

Undead 331

Chapter 331: Take Down The Galemonger! (3)

Outside Inhone City.

A massive sea of sand stood between Inhone City's entrance and a literally flood of Bulk Terrors that rushed with a genuine craze and desire to tear apart everything within the city!

The sand swirled at the centre like a whirlpool, tens of Terrors being captured as they failed to escape from this sinking trap!

These Terrors were being stormed by attacks from mercenaries that stood atop the wall to the city, using long range attacks of different kinds!

Joining in on the sand would be suicide for these people as they all recognised that the tide of Terrors was being kept out by Tulnas' efforts and thus he wouldn't be bothered to save them if they rushed in to engage with the enemy over his sand!

The horde of creatures that successfully raced with their overwhelming strength through the thick sands were faced with a large sand bear that swatted them down into the sand sea to inhibit their crossing over to the other side, limiting the number that even reached the whirlpool!

As if all this wasn't enough, up above, a sea of water could be seen, covering just as much of an area as the sea of sand!

A massive elephant could be see floating upside down under this sea as its luminous eyes gazed menacingly at the many enemies!

Thousands of sharpened and mana-saturated ice shards would streak from the sea, storming towards the tentacled bastards, aiming for their vitals and for specific spots were Tulnas instructed.

All this said, one would wonder where the Tamer was in all this.

The answer?

He was headed into the thick of approaching Bulk Terrors after much of them had been disoriented by the rain of attacks!

The man donned a full set of heavy sand armour in a berserker style, making him look twice as big as he actually was.

In both hands, Tulnas wielded two large swords made of hard, clear ice with razor sharp edges to maximise their slashing damage!

With the weight of both these weapons in addition to the armour, it would be difficult for Tulnas in his base state to maintain his attack and movement speed.

Thus, the additional strength was supplemented by his dear friend, the Grinning Jester Fox which he affectionately named Ergin against its will.

The Tamer darted over towards his enemies with immense speed, condensed mana wrapping around his weapons in order to strengthen them as they clashed against dozens of tentacles and slashed against thick layers of flesh that resisted amateur cutting techniques!

His movements were incredible and massively more destructive as with his mind sending instruction to Bradd and Alphonse to launch specific attacks that would create openings for him, he made quick work of most of the enemies.

His battle prowess at this moment was vastly different from what he showed during the expedition to solve the issue Cluster situation because back then, he had been fully expecting to use his False Territory, and thus had limited his tamed beasts' activity to save their energy.

Without such a worry at this moment as he knew Terian and Unbreakable were in the city, he went all out to commit to his role now.

Unfortunately, there was only so much he could do about the Bulk Terrors that had invaded before Bradd could erect a large enough sand sea but still... he had held his ground quite well.

Tulnas turned his head as he drew back, feeling and hearing rumbles back in the city as well as.... a familiar energy.

'Primus...?'

His eyes as he looked back saw two figures who flashed over the sand, moving with super light steps as they reached his position in a few seconds.

"Master..."

"Guild Master... You need some help?"

Tulnas grinned behind the armour.

"Natalika, Renia..." the Tamer smirked at the two who instantly prepared for battle.

Unfortunately, he didn't have much time to indulge them in pleasantries as the flood of enemies once again stormed towards them.

"Not the celebration I had in mind, but it'll do..." Tulnas said as he stormed ahead, but a small portion of his mind kept pondering over that familiar energy signature he had felt from within the city.

Was it anything significant?

As the purple eyes emerged behind the Galemonger, everyone involved felt greatly unsettled as the energy it released was extremely thick, almost causing Unbreakable and Terian to collapse as they momentarily lost feeling in their knees!

Terian immediately recognised this from Tulnas' report.

The purple eye!

Primus energy!

Skullius was even more rattled by this because unlike Terian, he had a definitive reference point from back then and could tell that this was vastly different from the Primus that was released by the Devouring Lantern Alpha Wolf or the Ghouls or carp!

This was on a whole other level!

'Right! The guidance field said it was Empowered! I was so surprised by its stats that I overlooked it! It's just like the others! It will probably get stronger now!' Skullius thought as he backed away even further.

The flames that had engulfed MaelStorm's head died down and mana poured from the Galemonger as it seemed to prepare to use some high level application of its wind!

The Galemonger's eyes flashed with a dangerous light as it stretched out its hands, a thick dome of gusty winds suddenly appearing around it, Terian and Unbreakable!

The dome covered a vast distance as it went to even catch Skullius within it before the Penetrator could react!

...!

"Damn it!" Skullius cursed.

On the other side, Unbreakable sensed the intricacies of this dome that he was in and as he looked at the Galemonger to see it looking particularly pleased, he knew that this was going to be different!

This was dangerous!

This could even be troublesome for him!

And if it was dangerous for him then...

He looked to Terian before he darted towards the old man but the thick winds seemed to battle against his agility, slowing him down severely!

He wasn't sure the old man's simplistic Genuine Incarnation could handle this attack that, if he was not mistaken, steadily trudged over the shore of the Super, from the mere Special application of mana!

Indeed!

Something at the level of a Super skill!

He wasn't sure what this thing planned to do exactly but...

As he raced forward, the Penetrator behind them all fumbled over many of his thoughts as he felt the impending doom!

'Damn it! I was too relaxed! I didn't see this coming...!' he thought as he panicked but quickly tried to compose himself.

This was it!

It seemed it was now or never.

The 'perfect' moment to strike he thought he would get seemingly didn't exist here and he had to make his move now!

Gambling on a not-guaranteed way to escape death. This wasn't new to Skullius however as all he could do was try.

His socket flames flared.

He grabbed onto the confidence he still felt brimming within him in this trying situation where someone like him shouldn't even be!

Therefore, in typical star-of-the-play fashion, Skullius said a line that was both typical and atypical at the same time.

One that he spoke while his non-existent heart beat like a drum, the tension getting to him even as he tried to muster his confidence for a cool facade.

"I didn't think I'd have to use this so soon..." he said as he linked his mind somewhere.

Milliseconds later...

VWUUUUUM!

A sound akin to a bunch of electronic noises mashed together sounded as the dome of gusty winds brightened up with immense levels of mana bellowing over with a bright flash of light illuminating the area!

No explosion cascaded, blowing everything up as the only thing that was meant to occur next was the TOTAL erasure of all things caught up in the dome of wind!

Wind, dust, flesh, bone and even mana itself!

The only decorum for the skill activation were the sparks of lightning that resulted from the collision of highly condensed and rapidly moving wind!

In the next moment, the dome of wind vanished as if it had never existed before.

Over the ground it had appeared, a crater in the exact same shape appeared!

The ground had been eaten up instantly!

What was revealed to be left was the figure of the Galemonger which showed immense joy through its crescent shaped eyes as it dropped to the bottom of the crater, the ground it had stood on having been erased.

