

Skullius didn't waste time snickering as he then flung his chains towards the creature, wrapping it in the binds as it sizzled!

He then darted forward as he cocked his fist and smashed it into the creature's face as arcs of not lightning, but Silent Levin, the power which was constantly released from his Penetrator body struck the creature!

BOOM!

Surprisingly however...

Nothing happened at all!

Not a speck of damage registered on the creature's face to even indicate that he had hit it!

'Huh?! Even a punch isn't considered penetration damage?!' Skullius complained as he truly hoped that this would have worked to some degree!

Unfortunately for him, the other Terrors swiftly arrived and unlike the first, they didn't stop when they felt a mild roasting sensation over their skins!

...!

Skullius injected his mana into his spatial storage ring upon seeing the approaching creatures and summoned something he hadn't used in a while!

The Crystalline Hold!

A shield bought from Frock that he had upgraded with [Unbound]!

BAM!

One of the Terrors slammed into him with his mass prompting Skullius to fly off on impact!

The shield dented inwards, as was to be expected of a Uncommon+ item but it did its job, limiting the damage to the Penetrator.

The other Terror followed after the hurtling figure of the dark armoured Knight as it screeched with its tentacles both front and behind flailing madly!

'They are really fast!' Skullius thought as he gripped the Chains of Damnation and pulled, using the chained up Terror to reduce his momentum!

The moment he did, the other Terror that had been hot on his trail flung its fist at him, the Penetrator only seeing a blur before he was smashed in the chest and flung once more but with an even more devastating force that sent him twenty meters away!

The ground which hadn't even been touched in the process quaked from the power while glasses shattered from the impact!

Skullius rolled until he came to a stop, his armour looking dented and cracked from the punch to his chest.

'That one is Tier 6.... These things are really strong,' Skullius remarked to himself. 'Makes me feel like my Discount Human form has grown stronger than this form now.'

As a result of the activity going on in this street, many other Terrors had been drawn to action.

Soon, forty of them raced into the street as they blew up what had been an intact line of buildings yet to be sullied by destruction!

They all pushed against each other as they tore through towards Skullius' lonesome figure.

Such a perilous situation.

One was enough trouble but forty?!

How would a normal mercenary or Knight feel when faced with this?!

Instead of feeling despair however, Skullius' socket flames roared with zeal.

"That's it! Come my bros! Come and face your death!" Skullius called with a deep voice that caused those who were hidden within the remaining buildings to shudder.

As the creatures approached, Skullius injected mana into his spatial storage ring and out came a beautiful scroll!

Who said strength only referred to one's individual power?!

The All Eater scroll was unfurled once again!

~~~

[All Eater Scroll]

-Legendary-

A scroll created by an ancient group of mages who thought of cultivating their own magic to be a taboo towards their favoured Deity, Suzamete. They chose to master inscription of the highest order, in their years managing to create a sequence of runes that could store any form of attack at the Incandescent Stage and below.

-Special Effect-

Stored attacks are kept in Stagnant Space and released at the user's discretion at 10 times the speed and power with a 10% chance to incorporate any of the user's attributes or traits at the moment of release.

<Currently stored attacks - 2/2>

~~~

The scroll said to be able to hold any form of attack and release it with greater power!

The scroll lit up and Skullius injected his intent into it with a maniacal eagerness!

Since he now had an Apostle with the ability to shoot out energy beams, he could fully use this scroll now even though he would wonder why the description said it could store any form of attack when in his experience, physical attacks were impossible to store.

A bright red flashed from the scroll and with a ridiculous roar of power, a beam shot out with a staggering speed that rivalled the Terrors' ability to react!

Not only this however, as with the beam flashing out towards the tens of enemies, arcs of Silentburn Levin cascaded around it with a menacing effect that further amplified its power several fold!

VWUUUUP!!!!

The blast razed the entire street in a flashy show of might that demolished everything in Skullius' line of sight!

"HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!" Skullius threw away the clacking of teeth as he emitted a genuine laugh that echoed through the night!

Power!

Power in his hand!

Molten rock and crumbling structures were left in the wake of his attack that reached dozens of meters away, taking the lives of most of the Terrors in his sight!

[You have killed (V) LV65 Bulk Terror...]

[You have killed (V) LV81 Bulk Terror...]

[You have fucking killed....]

Skullius watched the notifications stream in one after the other as after this, he tried his best to grin as he raised his hand, activating a certain skill.

[Null Extraction].

Streams of bright blue energy started to gush out the bodies of the Terrors he had killed even those that were a dozen meters away while the Penetrator remained still!



It was Null Life Essence!

But how...?

How was it possible for Skullius to do this?

Simple.

Because he had elevated his mana manipulation!

Just like the staff he had taken from the goblin in the Tremur which increased his range of [Null Extraction], his levelled up mana manipulation allowed him to accomplish the same feat as only now, he could do it without the staff.

The Essence of roughly thirty Terrors, 65 points each gushed into the Penetrator as the rest were still alive.

The Null lifeform emitted a content 'ah' as he looked at the twitching and crawling Terrors.

As for these, Skullius walked over to the beasts, pulling the others that were still barely alive to those that were struggling to stand with lost limbs.

After gathering them in one place, his sockets flared as he spoke in a chilling voice.

"Don't die yet bros... you have much to do..."

In the hands of the armoured Penetrator, a bright red flame flashed with an eerie intensity as it brought about a terrifying glow...!