The other... was the figure of Terian, the radiant figure of the Hawk of Conflagration above him being reduce to nothing but a violently torn distorted neon light while he... was left as a bloody body with more than half of his flesh missing from his body!

It was unsightly!

It was grotesque!

It had all happened so fast that perhaps, he hadn't even managed to make a sound yet!

A covering of condensed mana remained over this pitiful figure, showing what had been Unbreakable's attempt to save the old man!

The dark haired man himself was also dropping to the bottom of the perfectly carved crater underneath, his state being much better... as only a few bloody bruises could be seen over his body!

Indeed!

Something had finally damaged him!

It took this much power to simply cause bruises over his body!

The Galemonger was pleased that it was finally making progress with this seemingly undamageable bastard but its glee ceased when it saw a third figure... who was unscathed altogether!

...!

Unbreakable who had been devastated at seeing Terian's state turned behind him, feeling the outrageous fluctuations of mana that seemed endless - as if they didn't have an end at all!

Or was it because it was just a vastly concentrated pool of power that gave the illusion of being endless?!

Regardless of what it was, a guidance field notification was showing in the vision of this figure at this very moment, detailing who and what he was.

[Congratulations! You have forged your first 'Bringer of All' by assimilating with the Apostle '...' and using the skill 'Mana Force' as a base!]

[A wrathful being with immense power and countless possibilities for growth has been born]

[Variant and combinations saved]

[You are... Ogwulf the Limitless]

Chapter 332: Bringer of All

Moments ago...

The Limitless Body Null Demon Hound had been in the midst of killing its 59th Bulk Terror when it suddenly felt a tug from somewhere.

Its master was calling.

No.

It wasn't just its master. It was a skill that its master was casting and in this very moment, a command flowed into its head.

At this same time, Red Rage who had just been knocked away by a punch from a Bulk Terror screeched to a halt in mid-air.

"Hmm?"

A mental message gave him a clear instruction, coming from Skullius.

'Give me all your mana and Null Life Essence...' the message said.

The two Apostles immediately complied, sending all their mana and Null Life Essence, even though Skullius didn't need it all.

As a result, only that which was needed was taken as the rest remained with the two Apostles, something incredible back where the command for the need for mana and Null Life Essence had come from!

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Present time...

Unbreakable and MaelStorm looked with surprised eyes to see a unique individual who stood with an air of abundant mana and confidence after coming out of the latest ridiculous attack without a scratch.

It was a tall individual, roughly 2,7 meters tall with a bulky build and a humanoid appearance.

He had a stern face with a standard masculine structure, above a button nose and ideal lips, two glowing sockets with extraordinarily bright whitish blue lights being seen instead of eyeballs.

Above his head, a brown hide with glowing symbols fashioned by the head of a wolf could be made out as it extended over to his broad shoulders that then cascaded down into bare large, muscular arms!

Around these arms, thick dark chains tightly wrapped around them from the wrist to the elbow, his bare chest having swollen chest pads and abs at the abdomen where a strange light constantly pulsed.

Another brown hide could be seen around his waist, complementing the pair of black tight metallic pants that he wore along with dark greaves with similarly dark chains around them as well.

This figure radiated visible waves of mana in a large radius, the air twisting with white swirls that surrounded him in his sturdy stance.

Who the heck was this?

Where had the skeleton gone?

What was this majestic figure who made the two powerhouses pause to take in his appearance?

Well...

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[ Name : Ogwulf the Limitless ]

[ Tier : ??? ]

[ Level : 1 ]

[ Core : White ]

[ Race : Bringer of All ]

[ Inv. Status : Doomed x2, Cursed ]

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[ Stats ]

[ Strength : Dependent on mana ]

[ Agility : Dependent on mana ]

[ Intelligence : Dependent on mana ]

[ Endurance : Dependent on mana ]

[ Luck : Atrocious? (Still hasn't changed, bud) ]

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[ Health : Dependent on mana ]

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[ Mana : Indefinite ]

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[ Null Life Essence : 4450/9000 ]

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[Skills]

[<Skullius>]

....

[Skills]

[<Apostle '...'>]

....

[Skills]

[<Mana Force>]

[Greatest Manamation | Lv.1]

[Greatest Manakinesis | Lv.1]

[Greatest Manamorphosis | Lv.1]

[Greatest Manaosis | Lv.1]

[Greatest Manaliths | Lv.1]

[Greatest Manabend | Lv. 1]

[Manabound Manalific Martial Art | Lv. 1]

...

...

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The skill [Bringer of All] had finally been used!

The Null Life Class skill that had only been unlocked when Skullius had achieved Tier 1 in the Labyrinth had finally found a spot to shine!

With 5000 points of both mana and Null Life Essence, Skullius could combine himself with one of his Apostles using any non-Null Life skill as a base to create a variant of creatures known as a Bringer of All.

One of the countless possibilities of this skill was this current buff creature that had been formed.

Ogwulf the Limitless.

Its disposition was clearly different from both Skullius and his Apostle but it was the combination of both these two entities and all their abilities as well as features.

Ogwulf's luminous sockets gazed at Unbreakable and the Galemonger before they turned to the bloody figure of the trembling and quivering Terian in this massive, perfectly carved out ditch.

He raised his large hand which was marred with thick, tough muscles which were not actually made of flesh but countless Unliving Threads with a sandy colour to imitate skin and formed a claw gesture!

Billows of thick bright mana coagulated around his wrist and fingers as he extended his hand towards Terian and then...

...!

Unbreakable was shocked to see a bright covering of mana envelop the old man and with an insanely quick motion, Terian was pulled over towards Ogwulf!

This was... Manakinesis!

An incredibly concise manipulation of mana to move objects at will using this energy!

Ogwulf set down Terian who was hardly aware of what was going on, what with him being at death's door and all.

He wore a grin as his luminous eyes highlighted Terian's body, crouching down to touch the man's chest.

He opened his mouth, an eerily deep voice saturated with authority and nonchalance flushing out.

"Don't die yet, old man. I have plans for you."

An lively yet invisible energy gushed into Terian's body from Ogwulf's hand, healing all his fatal wounds in a single moment!

[Luminous Healing]!

The old man found his body, while mostly naked to be fully recovered!

His torn skin and profusely bleeding flesh had been healed, becoming as good as new!

Terian's mouth went agape as he felt over himself but Ogwulf didn't pay him any more attention.

He merely turned to Unbreakable who was gawking at what he had done in shock and did something else that gobsmailed everyone who was watching.

The Bringer of All suddenly turned into a stream of mana that shot over to right beside Unbreakable!

Was this Manamorphosis?!

The stream of mana, upon reaching the man rematerialized into Ogwulf who gave his languid and bright gaze to the dark-haired man before speaking in a commanding tone.

"Listen carefully, Freak bro. I won't say this twice. When I say 'Limbo', attack that thing with everything you've got," Ogwulf ordered.

"W...what?" Unbreakable couldn't process this quite well after witnessing everything that he had just seen.

Ogwulf didn't repeat himself however, as he went on extend his hand in the direction of the Galemonger that hurriedly clutched its hands, the rings of wind re-emerging around it.

The Bringer of All scoffed as he thought to himself, 'What an idiot.'

"Limbo," he said out loud while activating a skill at the same time. On he hadn't used in a very long time.

[Static Limbo]!

A skill that trapped its targets at the corridor of life and death, the duration of this skill depending on the disparity of strength between the user and the target.

[You have activated the skill 'Static Limbo'. The target has been afflicted by Serenity. Due to the level and Tier difference, effect lasts for 1 second]

1 second!

This not only showed how powerful the Galemonger was but also how powerful Ogwulf was to even have the skill work despite the gap in strength!

A hazy blue light that only Ogwulf could see wrapped around MaelStorm and in the next moment, the Cluster beast was stuck in place while its eyes turned into a shade of light blue, its skin becoming grey!

It had been successfully afflicted!

Unbreakable noticed this change and the gears in his brain spun as he didn't hesitate any further!

This was it right?

The purple eye behind the Galemonger continued to look this way and that as if it couldn't believe what was happening but there was nothing it could do.

Unbreakable launched forward like a fleeting spirit and enacted once again his previous not-so-successful attack, an upward hook to the Galemonger's head!

He struck with a little more power than last time to extend the damage while limiting his strength to not cause excessive destruction!

A rippling shockwave madly crashed against everything in the vicinity!

Unbreakable wasn't done however, as he saw the Galemonger not giving any reaction except an unconscious pour of blood from behind its tentacles!

Whatever that bizarre man with the hide who called him a freak had done was too good of an opportunity to miss!

Unbreakable raised his hands and interlocked all ten of his fingers before bringing down his two hands to smash the Galemonger's head in!

BOOM!

As if one cataclysmic explosion of force wasn't enough, a second one ensued!

Ogwulf transformed into a steam of mana once again as he rose up, the energy that formed him coalescing into a white outline of his face as he grinned!

"Good!" he called.

The Galemonger suddenly came back to its senses, its skin and eyes retaining their original colour as it then screeched in pain!

What was going on?!

What had happened to it?!

It looked utterly confused and so was the bulging eye behind it!

The Cluster beast saw Unbreakable before it fling another mad fist and it grew furious, its hand which had a glowing lining of cracks catching the man's punch before it could reach!

Its slanted eyes glowed with rage as a sphere of rushing wind started to coalesce around it in an unnaturally bright hue!

Unbreakable recognised this immediately as he knew that danger was coming!

This again?!



This skill that had managed to damage him before!

If it was used several more times...

WAAA!

A bright flash lit from somewhere else, contesting with MaelStorm's own skill activation!

What was this now?!

Another surprise?!

Before the Galemonger could cast its terrifying skill, it was interrupted!

The second flash of light, which was not wind but mana surrounded the entire space!

Both fighters turned to the source and found a grinning fully materialised Ogwulf who released this mass of mana!

"You know you want to!" Ogwulf bellowed as he glared at the Galemonger as if it was an idiot!

The creature as it saw the flood of mana felt its instincts kicking in forcibly!

All this mana.

Freely flowing in the air without any use!

What was stopping it from taking it all!

Having the energy teasing its skin like this... it couldn't possibly resist!

Right then, the Cluster beast drew in a long breath, an unsettling wheeze echoing with the action as mana and air were drawn in!

"What an idiot!" Ogwulf yelled with a condescending guffaw, his hand raising as he activated another skill while completely disregarding its cost!

[Greatest Manamation]!

Chapter 333: My Core!

One would wonder why Skullius had chosen the [Mana Force] skill to use for [Bringer of All] when he knew that this would potentially lead him to be a big target for the Galemonger's ability which he had experienced earlier.

Well, the Penetrator hadn't been too hinged on how all his mana would be sucked out like before but on the fact that potentially, he could have more mana to use if he used this skill as the base.

Of course, he had no experience with [Bringer of All] and this was his first time using it but he didn't see the use in using any other skills which didn't supplement for the potential mana loss.

To his rarely seen fortune, the Penetrator had ended up becoming a powerhouse with an unfathomable assortment of mana related skills along with an indefinite amount of mana!

This along with all of his and the Limitless Null Demon Hound's skills, he clearly was the same Tier 1 Penetrator!

As soon as MaelStorm took in a breath to suck in all the mana he had released in bulk, Ogwulf grinned as he activated [Greatest Manamation]!

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[Greatest Manamation | Lv.1]

With the abundant mana available, create 10 mana clones of yourself that have a few basic skills from the original and/or sub-skills created from the vast pool of the user's arsenal.

<Clones have the following skills – Size Regulation, Manassault, Elevated Mana Manipulation, Manamorphosis...>

Mana Requirements: N/A

Duration: ---

Cooldown: ---

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The mana that gushed out of Ogwulf condensed to form ten whitish blue figures that looked identical to him, their appearance causing the air to shudder!

With the Galemonger taking a deep breath, these clones immediately used [Manamorphosis] to turn into streams of mana that raced along, joining in on the suction fun!

They flowed quickly, as along with the mass of mana that Ogwulf had released, they also travelled into the body of the Cluster beast!

The original Ogwulf guffawed from the distance with a cheery grin.

'This is already over!' he thought as he raced ahead in his mana form that amplified his speed and materialised right in front of the Galemonger where Unbreakable was tussling with it!

The creature noticed his arrival and shoved Unbreakable away with its great strength, considering this new arrival as a much more terrifying threat as even now as it drew in mana from all available sources, this beastly man wasn't fazed at all!

Also, he wasn't even concerned about the quick outflow of mana at all!

The purple eye behind the Galemonger constricted, keeping its focus on the Bringer of All.

Ogwulf turned to the dark-haired man at his side who looked torn for what to do.

"Freak bro, take this thing's attention for a bit. If you follow my instructions we'll finish it within the next minute," Ogwulf said to which Unbreakable couldn't help but feel annoyed and yet couldn't find the time to dispute as nothing he could think of could deny that this strange...creature, knew what it was doing.

The Galemonger flung a terrible blow at Ogwulf who obviously couldn't handle it or react to it, Unbreakable being a second too late to block the blow for the Bringer of All!

BOOOM!

As the fist connected with Ogwulf the Limitless' upper torso, the entire portion of his body blew up as if denoted by a bomb!

This strength of the punch released could easily equal the strength from Unbreakable's hook a few moments ago!