Chapter 327: HELP THE KNIGHT!

BOOOOM!

A large chunk of the island fell down, almost squashing Renialid into paste but she had moved out of the way quickly.

"Un! Un! Big sister! Look there!" Ginie said as she leapt up and down.

"I can see it..." Renialid said as she squinted.

Atop the large chunk that had fallen from the sky, mostly crumbling away on impact, one could see vegetation of some kind.

Gelly-like grass grew over the soil while with the movement of the air, it swayed restlessly.

Odd plants could also be seen, some like shrubs with different shades of blue, their texture looking watery in nature, as unreal as that sounded.

Over their trunks and the slimy leaves it could even be identified as such, these portions of the plant life having the same hue as they oozed of a colourless semi-liquid.

A girl with dark hair and glasses walked over to this odd patch of vegetation and did not hesitate to rustle her hands over it, getting a feel for what it was like texture wise other than what it looked like.

After a brief analysis, she gave a remark in an apathetic way.

"This doesn't seem like something that can grow in thus region. If I had to render a guess, I'd say it's some rare mutated patch from up North or some such. Though that would make me wonder how on Aigas it was summoned here."

This analysis was food for thought to the group that had gained a brief respite after Unbreakable culled many of the Bulk Terrors.

"We can always count on you to risk your life for knowledge right, Riyana?" a girl with bloody fur all over her arms and legs said as she used her long tongue to lick her lips.

She had cat-like ears that wiggled at the top of her head and even whiskers could be identified on her face along with green-coloured eyes that had slits within them as pupils.

Riyana rendered her no response and kept touching the peculiar vegetation.

"Un, un! You're always mean when you use your Form technique, Bustifina!" Ginie said with a puff of her cheeks, her words directed to the girl covered in fur.

The girl who was identified as Bustifina frowned as she folded her arms not bothering to say anything else.

This group of ladies had decimated hundreds of Bulk Terrors over a long stretch while also rescuing a lot of civilians who were sent to strongholds within the city. They had systematically divided themselves and had swiftly done more than any other Guild to safeguard the safety of civilians.

"Don't lose focus. Ginie, keep the civilians moving," Renialid instructed as she shifted her gaze to face forward where a horde Bulk Terrors were rushing their way from the entrance to the city while hundreds more were battling groups of coordinating mercenaries and Knights.

"Un, un! Got it!" Ginie said as she raised her staff and continued using her Mage-form Mimicking Art to influence the minds of hundreds to rush past them as they headed for safety.

Renialid squinted as she saw some of the Bulk Terrors trickling into the city from the outside and her mind was instantly jolted.

"Listen up. We need to split our forces. The Guild Master is outside the city walls and he needs our support. He's undoubtedly trying to keep all those beasts he flung out of the city outside but he can't do it alone. You guys keep up the progress here. I'll go get Natalika and others to assist me," Renialid said with an urgent tone.

She was met with nods of approval and acknowledgement but when she was about to set off...

"Wait..." Riyana suddenly said to which everyone turned to her.

As all the ladies stared at her, awaiting for a follow-up statement, the girl pointed over the patch of blue.

When the gazes turned towards the patch...

...!

Among the other blue plants, a strange looking one could be seen.

It was akin to flower yet to blossom, the sky blue petals covering up the fruit of the thing.

Its size was relative to that of a sunflower and as the girls looked, they saw it wiggle before it started to pour ooze from between the petals that began to unravel.

As they did, something fell out of their grasp.

Something shiny and spherical.

It rolled over the grass and was caught by Riyana who felt the chilling energy that it released, prompting her body to almost buckle down in a momentary lapse of self control!

This was.... an Enriching gem!

Renialid narrowed her eyes as a thought began building up within her mind.

Riyana who had saved herself from losing control also came to the same conclusion as when the two ladies looked at each other they couldn't help but see the concern in each others' eyes.

The implications of this were nothing short of terrifying.

\*\*\*

BOOOM! BOOOM!

As if an earthquake was occurring in the sky, rumbles echoed as another one of the falling masses were shredded into vastly smaller pieces of land that rained over Inhone City.

Only one remained now.

The threat overhead was finally seeing its end, but the battle was yet to end.

Still however, those fighting for their city could hardly feel as hopeless as they had before because the man who had delivered them from this crisis would probably end it all soon and thus morale was at an all time high!

"Left! Right! Duck! Up! Go on for the attack!"

A short distance from the entrance to the city, Damilla called out as she stood at the back where large corpses could be seen all over as well as chunks of flesh and organs.

Before her, a small group of Purity Knights were coordinating their attacks to fight against a rampaging Bulk Terror that would swing both its tentacles and its fists!

Silrat was also present in the mix as he would support whenever he could.

"Now!" the Diviner called to which Silrat saw the opening she was referring to, his arm becoming enveloped in a bulky layer of his Full Body Aura which was a few minutes away from cessation!

He launched himself up and cocked his fist while the Purity Knights continued to follow Damilla's directions to distract the beast as the Association Branch head pumped his fist atop the Bulk Terror's head!

Right before the impact, the Aura gathering over his arm swiftly flowed over to his fist, creating a bulged blue outline that he combined with his raw strength to hammer the creature's head!

BAAAAM!

Blood leaked from the creature's eye as it was momentarily disoriented and in that very moment, all the Purity Knights launched a synchronised attack, chopping away at its limbs and finally, its head!