Unbreakable was shaken at first and the Galemonger had even narrowed its eyes in triumph, but then....

Thousands of Unliving Threads with a sandy hue emerged from the pulsing red symbol at the belly of Ogwulf as they twisted and weaved to reform the torso perfectly!

MaelStorm and Unbreakable were equally shocked by this!

What the heck was this man... or creature made out of?!

He could transform into mana and now...this?!

The Unliving Thread was a feature of Skullius' latest Apostle, partially sentient matter that could be used to forge a great range of items along with having a vast variety of traits over it.

For instance, the Limitless Body Null Demon Hound currently had the Demon Thread, the extra trait of which was consolidating the body of the user by a large margin, usually at a range of up to 50%.

Ogwulf chuckled in his own mind.

The blow he had just received had actually done some immense damage to the skeletal structure below the Unliving Threads forming his skin!

Unfortunately, he couldn't reforge the bones fast enough with the Threads nor with the green light from [Lanterns of the Pure] as this was what he had used to survive being caught up with that deadly wind attack from the Galemonger!

Frankly, he couldn't allow that attack to be used again!

At all costs!

As the Unliving Thread reformed Ogwulf's body, the Bringer of All grinned, hiding his thoughts as he launched an attack at the Galemonger!

The creature prepared to defend, but this time, Unbreakable gripped its arm and sank his knee into its side with a ferocious force!

He did his best to take the thing's attention while hoping that this 'ally' could actually help!

The Galemonger groaned in pain, leaving itself wide open for Ogwulf who extended his hand with great speed towards its exposed abdomen, his fingers lighting up with mana as they then drew a complex construct on the creature's skin that had an instantaneous effect!

The Galemonger suddenly screamed as blood flew out from behind its face tentacles, the mana in its body starting to move erratically!

Somehow...

Somehow... its mana core was quivering dangerously, irregularly distributing mana through the channels that led from it!

While they were channels in the body for food, blood and air, there were also channels for mana to pass through, linking to all essential organs or at least the organs relevant to relevant collective organs.

These channels were supposed to distribute mana at a fixed rate but when the flow changed, sometimes massive amounts gushing out at a time, it wasn't impossible for something...unfortunate to occur!

The damage that was occurring within the body of the Galemonger was insanely disorienting and distracting and with this it was fed a few more attacks from Unbreakable!

What was this?!

What was going on?!

What kind of bullshit skill was this?!

Chapter 334: Perfect Game!

Ogwulf narrowed his eyes as he looked at the results of his attack.

It was barely an attack as this skill he had used was still too complex for him to have fully grasped right after spawning.

'A purple core is harder to manipulate with the Manabound Martial Arts? Interesting,' he thought as he watched the creature screech horribly.

The Manabound Manalific Martial Arts allowed the user to freely control the flow of mana in the opponent's core provided they managed to establish physical contact, though the effect depended on the degree of mastery as well the core of the target!

The fact that this skill was still level 1, coupled with how the opponent's core was purple made sure the effect left much to be desired.

'No matter. I didn't intend to end you like this anyway. You may be an idiot but you're strong. None of my attacks can kill you. However, my creations ought to have been exempted from your core's pull already. Now, the next step begins!' Ogwulf thought as malice bubbled in his mind.

The Galemonger that was constantly experiencing things other than the usual fire and fist flew into a rage as dozens of the grey marble-like spheres over its body flew out in every direction!

The marbles exploded upon contact with anything in their path, Unbreakable facing a flurry of flames over his body from this along with being struck by an outward spinning ring of condensed air!

He was knocked back, the Galemonger turning to Ogwulf who had somehow escaped being blasted by the marbles and used its speed to the very limit as well as its strength, gathering billows of bright wind for the transcendent skill it had used before to injure Unbreakable and almost kill Terian!

'There it is again!' Ogwulf thought.

He remained unfazed however, even as the speed with which the Galemonger approached was too much for his sight!

As the Galemonger brought its wind covered hands together with Ogwulf in between...

...

Suddenly...

Suddenly... the Bringer of All vanished!

The creature halted its attack as it then turned behind it, thinking that perhaps its enemy had appeared behind it for a despicable surprise!

But... no.

He was not there!

Heck, he wasn't anywhere!

The Galemonger turned every which way but could not find its opponent!

Unbreakable rushed up to it again, paying attention to the white billows around the creature's hand!

'What's that man... creature's plan? Do I just keep distracting this thing? Where has he gone?!' he thought with an angry tone even in his mind but did not stop his charge!

He kept on with what he had been told, hoping that surely, in a minute's worth of time, this would all be over.

As for the entity that these two sought for...

He was right atop the Galemonger's head!

Ogwulf was miniaturised into the size of an ant while sitting over MaelStorm's head, the effect of the [Pseudo Spirit Walker's Hide] taking effect as it perfectly hid his presence!

No could see, hear or sense him at all!

One of the central traits of a class that Skullius hadn't chosen, the Spirit Walker!

The Bringer of All sat comfortably while the Galemonger exchanged blows with Unbreakable, his hand on his chin as if he was bored!

His luminous eyes dimmed as he was slowly fading into sleep.

'What's taking so long?' he thought.

Within the body of the Galemonger, ten mana clones of Ogwulf were streaking through with their bodies partially materialised using [Manamorphosis]!

When they had been sucked in by MaelStorm, they had been pulled over to the creature's core but had battled being assimilated into the creature's core by using [Manamorphosis].



Ogwulf had used the [Manabound Martial Arts] to disrupt the Galemonger's core in order give the clones a chance to escape its pull thus giving them leeway to search for what he had sent them to find!

The clash between the two powerhouses outside had to continue for forty full seconds before the original Ogwulf finally perked up, receiving the signal he waiting for.

His clones had finally found it!

'Do it then!' he ordered.

In the next few moments, the Galemonger which had been battling against Unbreakable suddenly halted, a clean hit smashing into its face because of this pause!

It staggered, its eyes bulging as it felt a tremendous discomfort within its body!

Something was happening!

Something was messing with something within its body!

In the next moment, it screeched in agony for the umpteenth time in this battle, the cracks over its body glowing brighter before they started to vanish and recede!

Soon, the body of the Galemonger reduced in size as a red haze withdrew from its body unceremoniously!

When the red haze fully exited the Cluster beast's body, it formed a long staff with a white gem at its tip!

...!

[Jaggered Merger] had been forcibly ended!

What?!

The clones within MaelStorm had been searching for the point in the Cluster beast's body where the staff's energy caused the merge.

When they had found it, it only took a round of attacks like [Manassault] to disrupt the connection, causing the staff's link with the Galemonger being forced to cease!

At the same time that the staff appeared, Ogwulf immediately leapt towards it from the Galemonger's head and upon touching it in his diminutive form it vanished!