Damilla breathed out a sigh.

She too was wrapped in her Fully Body which she had activated to save her mana from being stolen back in the underspace of the Guilds Association building.

In this state, it would be a little bit easier for her to divine on the fly by tapping into the flowing mana of her enemies in the air, vaguely discerning from it their next moves.

The more mana they leaked, the better the result would be as with this method, she eliminated the risk to her body and soul, the drawback being its difficulty to use.

She, Silrat and the Purity Knights had been assisting on this front after exiting the Association building and so far, the progress was increased after Unbreakable speed ran this portion of the city, likely so that everyone could finish quickly and take on the Terrors that had been 'escorted' outside by Tulnas.

"Let's go!" she called to the group as the party then rushed over to where the fighting was thickest.

Throngs of Bulk Terrors were faced with tens of mercenaries and Knights, their advance being pushed back and otherwise interchangeably.

Among the fighting parties, one could see a group of bulky, black armoured men mercilessly slaughtering the Bulk Terrors while another group with equal numbers of men and women split off continuously only to reassemble in a neat fashion as it quickly dispatched the Terrors a few at a time.

These were the EdgeKings and Ravenclad Guilds respectively.

Their strengths could be seen as they dealt with the threats but unfortunately, this wasn't true for the smaller Guilds.

The desperation as they struggled could be seen, their teeth grinding against each other while they sweated profusely, tens of them being needed to deal with a single Terror!

The fear and desire for help could be seen while hope seemed to want in every way for them.

The current party waded through the chaos with ease however, Silrat rushing up to Damilla, sweat and exhaustion palpable over his face.

"You look like you could die at any moment," Damilla remarked as she took a glance at the man.

"Yes, well, I'm not exactly the fighting type. I'm better suited for management," Silrat defended himself. "For someone like me to be fighting, a crisis will be short on combatants. What took Unbreakable so long? Isn't he supposed to be the ever ready Capital Service trump card for situations like this?"

Damilla huffed in a few breaths before rendering a reply.

"He is but while his technique allows him to regress into a younger body, he is still an unnaturally feeble old man before then. It takes a lot out of him to pull out his- Watch out!"

Damilla suddenly ducked followed by Silrat and the Purity Knights as a barbed tentacle raced over them with a horrendous force!

A large Bulk Terror screeched at them as it sped forward towards their location!

Along with it, tens more rushed them as they crushed the scattered rubble all over in a messy charge.

Damilla quickly heaved herself up as her eyes turned white.

"Get ready! Don't falter even for a moment!" she instructed as she prepared for a bitter fight along with her party.

As the tension grew thick, a millisecond existing between the clash of the these two groups, five creatures suddenly darted in between!

Damilla instantly halted and pulled back while instructing the rest to follow suit!

What on Aigas...?!

The five beasts that appeared between the two groups suddenly lunged at the frantic Bulk Terrors!

Flaming beasts they were, a flaring flame with a dark, hellish red hue scorching over their bodies as it fed on their flesh, the reaction creating nauseatingly thick fumes!

These creatures were also Bulk Terrors!

They looked particularly ravenous as they were set aflame, their tentacles immediately rushing out to attack their counterparts!

Surprisingly, they split up, one seeming to want a horde of the enemy Bulk Terrors all to itself which heavily confused the onlookers!

Of the five newly appeared creatures, one swung its flaming barbed tentacles without mercy to which the confused enemies tried to defend.

However, the moment the flaming tentacle touched the opposing Bulk Terror, the creature screeched as it was also set aflame!

Wildly enough, the flaming Terrors didn't wait to revel in the melody of their fellows' death throes nor for the others to catch on, as with their faster and stronger bodies, they made quick work of their enemies!

The fighting was brought to a momentary pause as everyone witnessed this!

"Grise, what's going on? What are those? Are they...on our side?"

"I... I don't know..."

"Has someone else showed up to help?"

All the participating Knights and mercenaries were dumbfounded at this development but quickly cast aside their many thoughts as they attacked their enemies.

Wasn't this the break they needed?!



These new arrivals were attacking their enemies!

"Terian?" Damilla questioned herself as she searched for the old man's energy signature but could not find it.

This wasn't his flame?

Then whose? And what skill was this?

Many wondered the same thing, particularly the large Guilds as they grew more cautious.

VWOOOOOSH!

From another direction, another flaming Terror appeared!

It had an especially larger build with an arm missing on its left shoulder.

As the flames consumed it, it frantically swished its tentacles destroying everything in sight while screeching weirdly, but from time to time, one could see it exhibiting the will to only target the non-aflame Bulk Terrors!

The most peculiar thing about this Bulk Terror in particular was how there was a large dark chain around its neck that extended behind it, rising up as it reached atop a crumbled mass of rock where a certain figure was firmly holding the chain with trembles of struggle!

As the Bulk Terror quickly wiped out tens of the enemies that everyone was facing, mercenaries and Knights alike followed the chain to where it led to, the figure of a large man in a creepy armour and.... a surprisingly, cool helm appearing in their sights!

At first, the sight was nothing short of terrifying but realisation set in a moment later for most.

Was this the man who caused this timely assist?

Of course, it was evident that this man was controlling this larger flaming Bulk Terror, so he had to be responsible for the others, right?!

It started with one naive-looking young man from a small Guild who donned a relieved smile as he then raised his sword.

"Come on! Someone else has appeared to help! Let's not waste this chance! Iyaaaa!"