Unbreakable was once again shocked by this turn of events.

He could hardly understand why the Galemonger was behaving strangely before he saw it shrink and lose its staff!

This is what the strange man whom he could have sworn was a skeleton before wanted to achieve all along?!

Of course, it was to everyone's benefit as clearly, the Galemonger had lost much of its endurance and strength, now left unable to contend with Unbreakable for anything in the physical department!

Ogwulf once again wore a grin with tangles of Unliving Thread dancing at the corners of his lips!

'Now... for the finale,' he said as the Elimparidis staff reappeared in his hand, his body returning to its normal height!

The staff hadn't been taken into storage as most would assume.

Ogwulf had taken it into his body instead where it was analysed using the both his Unliving Thread and the guidance field.

Ogwulf then pointed the Legendary object towards the Galemonger that was yet to recover from having the Elimparidis Staff forcibly taken from it.

While in this state of being completely imperceptible, the staff he wielded wasn't however and Unbreakable and Terian who saw the staff floating in midair couldn't be more confused.

Ogwulf, after understanding the functions of the staff through the guidance field then used the skill [Jump] against MaelStorm, the Cluster beast vanishing from where it stood to appear several hundred meters in the air!

Ogwulf's figure became visible once more, his luminous sockets turning to Unbreakable who had lost count of how many times he had to be shocked by this being's actions.

The Bringer of All gave an unfriendly smirk as he pointed up with his finger.

"Freak bro. A minute as promised. Finish it off," Ogwulf the Limited said, the meaning to his words being abundantly clear.

Chapter 335: Mutual Regrets In The Final Act

Above?

Unbreakable's eyes followed where Ogwulf was pointing and he finally saw the Galemonger high up in the sky!

Following the trajectory of the spatial displacement of the Cluster beast in such a short amount of time was beyond him but now, he saw and sensed it!

His ideal plan had been actualised, the Tier 8 monster positioned right where he needed it to be for him to finish it off without causing too much collateral damage!

The dark-haired man turned to look back at Ogwulf but the peculiar creature... was no longer there!

The spot where it had been standing was now void, as if nothing had been there in the first place, the staff also having miraculously disappeared once again.

This time, Unbreakable couldn't find the strength to expend in shock.

He had more or less figured that whatever that thing was, it had attained what it wanted, the staff.

Its ability to transform from a skeleton to an overpowered stack of bulk with a dress sense akin to that of the fighters from Maqi was the least of the bountiful pack of surprises he had seen today.

And now, all that was left was his part which had been marked for him.

He did wonder if Ogwulf had overheard his conversation with Terian about him needing the Galemonger to be away from the city for him to finish it off but that was another concern for later.

Little did he know however, that the Bringer of All had only teleported the Galemonger up because he didn't want to be near the thing if it ever used the flashy wind attack again in its rage as this time, with [Lanterns of the Pure] on cooldown, he would die if caught in it.

Terian who had been watching the short battle unfold couldn't help but breathe out a frustrated and anguished sigh.

This hadn't gone how he thought it would and the mysterious creature that had saved his life was something that his mind was starting to get a clearer identification for.

It was more accurate to say that that nagging feeling from when he first saw that dark-armoured creature had finally been fulfilled.

'What has Aigas become...!' he thought before he was blasted in the face with a fierce light that emanated from the man whose torso was bare.

Full Body Aura!

The cover of a thick whitish green light devoured the man as he gazed upwards, intent on killing the Cluster beast that was falling from the great height.

He crouched down as he exerted a massive amount of strength from his core and body before launching upwards in a straight line as he headed for the enemy!

His speed was incredible and the force with which he pushed himself off the ground shook the entire city as he blitzed through the air, nearing the descending tentacled creature within a mere three seconds!

The Galemonger was the most distressed out of everyone who had been involved in this battle.

It had had a straight path towards killing Unbreakable and wreaking havoc to its wanton desire but a unique creature that came out of nowhere had screwed up all its plans!

It had been undoubtedly weaker but still, through means it couldn't explain, it had been bested.

The rage it felt was unthinkable.

It simply wanted to destroy everything just to quench a bit of its fury.

Unfortunately, the new ability it had just unlocked with the capability to erase everything was still premature and needed a vast amount of mana.

That coupled with how it lacked enough time to adapt to this world and its combatants' style of fighting had led it to meet this end.

Perhaps the praise it had gotten from being the strongest among its kind had given it a big head. Being the only Tier 7 in the Cluster had been a great achievement along with its class as well as the natural treasure that it claimed when it rose to leadership.

Now, it had just evolved and hadn't unlocked everything to do with this evolution on top of all its previous hubris!

If only it had more time...

Yet, it was unfortunate.

There would be no more time afforded to it as a figure blasted towards it with a green hue while defying the unforgiving gravity!

Unbreakable wore a focused look as he breathed, taking in all the air he could in his lungs and mouth.

His mind was in turmoil as a glance to the ground told of the immense destruction to the city.

If only he had been faster with his Technique...

He could have saved many more lives.

Was this the reason why even though he had a purple core, he was considered the weakest among all the City Guardians?

Was his return into the hold of the Deities after following a useless path all his life only to be appointed to Inhone for the rest of his life, the best choice he could have made?

Who knew?

Regret knew.

And that was the fuel for his strength!

'I can't heal. I can't build. I can't teach. However, with my Strength... I can Save...' he thought as he cocked his fist, his green eyes lightning up with the flames of brutality!

The dark-haired man soared as he pushed all his strength towards the Galemonger which screeched as it felt the power from the fist that was ten meters away!

It wouldn't die without a fight however!

No, perhaps there was still a chance!

The Galemonger clasped its hands together as the purple eye behind it shone with a brighter shade, the Cluster beast emitting a burst of winds that shone bright as they crashed against each other, sparks of light popping up as lightning crackled!

Now, there was no way that this man could simply-

'Fuuuu....' Unbreakable breathed out as the deadly light didn't seem to derail his course at all!

...!

Unbreakable sank into the mass of winds with his fist pushed up at the Galemonger's head as it screeched, the large oval mouth behind its tentacles finally showing itself as the Cluster beast knew... this was the end!

Within the sphere of a skill that barely passed the requirements to be called Super, the air crackled as a massive, visible ripple blew outwards with a thick and deadly intensity!

The clouds that were in the sky scattered as a light green colour dominated, breaking apart the white sphere within which a certain Tier 8 was blown into mincemeat that flared with horrendous flames easily!

On the ground, it seemed like gravity and the raging winds became friends as when everyone heard the deafening Impact, an overbearing collective pressure smashed over onto them, forcing them to lay flat on the ground!

The sands outside the City shivered from the force while everyone and everything involved was forced to sink within it from the pressure that thundered from above!