Then someone else, as if affected by the positive funk followed after, giving morale to his team members who had been having a hard time before this!

"Yeah! Don't be scared! We must take on all the help we can get! Let's help the creepy Knight!"

"Y..yes! Fight on brothers!"

"This is our chance to save the city!"

"Let's help the dark Knight!"

"FIGHT! FIGHT!"

Soon, the atmosphere turned livid with burning morale and adrenaline.

The sight of the Knight as he held onto the chain with all his might while fidgeting so as to keep the flaming Bulk Terror in check inspired many.

The smaller Guilds felt the need to support this saviour as others even ran to try and help him pull the chain.

"HELP THE KNIGHT!"

"Pull the chain!"

This became the theme for the desperate.

Amidst this fervour that only seemed to be strongest with the small Guilds however, one short-haired woman looked at this armoured man whom many assumed to be a Knight with a pale face!

She choked on her words and her heart seemed to want to explode out of her chest from the sheer shock of seeing this figure!

"N..o... No....Stop..." she whispered as her breathing hastened, Silrat who was beside her looking to her with confusion.

As if seeing this dark figure wasn't enough, her Divination which had been scrambling for answers before, picked up a glimpse of a horrible future only seconds away.

But...

But....

It was already too late...

Chapter 328: In-Between Behemoths!

"Flesh me sideways..." Skullius muttered as he gripped the Chains of Damnation with all his might.

He could feel the impending doom that was a second away as he began wondering...

Why the flesh did this have to happen now?!

After using [Revenant Flames of Ecstasy] which had levelled up, the targets of the skill's conversion had increased from five to six and upon using it, he had managed to attain six powerful Bulk Terrors as his temporary allies!

Unfortunately, one of them which was a Tier 6 was particularly rowdy, as the effects of feeling pleasure through ecstasy and atrocious pain at the same time caused it to be harder to control!

Skullius had thus bound it with the Chains of Damnation while forcing it to go where he wanted as he couldn't afford to waste his skill usage.

Why, one would ask?

This was because for each Bulk Terror that his frenzied ones killed, he would gain the Experience for himself!

Damn it!

The Experience was even streaming in right now.

Damn it!

Skullius had even made an effort to change the state of his helmet in order to not freak out the humans just in case he ended up in a place swarmed by them.

This was something he had learned before his battle with Benzard back then when he had donned it for the first time but disregarded this method of changing the swirling design as he deemed it to be a hassle.

To make the swirling red holes that were over the face of his helmet stay still, vastly improving the helm's aesthetic, he had to chant a rather cringey line, a detail passed to him by the helmet itself into his mind when he wore it.

'Let mine sturdy heart which resides in the nothingness, in lifelessness, in the void, manifest a face a stone!' ...was the line.

Damn it!

With all this...

WHY?!

Skullius looked on ahead at the excited faces of numerous small-time mercenaries and their zeal as they approached his chains which would do nothing but cause them pain if they touched them!

He watched this scene as if in slow motion when...

"TYAAAAAAAAAAAAAK!"

"AUGGGGGGGGGGGH!"

"EEEEEEEEEEK!"

"SCREEEEEEEEEEEE!"

The collective cacophony of agony sounded from nearly 200 mercenaries as they all felt an overbearing force smash onto them as punishment for expressing their intent to assist their mysterious helper!

All these mercenaries at this moment felt their blood rush within their bodies as it then splashed from their eyes and mouth violently while they tried to keep it together.

Some rolled, some gripped their faces as they tore their skin in utterly unimaginable torment!

Others gnashed their teeth so hard that they shattered while others scratched the ground with their nails!

This scene caused everyone watching to come to a stop, humans and monsters alike as in this moment, they unconsciously paid respects to the presence of this power as they looked on at the pained victims who screamed or uttered incomprehensible words.

The final nail on the coffin, was when on the bodies of these people, their flesh began to sizzle and melt like hot ooze, flowing over their messy bones until not a human being was left, but a skeleton visibly showing despair.

Silence...

For a few moments no one said a thing.

What the actual f-

"Uh..."

Silrat's pale face said all of what he felt in this moment!

Terror and complete shock.

This was simply too terrifying and everyone around him shared this sentiment!

Beside him, Damilla was even more pale as she looked at the dark-armoured figure with her mouth agape.

She had seen a bit of what would happen before it actually happened a few seconds ago.

"That's... that's him.... The thing I saw back then...." she muttered in a small voice.

Silrat had already felt a sense of familiarity with this scenario as it had been explained to him before.

Damilla's words were the final straw that brought about the veracity of it all.

"The thing I saw.... when I divined Festos back then..." the Diviner continued to mutter.

Silrat plopped down as he contemplated deeply.

He and Tulnas had vastly underestimated what this curse was said to be.

This was dangerous!

Too dangerous!

Things could have gone horrible wrong!

He could see that now!

Over on the large rock, Skullius' socket flames behind the helm were flaring as he wondered about the consequences of this.

Literally everyone here had seen UNCoddled at work and while most couldn't tie to him, some could!

There was no way he was getting out of this unscathed!

'Damn it! I should at least get Experience whenever this happens!' he thought with begrudging tone.

Every time UNCoddled claimed a life, he wouldn't get any Experience or even a notification for Null Life Essence waiting to be reaped.

Nothing!

"Shit! What should I do no—"

BOOOOOOOOOOM!

Skullius suddenly felt an enormous pressure slam into him with an unparalleled violent force!

The land trembled as it shattered and broke apart causing the mercenaries and Knights who had been in a stupor to claim back their senses as they ran away, avoiding the caving in ground!

Silrat shook himself and grabbed Damilla as he leapt back to safety, his eyes remaining hinged on what was happening before him.

The massive swathes of thick dust hid a large crater in which a man with long dark hair and green eyes wore a ferocious expression as he pushed down the armoured head of Skullius' Penetrator form!

His body caused the surroundings to twist and bubble up with extreme mana-induced heat as the bright flash of the energy radiated from his body!

Skullius' socket flames flashed with a panicked flame as he hadn't expected this individual he had watched from afar while wondering who he was to suddenly pop up out of nowhere and pound him into the ground!

Terrifying!

This man ignored the effects of [The Forge] entirely as instead of him experiencing the hellscape somewhere where the Aegis of Damnation had been forged, his body was the one that was melting Skullius' armour simply by him exerting himself over the Penetrator's body!

'Shit! Bro, what are you?!' Skullius screamed in his mind.

"I sensed it from YOU! The evil that flooded out into the air to kill every single of those people who were fighting for the city! Who are you?!" the youthful yet authoritative voice of Unbreakable thundered against Skullius' skull, completely suppressing him!

The helm to his armour started to crack and melt as Unbreakable's hand scrunched up over it, peeling its side easily!

....!

'Shit! Shit! Shit!' Skullius thought as he hurriedly opened his hand, the light of mana flashing within it only to be replaced by the shine of Silentburn Levin which emitted no sound but struck with incredible speed at Unbreakable's chest!

It was the skill, [Ful Discharge], a concentrated streak of Silentburn Levin that was supposed to burn the target along with delivering 10% Serenity Damage!



The ground trembled on impact with sparks of Levin running along the crumbling walls of the crater yet...

Unbreakable was unscathed!

He ignored this attack as he ripped off a portion of the helm which revealed the Penetrator's face underneath!

....!

Unbreakable's green eyes opened wide in shock as he saw...

A glittering dark blue skull that constantly emitted small sparks of Levin!

"This....!"

What the...

'Is that...an undead?!' he thought with his mind spiralling into utter shock.

Where were all these weird creatures coming from?!

Before he could fully take in the shock of this find however, Unbreakable suddenly turned as he felt a familiar enormous presence flash behind him, a staggering amount of power gathering within it!

The purple creature, the evolved octo-humanoid with its rising tentacles appeared as it wielded its staff, its chest inflated as from somewhere behind the tentacles, a malicious outpour of pressurised air bombarded Unbreakable and Skullius!

WHOOOOOOSSSSHHH! VWOOOOOM!

A bright storm of concentrated air smashed into the two within the crater and went to cascade outwards in a massive exploding hurricane that wrecked everything in its path!

Most of those who looked on from a distance were slow to react and were blasted away gracelessly like limb feathers!

The mercenaries, Knights and Terrors alike flashed away a great distance from the force, the spot where this attack had originated being left as a clean and clear space devoid of anything but an even more massive crater!

The Cluster beast looked on with anxious eyes as before its view cleared, it already knew that its attack didn't work.

The vibrant presence of an unscathed Unbreakable was palpable as he held onto the figure of Skullius whose armour had taken immense amounts of damage from the wind attack!

The creature's tentacles became encased in a steady white glow that whistled dangerously, evidently being the shine of highly condensed wind!

The tentacles swung madly at Unbreakable who didn't move at all!

SHWAAA! SHWAAA! SHWAAA!

Sounds akin to glasses shattering near a sound amplifier echoed as these tentacles crashed into Unbreakable's body but...

No damage at all.

Each of these attacks caused the walls to the crater to explode on either side but did nothing to their actual target!

All Skullius could see in this battle was the rustling winds that obstructed much of his view as they tore apart the crust underneath.

His sockets flared as he focused his vision to see what was really happening.

His vision honed in on the purple creature he could barely see and the unclear object that it was wielding, his will activating the guidance field to identify what these things were.

First...

~~~

[Name : MaelStorm]

[Tier : 8]

[Core : Purple]

[Level : 1]

[Class : Mage]

[Race : Elder Totality Galemonger]

[Inv. Status : Wants some]

[Stats]

[Strength (II) : 90 (Empowered)]

[Agility (II) : 69 (Empowered)]

[Intelligence (II) : 55 (Empowered)]

[Endurance (II) : 78 (Empowered)]

[Luck : 38]

[Health : 51,340/51,340]

[Mana (II) : 350/350]

~~~

"Bro!" Skullius yelped in shock.

What kind of monstrosity was he up against?!

He had felt and seen some terrific energies before Unbreakable suddenly showed up but this was ridiculous!

That mana value!

That health!

That Tier!

The guidance field showed it with the double bars to identify this creature as a being that had condensed its stats an additional tenfold over the previous tenfold multiplier by the blue core!

The Penetrator couldn't even imagine how strong this thing truly was!

"I have to get out of here! This is way beyond what I can handle!"

These were Skullius' thoughts as his mind instantly opted to run away.

A purple cored Tier 8 creature?! That was ridiculous!

Thoughts of the many options he would have considered otherwise rushed away from him as he tried to pry Unbreakable's hand away while his gaze remained glued to the hazy purple image and what it held.