Everyone felt it.

The area encompassing the city felt it.

The power that belonged to the trump card of the city.

Unbreakable began his drop after smashing his enemy into nothingness, but on his face, much like his body that now held several more bloody bruises, not a look of satisfaction could be seen but one of determination.

The fight was not yet over as now... he intended to end all the other menaces to the city.

As soon as the man known as Unbreakable touched the ground, the fate of the terrors to the city turned dark.

#### Chapter 336: The Last Stage Is Set

"Phewww..." Oliviana breathed out a sigh as she plopped to the ground, her short figure not gaining much momentum as she reached the dirt underneath.

"This is the most eventful the city has been for a while."

Beside the lady, several tutors of the College of Battle Arts much like her who were covered in blood and dirt could be seen breathing heavily.

The entire city was now a tad bit more relaxed as the threat had finally been neutralised within a few minutes.

By a few, this referred to a mere two minutes that it took for Unbreakable to kill every single Bulk Terror that still held in breath!

It had been a bitter fight for most of the combatants within the city as they had not only experienced loss and pain but a gripping sense of impending doom that could have possibly overwhelm them, leaving their efforts meaningless.

From the constant loud booms of a terrible battle that had been happening near the entrance to the city, to the screams that had echoed along with deadly flashes of light, it was hard for normal civilians and the regular combatants to ascertain their fate as it was abundantly clear that it all rested on whoever had been fighting there.

Finally however, the mighty blow that had resounded up above had given assurance to those who knew Unbreakable and the relief quickly spread until the city knew some semblance of peace once again.

Peace enough to mourn and grieve that is.

Now, Oliviana was enjoying this peace with her mates after the fight she had to endure before Unbreakable's intervention.



"I'm guessing you would prefer risking life like this all day rather than living a peaceful life?" a middle-aged man with a particularly sweaty face questioned Oliviana as he lay flat on the ground.

"You bet. I'm an assassin. Do I look I'm someone who cherishes times of peace and trains in the way of the sword or whatever only a lonely mountain until I attain titles like 'The Greatest Assassin' or something? I'm young and I want action befitting my class. Is that too much to ask?"

"For people my age, it is. Then again, it's a privilege of the young so I can understand," the man replied before pausing for a bit. "You'll be leaving soon, right?"

"That's the plan," Oliviana said as she looked up into the sky with a soft breath leaving her nostrils.

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Silrat, Damilla, Erkus and a few Knights were looking over a big piece of the island which had fallen to the city with intense scrutiny as discussions weaved among them.

A blue patch of peculiar vegetation could be seen over the dirt. Grasses of different kinds grew over along with strange plants that looked like blue variants of sunflowers with their petals cocooned over the fruit, the item being covered already being to everyone's knowledge.

Enriching gems.

Red Enriching gems with hints of green.

"So the conjecture is that the creature that attacked was actually a Cluster General that somehow managed to summon a portion of its Cluster to try and... crush the entire city?" Erkus questioned with a strange look over his face, his question directed to Silrat and Damilla.

...

"T...that is the most likely conclusion we have heard, City Lord," a Knight who was at the side hastily answered after the two who were supposed to entertain the City Lord's question, both seemed as if they were lost in thought, each in their own world.

Erkus turned to the two who both looked at him as they returned to their senses.

The City Lord cleared his throat as he continued to speak, hoping for the life of him that nothing was wrong with these two.

"There's a lot of these spread across the city. Silrat, can you organise for the Guilds Association to collect them all? We can then split them between our organisations. They appear to be high level ones so I'm sure none of your mercenaries will be willing to lose out? I also think they will be better suited for the job anyway. If anything happens to....

Did something happen?"

Erkus had tried to stay on the subject but unfortunately, that didn't seem possible because as he addressed Silrat just now, he couldn't find the man's focus anywhere nearby.

Thus, he had decided to ask directly.

Silrat had a visibly worried expression.

Since Erkus had identified that he had something going on, he didn't hold back.

"There's something troubling that took place, but I'm handling it," he said as he tried to maintain his cool.

"Are you?" Damilla questioned as she turned to him with a furious expression. "Admit that you were wrong! Festos' curse is something you belittled until now. Hundreds are dead because you decided to cradle this cursed man under your protection. You and Tulnas are to blame for this!"

Silrat's face turned serious as he shot back a gaze at Damilla who remained steadfast.

What the two had witnessed had impacted them deeply as they had been the only ones who understood what had happened.

Silrat's resolve that had been teetering over morality and fright became steadier as it leapt over to the side that he had always been more supportive of.

Benefit!

Damilla seemed to have the unique power to just cause people enough fury for them to cement their resolve!

This is what Silrat felt in this moment.

Because of Damilla's words, he found himself questioning why he was afraid at all!

Why was he still frozen from the incident?!

He was way past that point to be honest!

Besides that, he was still alive. He wasn't dead. With the Tie of Exchange, he was able to remain alive despite saving Festos' life and helping him many times over!

He was playing his cards right so far... right?

Silrat had risked too much to simply give up now.

Right!

Right.

The man took a breath as his face relaxed somewhat.

"Fine. Hundreds died, so what? They were mercenaries who acknowledged that death was a possibility of the job. My stance won't change. If you're so eager to guilt me into this, then strip away my hand in solving the mass Cluster incident. I saved more than I helped kill today, right?"

One couldn't dispute that fact... if lives were merely a matter of numbers that was.

Damilla walked up to the man until she was a mere inch away, looking into his steadfast eyes with her flaring own.

"You won't get away with this with words, Silrat. First let's find Festos and—"

"Wait," an aged voice spoke.

It was Terian who appeared from the masses around the area as he donned a plain robe to cover his body.

"I believe I have some much needed input as well..." Terian said.

As Silrat, Erkus and Damilla turned to Terian, they could all tell from the man's face that he had been through hell, but there was something else.

The old man had finally remembered.

As he heard the bickering between Silrat and Damilla from afar, he had further ascertained the identity of that creature.

And... given what he had experienced during the his fight, he had many thoughts.

Erkus was in the dark as these three individuals seemed to know something he hadn't been fed yet.

Unbreakable had not showed himself after taking care of the Terrors and thus his report was still pending.

Terian noticed the displeased look on Erkus' face and promptly acted before the man could speak.

"Each of us will have to give our full accounts to resolve this issue. That includes Festos. Is that good enough?"

There was no way to argue and everyone quickly agreed.

Thus, a stage was set.

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Fifty seconds before [Bringer of All] timed-out...

Ogwulf sat a short distance away from the city that was haunted by the soon-to-be-deleted from-existence Terrors.

With his unique trait of not being perceivable by others, he was relaxing comfortably by a tree as he looked at the peculiar guidance field notification that was before his sockets.