But then...

~~~

[Elimparidis Stone Staff]

<Legendary>

A staff made in the very depths of the spatially turbulent mountain at the very centre of the innermost island of a certain Cluster. The deadly and erratic waves of energy that constantly crash against cooled magma forged this staff which has a natural affinity towards a vast array of energies.

-Attack-

70,000-90,000

-Durability-

85,981/97,000

-Special Effects-

- +10,000 Absolute Conversion Mana
- Increases skill and natural ability proficiency and power by 300%

- Can store vast spaces [Dimensions] along with all living and non-living components dwelling within it.
- Absorbs excess energy emitted from the stored space [Dimension] to create charges which fuel the innate skills <Jump> and <Jolt Ray>.

[Skill: Jolt Ray]

A bright beam attack made of condensed and diluted spatial energies incorporated into mana capable of immense levels of destruction.

<Current available charges – 9/23>

[Skill: Jump]

A short range spatial displacement ability which maxes out at 500 meters from the user. Can be used on anything the user desires.

<Currently available charges – 5/12>

[Skill: Jagged Merger]

The staff merges with the user to grant an additional Absolute Conversion of 4,000 to Strength, Agility and Endurance. Usable once every three days.

-Caution-

All other skills excluding special effects are disabled when <Jagged Merger> is active.

Chapter 329: Take Down The Galemonger! (1)

Skullius gawked at the ridiculous attributes and skills of this Legendary grade natural treasure that was being wielded by the dreadful beast that he had been resolved to run away from just now!

The special effects of the staff alone were on a whole other level from many of the things he had seen so far and the skills....

The skills!

They were ridiculous!

[Jump] was particularly attractive to Skullius as the instant he understood its effect, he couldn't help but fantasise the sneaky destruction he would be capable of!

Teleportation over a distance of 500 meters was no joke for someone with the right mind for it!

[Jolt Ray] and [Jagged Merger] were ridiculous too and Skullius couldn't imagine what kind of power he would be able to use if he got his hands on that stuff!

He had yet to even see some of these skills in action but was already excited!

His bones rattled as he found himself truly wanting this staff!

They itched for him to get that treasure at all costs!

Against all odds!

Something that he had recently attained surged up once again as the Penetrator felt his will for self preservation and his will to trudge on clash against each other, but both being eclipsed by this sudden force which combined both for the ultimate benefit!

Confidence!

As someone who had survived an encounter with an Arch-Lich, he couldn't let his ability to try be undermined!

The Vehement Bone Nullmancer had to show boldness and audacity as the one the Voice of Worlds said would conquer kingdoms!

For now, he just had to find an opening to escape and then await for the slightest slip in the creature's movements.

He didn't need to overwhelm it or to even attempt to kill it before he acquired the staff!

This was doable!

Above the Penetrator, the mini-deadlock slash staredown finally ceased.

As the winds blasted against each other in a vicious storm, Unbreakable suddenly leaned over, his other hand outstretched as he gripped the Elder Totality Galemonger's tentacles, pulled the creature over to him and gave the octopus-like creature's bulbous head a chill-inducing head-butt!

A crisp sound echoed at this attack, the Galemonger's skin breaking apart as blood poured from the where it had collided with Unbreakable's noggin!

This was the second bloody bruise to its head and it seemed more brutal than the last!

The creature drew back as its mind spun but Unbreakable's hold remained firm over its tentacles!

The dark-haired man's body billowed with incredible power, his gaze falling firmly on the creature once again!

Traces of fear began to show in MaelStorm's slanted, slit-like eyes as he looked at the figure of the seemingly indestructible man it was pitted against!

How was this man so powerful when it had the same purple core as him with a natural treasure in tow to boot?!

Away from this visual clash, Skullius who saw Unbreakable's attention turn to the Galemonger immediately made his move!

[Guard Light]!

Skullius activated a skill that pushed out mana from his body in a bright flash that created a protective encasing which outlined his entire form!

The moment this skill manifested over his body, Unbreakable felt his hand being pushed away by the mass of protective light, relieving the Penetrator from the vastly overpowered man's hold by a mere inch!

As he felt the release, Skullius activated all the basic skills that formed his pseudo skill, 'Radiant Awakening' as well as [Artless Dodger] to move as fast as he could away from the human monster!

Unbreakable didn't turn his head or pay any heed to Skullius.

There was no place that this creature could escape to anyway.

He thus gave his full focus to MaelStorm who upon seeing Skullius' move made one of his own as he sensed Unbreakable's attention on him waver for half a moment!

Its [Jolt Ray] was ineffective against Unbreakable!

Its wind attacks were didn't work at all!

Nothing could break Unbreakable!

So, there was only one thing left in its arsenal to try!

[Jagged Merger]!

A burst of wind spun around the creature as it activated this skill from the staff.

Unbreakable narrowed his eyes and immediately drew back a distance as he felt the strange tangling of energies from the staff and the Galemonger.

'Its wind attacks...' Unbreakable thought. 'From being able to draw mana and air into its body, to expelling the air as pressured pulses capable of... this much destruction. That's all its capable of. But...

it seems like it has another card up its sleeve...'

Unbreakable watched the Elimparidis Stone Staff turned into an illusory outline that glowed with a reddish light, the whole thing then swiftly sinking into the body of the Galemonger!

An immediate visual effect over MaelStorm registered within the sights of both Skullius and Unbreakable in the next moment.

The tall and purple creature with its floating tentacles suddenly buffed up, its body turning bigger and more muscular with a rising surge in its mana and general presence!