[The mandatory effect known as RESET for Apostle '...' is about to apply]

[Because of your conjoined nature, this effect has been altered to accommodate the individual known as 'Skullius']

[Instead of wiping away all physical experience, accrued personality and cunning ideology adopted from the previous battle, the effect of RESET will now RESET all skill cooldowns belonging 'Skullius' and will resume its appropriate function on the Apostle '...']

Ogwulf grinned as he read this notification.

"Heh. Now this is some much needed fortune, with a little bit of unwanted salt. How interesting," he said as he leaned against the tree, the process of RESET taking place.

Chapter 337: Spoils of War! (1)

Under the tree, Ogwulf felt a sort of relief gush through him. The effect of RESET cascaded over the two individuals that made up his figure.

[The skill 'Bringer of All' has timed out. Separation will now begin...]

Promptly after, a sharp sensation cut through from the middle of his body and broke apart his temporary individuality, a faint glow washing over his body as soon, it tore into two beings with a bright light, their figures becoming two Null Lifeforms.

One was naturally Skullius, the other being the nameless Apostle.

Skullius couldn't utter any words for a few seconds as he looked at himself, currently dazed at whether what he had just experienced was a dream or otherwise.

The sensation of merging with his Apostle. Becoming a singular individual that had the two's combined traits...

In that state, it was as if he was in a dream while being high (not height).

Of course, the Penetrator couldn't use this analogy but it was how he felt, him being unable to explain it fully.

"That...was...." he said while taking short pauses in between.

"AWESOME! Wait! What?! Who cares! Yes! Awesome!"

Why haven't I been abusing my Nullmancer Class like this all this time?!" Skullius shouted, completely disregarding the fact that he was no longer imperceptible.

The Apostle beside him laid down with its paws laying flat, a blank look in its face as it looked at the jovially raving Penetrator.

Skullius calmed himself down after this initial joyful reaction, clearly thinking things through.

Even after thinking hard, the amazing beauty of this skill couldn't be disputed.

The countless possibilities that he could unlock with it were immense!

'It seems everything I can do and what the Apostle I merge with can do is all possible for the Bringer of All that's created! Furthermore, the real power of this skill lies in the base skill used, which is powered up and split into many different skills at the very peak depending on what core I have!' Skullius excitedly thought.

When he had become Ogwulf, Skullius had experienced many incredible things, above the obvious. One such thing was that he better understood the intricacies of his and his Apostle's skills now.

All of the Penetrator and basic skills were now things he could use more appropriately with a greater understanding which was a boon.

The other thing was...

'I can't believe I have the ability to cheat such things so easily. The RESET...' Skullius thought as his socket flames flared wildly.

The RESET was a flaw of the Limitless Body Null Demon Hound.

However, because Skullius and the Apostle were merged onto Ogwulf the Limitless, the RESET applied to him too but not as a flaw!

The intricacies that followed after this were still pretty unclear, but they made Skullius consider more about this threat that could somehow summon this BoneTender if his Apostle didn't RESET.

Probably because the conditions that applied to the Hound didn't apply to him, the RESET effect was morphed into something different for him.

And now, all of his cooldowns had been refreshed!

This was effectively cheating the system!

Skills that he hadn't thought he would get to use anytime soon, like [Depths of the Core] were now open for him to use and better yet, if he used [Bringer of All] again in the next.... uh... 15 days, he could use the core manipulating skill again!

'Hehe!' Skullius thought while rubbing his armoured hands. 'I won't need to wait for three hours for [Flesh It Like You Mean It] too. This is too good!'

Indeed it was.

All this considered though, this skill wasn't as overpowered as it seemed as there was a little nook that demanded Skullius to be beware.

In fact, it was the same benefit he had just discovered.

If he could attain the flaw of his Apostle while merged with it, then perhaps different flaws affected him differently. As he thought, the Hound probably had special conditions that couldn't apply to him but... what about Red Rage and his flaw?

He could tell that not being able to kill innocents was something he would likely be bound to follow if he merged with the Pelvis-Boar-Man!

This, he had to be mindful of.

Lastly, on the same subject, Skullius had to consider the effect of the flaw on the Apostle itself.

The Penetrator stroked the large Hound's furry head as it donned the [Pseudo Spirit Walker's Hide].

"So that's really how it works, huh? You lose everything you learned?" Skullius said to the Hound that stared at him without making any movement.

From its personality, to the new tricks it would have learned all the way from the last RESET, including skills, the Hound would lose them all as it turned into this seemingly mindless machine, ready to learn everything again after every impactful fight.

"That's cruel...." Skullius thought before his socket flames flashed. 'I'll figure out a way to remove that flaw. What's the use of having some mindless bro that only responds to everything I order? It would be great if you could be a little rebellious like that bastard Red Rage had been."

Red Rage who was hidden in the spatial storage quivered.

[Apostle '...' approves of your words. 10 Favourability]

Skullius felt... delighted by this.



Good.

With that all done, Skullius set his flames to the next big thing he had earned.

His spatial storage ring lit up as in the next moment, it released... the Elimparidis Stone Staff!

The Penetrator wielded the staff in his armoured hand with glee.

How nice it was to have this construct which boosted mana by 10,000 with an Absolute Conversion!

This meant that the boost depended on the core colour of the individual. Unlike the mana band that Skullius had bought from Frock, this staff could give the user 10,000 units of mana that correlated to the refinement of their own mana!

Of course Skullius was yet to appreciate this change as his core was still merely white but he would in time.

"Heh... Gambling your life does make my bones throb in excitement. No wonder Tulnas and Silrat are so obsessed with it!" Skullius said.

This was his thought process, his thoughts going back to when he had asked Tulnas about this subject of gambling.

It sure had returns, if it worked.

The Elimparidis Staff gave a wide range of effects to the user along with some incredible skills, all of which had been identified by Skullius when he had been in his Ogwulf form.

One lay in the white gem atop the staff, reflecting the vague image of a world within and at this moment, the only who knew the truth about this was Skullius. That truth being that this reflected image was actually a mini-world stored within the gem!

He didn't know the specifics yet as he had to actually explore it first but this was such a crazy concept!

The Penetrator summoned Red Rage from his ring, the Pelvis-Boar-Man looking a bit disgruntled as he glared at his master.

Skullius ignored this and gave a strict instruction.

"When I disappear, collect the staff into your ring. You have your weird Null Life powers so you can tell when I want to come out, right?"

The Pelvis-Boar-Man slowly nodded to which Skullius gave him a pat on the head.

"See you in a few minutes," Skullius said as he willed himself into the white gem, his figure vanishing as with the flickering of his sockets, he appeared somewhere entirely new!

Chapter 338: Spoils of War! (2)

A whole new world...

A new exciting flood of blue...

He saw weird things everywhere, no space to spare, but a vast playground which he thought was too cool..