Glowing red cracks started to appear over its body; over the arms and legs and some over its face as with their appearance, it emitted a roar of immense pain!

Billowing winds raged around the creature as it screeched madly, Unbreakable creasing his brow as he shot forward, not giving the Cluster beast a chance to complete whatever it was doing!

His powerful body appeared before the Galemonger, his dark hair that arched with crackling waves of condensed mana swaying every which way, signalling his intent to kill in a singular blow!

Unbreakable threw an uppercut right where the MaelStorm's tentacles began on its face, his punch bearing a sharp force that caused the creature's skin to ripple intensely while the surroundings were flattened and scattered with a heated ignition!

BOOM!

This time however, the Galemonger didn't fly off from the force!

It bled from behind the tentacles, but it didn't look as pained or hurt, as it merely staggered.

'It's become sturdier...' Unbreakable thought with the wrinkling of his facial skin.

His opponent's eyes turned into crescents as it revealed its glee, its arms shooting with an incredible speed as it grabbed ahold of Unbreakable's wrists, cocked its head back and smashed it into the dark-haired man's face after a set of after-images!

The impact was ridiculous as it prompted Skullius to block the ferocious winds that came of it by crossing his arms!

Much like the Galemonger had not accrued much damage from getting hit by Unbreakable however, the dark-haired man was the same, except he didn't accrue any damage at all!

He simply glared at the Cluster beast with sharp eyes!

MaelStorm grunted and sucked in a deep breath with a grating wheeze that resounded within a large range!

The air was pulled on with a horrendous suction, the mana also falling prey to this effect!

The draw exerted itself upon Skullius and he found the mana in his core seeping out in vast amounts at a ridiculous rate!

...!

'The hell?!' the Penetrator felt his mana being drawn on with him being able to do absolutely nothing about it!

The same thing occurred with Unbreakable as he felt his mana being pulled from his core but a vastly slower rate than anyone else!

This natural ability again!

It was a perfect fit for a monster as unlike humans, they could level up and evolve without restrictions which made their environments mostly wild as it was a kill or be killed situation.

For humans who had to face Tasks and Trials, the prospect of going around killing each other for cumulative mana experience was beyond them as it wouldn't matter how much mana experience they had if they couldn't pass a Task or Trial.

Just because of this creature's ability, Unbreakable knew that if it was left unchecked, it could evolve extremely quickly and become a real threat!

Thus, the Galemonger had to be killed.

'I put half of my strength into that latest punch... My damage output while I'm holding back isn't enough to bring it down unless we fight for hours. Unfortunately, my technique can't last that long... If I use my full strength while on the ground, I might kill everyone in the city. I need support...' the man thought as his gaze turned to Skullius who was a distance away, standing like a statue.

The Penetrator noticed this piercing gaze and grew vigilant while shaking himself of the apprehension that came with him being unable to stop his mana from leaking towards the Cluster beast.

"You're the one who helped with that lightning from the sky, right?" a voice travelled with the wind over to Skullius.

Skullius shuddered as he knew it came from Unbreakable.

What was the significance of answering this question?

The Penetrator paused for a bit before nodding.

"Then let me employ your help to take down this thing..."

Chapter 330: Take Down The Galemonger! (2)

There were several reasons for why Unbreakable was asking Skullius for help.

This might have seemed contradictory when considering he could see the Penetrator's appearance from where he had torn off the side of the creature's helmet but the man had considered a lot of things since that moment.

One was that Skullius didn't emit any evil presence. Heck, the bastard didn't even have a presence to begin with. It was as if he wasn't there when he used the senses outside his sight.

Of course this could be debunked easily but it wasn't the only thing. The skeleton had Levin running along his bony body, which he saw as lightning, something he couldn't exactly tie to undead as he knew them.

The last thing was that this skeleton had actually helped in saving the city with that lightning move that obliterated two chunks of the massive island.

This thing had also gone on to assist the mercenaries in cutting down some of the Bulk Terrors with a peculiar skill before the evil presence had suddenly gushed from him and killed hundreds.

All this culminated into the man's latest thoughts.

He didn't think that this thing was an ally as such, but it definitely had a reason for mitigating damage to the city and he appealed to that reason.

Whatever happened later could happen, but first, the Galemonger had to be dealt with.

Skullius cocked his head in confusion. With how everything was going, he didn't expect to be blasted with such an unexpected call.

'Me? Help? Isn't this guy mad at me for killing all those mercenaries?' the Penetrator questioned himself. 'Does this bastard even need my help? I barely have mana to do anything anyway!'

Skullius wanted to pose this question to Unbreakable but he didn't know how as he couldn't transport his voice through the air.

As he was about to issue a reply regardless of whether or not the dark haired man could hear or not, a shot of blistering heat dropped from the sky in the form of a massive flaming arrow that flared with a bright white light onto the Galemonger!

BWOOOOM!

The purple creature was enveloped in the fire, its hands letting go of Unbreakable who promptly retreated back.

At the same time, the massive pull on all air and mana was cut off, relieving both the atmosphere and Skullius who felt within his core to discover that he barely had any mana remaining but still showed calmness in his four socket flames.

Behind the roaring flames that towered over three meters, twisting like a tornado as they engulfed MaelStorm, a robed figure appeared with his aged face showing a stern face saturated with focus and killing intent!

The Hawk of Conflagration above him steadily flapped its wings as it called out loudly.

The old man pulled back his right sleeve and sank his hand into the roaring flames as the air then shuddered, a horrendous force of mana pouring from Terian as it gathered on his hand that touched the back of the Galemonger within the fire!

VWUUUUUOOSH!

A jet-like stream of white fire blasted from Terian's hand in a concentrated manner, firing in a straight line!

The stream of flame melted everything in its path while leaving a trail of nothing but smoke and molten rock, an intense vibration shaking the area many times over!

Skullius looked at this with flaring socket flames full of both excitement and anxiety!

The ray of flame made everything appear dark while highlighting only what it scorched!

When it ended, Terian retreated to where Unbreakable was standing while waving his hand which emitted smoke and steam with a slight glow of red.

The cooked dust and thick smoke was a testament to the amount of power released but none of the two men were shocked when a wave of concentrated air blew outwards to reveal the unscathed Galemonger.

Terian sighed.

"I knew this wouldn't kill it but... to think that there's not even a scratch..." he said in exaggerated exasperation.

"This creature is sturdy. It absorbed the staff it was using to get a boost to its physicality," Unbreakable explained, his eyes not leaving the creature.

"I see. And here I thought I'd seen the worst of it. It evolved when I was fighting against it. It has a troublesome natural ability. For it to have such power, it probably wandered out of a powerful Cluster. That brat was probably right."

Unbreakable clicked his tongue.

Terian then turned to the oddly armoured man behind, seeing the appearance behind the helm. His eyes almost popped out of his sockets and he was about to ask when...

"Don't worry about that for now," Unbreakable instructed to which Terian reluctantly let go of the matter. Unbreakable could probably handle it if he said so.

As he took a few moments to recover his mind to the current issue, he then posed a question.

"You truly can't beat this thing with your full strength?" he asked, referring to the Galemonger.

Somehow, this question bit Unbreakable where it hurt, momentarily shattering his ever focused visage and he did his best to provide an objective answer.

"If I use my Full Body Aura I could best it but just one of my attacks in that state could eradicate the city. We can get this thing far away or high up but with its new powers, I wasn't sure I could do that on my own as my speed...well... isn't anything special, even when factoring in my Full Body Aura."

"It carries itself like a Mage even though it doesn't have many tricks up its sleeve beyond wind projectiles. I assume the Teleportation is an aspect of its staff which it may or may not be able to use in this new state. That would make this fight harder than it needs to be."

Terian nodded.

"Then that's tricky. My own spatial manipulation can't get us beyond 70 meters so the option of pulling it out of the city is off the board. It's a. Then I suppose..." the old man said as he cocked his right sleeve again, making sure it wouldn't untuck itself again.

The air cracked like a whip as an ferocious orange flame flared over it with a rising intensity.

"We'll have to steadily damage it over time..." Unbreakable finished Terian's sentence as his body bubbled with a powerful force of mana.

At the same time that they took this stance, the Galemonger locked both of its arms as mana poured from its body.

Vicious winds blew around it in this open space and the creature with ferocity as they formed three partially visible rings around it that spun protectively.

'Hmmm... is it learning new tricks from its new evolution?' Terian thought.

Unbreakable narrowed his eyes in suspicion as well, but this wasn't going to stop him and the old man from attacking as in the next moment, the two shot forward, reaching the Galemonger before Skullius could fruitlessly try to blink!

Terian went high as his flaming fist flew in a hook towards the side of the creature's face while burning the air!

Unbreakable's cheeks became inflated as he drew in air and went for a low sweep to knock the creature down, his leg resisting the immense opposing force in the air which intended to reduce his momentum!

Shockingly, the Galemonger was not overwhelmed in the least by the sudden attack, and with the same amount of agility as its foes, or perhaps higher, it drew in the rings of air towards itself and then expelled them outwards before Terian's fist could touch its head!

The old man felt all the momentum he had built up get resisted by the winds which generated a massive flow that pushed against his figure!

Yet this wasn't all as the old man found tens of marble-like objects streaking through this wind as they barrelled against him, all igniting the moment they reached within close proximity of Terian!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Explosions ensued, the flames being fuelled by the steady flow of air as they blazed around Terian!

The Galemonger then quickly exerted strength into its foot before Unbreakable could knock it down and smashed its fist towards the man's face as he approached from below!

...!

Unbreakable felt as if he had struck an immovable surface but he didn't dwell on it, as he brought his hands together to guard against the incoming punch!

As the fist descended however, Terian's figure appeared on the Galemonger's other side with his flaming fist smashing squarely into the creature's face!

BOOM!

A crisp impact along with the explosion of flames roared on the Galemonger's face as its fist's strength died down!

At the same time, Unbreakable gripped the tentacles belonging to the creature and pulled hard as he cocked his fist, intent on flinging a deadly punch to keep the flow of attacks going!

Skullius watched this was in awe!

This monster was being beaten regardless of what tactics it used.

Would this battle be over soon then?

Would get a chance to nab that staff?

Did he need to act now and use his all or nothing move to risk it all?

Damn it! Terian's entrance had flashed up his plans!

As Skullius began to anticipate what would happen next and how it would affect his next moves, something interrupted his thoughts!

A massive purple glow suddenly appeared behind the Galemonger in the form a large eye that trembled as it looked at the octo-humanoid's enemies!