Somehow that sounded vaguely familiar.

The view was indeed blue though and Skullius couldn't help but try to gasp.

In a word, what he saw was... beautiful.

This world that he was in, seemed to be structured into three different portions that he could see from where he stood.

The rising hills that rose into an ever lilac sky while glowing clouds full of humidity circled around them as they rose, the blue vegetation that coloured these constructs in different saturation making the view come to life.

In the opposite side of this vast place, a thick forest could be seen chalk full of rising trees, shrubs and grasses of all assortments, all having the dew dew drops of a wet environment.

Frankly, the humid air did not correlate to any tropical climate of any kind as the actual temperature was rather moderate.

One could infer that the humidity originated from the vast ocean that separated the dense forest of blue and the hills and mountains on the other side.

The only patch of flat ground uninhabited by tall green invaders was were Skullius stood now, as merely a plant or two other than the patches of grass could be seen, this whole stretch going for miles in the direction behind him.

"Woow... this is pretty good," Skullius thought. "The staff can store actual worlds? So the Galemonger was actually summoning his bros from this world, huh?"

Though he said it casually, this was by no means a normal thing for a Cluster beast, even for a Cluster General like the Galemonger.

Skullius began pacing over the ground as he studied the place. He had no intention of fully investigating every inch of this blue scape just yet but he was more than pleased to do so after he had settled some matters.

Above the beautiful view that he saw, Skullius was also intrigued by another aspect of this place.

There was abundant mana!

Strands of the thick energy in this world kept teasing his mana core, making him just want to sit here and absorb it while practising his skills.

He would have enough time for that later, though.

Red Rage probably would as well.

As he waded over the beige coloured dirt, Skullius began thinking about the special effects of the Elimparidis Staff. One of its aspects was how it could absorb energy from... stored Dimensions, and that was what would fuel the skills [Jolt Ray] and [Jump].

By stored Dimensions, Skullius assumed that this was such, as it was the only thing that made sense to him.

Well, with all the things he had seen so far, it would make sense either way if another crazy thought came to mind, but this was his ultimate conclusion.

Skullius suddenly saw something shiny in the distance, which he immediately rushed to pick up.

"Oh..."

Right beside a sunflower-like plant which had unfurled its petals in an unnatural way, an Enriching gem was lying on the ground!

It was red, with bits of white starry lights swirling within the colour while a hazy green squirmed around to disturb the peaceful harmony of red and white.

"This is....But wait... Wouldn't that mean.... I see now..." Skullius thought aloud as he connected the dots with his higher intelligence.

His thoughts had been right but it seemed crazy to him.

The Galemonger had stored an entire Cluster into the white gem over the staff!

This wasn't just a random world!

That was insane!

With his knowledge and understanding of Clusters, the Enriching gem he was currently looking at was of a higher level than the ones he had seen before.

Skullius' sockets flared as he looked at the gem that reflected his appearance on its glassy exterior.

"Hmm. Now that I think about it, how come I haven't thought about absorbing these in my Penetrator form?"

Skullius focused on the gem as he willed the energy within it to be absorbed into him.

However...

"Hmm? It won't budge. Am I doing it wrong?"

Skullius tried several different methods but as he held the gem but the energy just didn't react to his pull at all!

This strange occurrence led Skullius to think..

"Can undead not absorb the energy? Or beasts in general?"

Along with that line of thought, several things would begin to make sense actually.

If beasts could absorb the energy from these gems, they would be... much, much stronger than the humans physically wouldn't they?

Perhaps the Enriching gems were a way created by the Deities to supplement humans' naturally stronger but slow stat growth in order to balance out the powers between beasts and man.

Well, the word 'balance' might not be the best one to use.

"If I can't absorb them, I'll just keep them for my Discount Human body then. I'll still need to finish absorbing the other gems though."

Skullius looked at the world for a bit longer before looking and calling out.

"You can pull me out now!"

His voice soared through the air as it went, intended for a certain Pelvis-Boar-Man to hear him.

He was currently stored in a spatial storage ring along with the Staff but his will, intent and voice still reached Red Rage who could detect it with his manipulation of Null Life Essence.

Shortly after calling out, Skullius vanished from this world and appeared outside again.

He was about to go on a joyful raving when he saw...

"What the heck happened here?!" he asked in surprise as he saw the tree that he had been resting on leaning in an unnatural pose while the ground was too clean of dust and pebbles than it had been before!

Red Rage merely pointed at the city and expressed an answer through his mental link with Skullius.

"I see.... At least he got the job done. I hope..."

It really was undoubtedly Unbreakable's freakish strength.

Skullius shook his skull and retained his focus on what was important right now.

He sat down.

He didn't much time left if Unbreakable had finally dealt the final blow to the Galemonger. Soon, he would be wanted for the incident he caused with the hundreds of mercenaries.

"Now...." he said as he took the Elimparidis Stone Staff and held it firmly within his hands. "High level skills are probably still impossible for me to steal with my current level of mana manipulation. But what about this...?"

Skullius' hand flared with Null Life Essence, his vision swimming from his sockets as it sank into the staff!

He was about to do it again!

He wanted to see if he could actually attain something from the staff to use as his own!

The skills seemed too high level and specific to the staff and thus he had decided to let them be.

But... how about the aspects, in particular the one that dealt with Increasing skill proficiency by 300?!

Null Life Essence bubbled in Skullius' vision as once again, a vast array of complex trails, coding for the effects of the staff were laid before him.

There were many of them, all being more complicated than any of the ones he had tackled before.

However, it was easy to distinguish between which ones were skills and which ones were special effects, aspects of the staff, because of the degree of complication, the arrangement that was placed and the traits of the patterns.

The aspect for 10,000 mana points in particular was vastly different from the others.

It shone brighter than all the others, with Skullius feeling the cool pressure of mana from it.

The aspects of storing Dimensions and using the energy from them to power [Jolt Ray] and [Jump] had connecting patterns to two extremely complicated patterns that the Penetrator could have sworn would take him years just navigate.

All three of these were easy to distinguish and thus the Penetrator singled out which one was the one he needed.

'It doesn't look too scary...' Skullius thought as he saw the pattern for the increased skill proficiency.

It wasn't as complicated as the rest but was no straight line. It would be pretty difficult to speed run while leaving Null Life Essence within it but he was willing to give a long, hard try.

Skullius' vision sank in and he began the 'battle'. Skullius swam through the channels but he felt an incredible force that tried to push him back after he made a single sliver of progress within the long channel.

The Penetrator had to put in some heavy work to push further than a few steps.

The process was arduous to say the least and this wasn't exactly a physical contest where Skullius would have infinite endurance and thus it wasn't easy.

The sheer amount of concentration for this exceeded what he needed for [Great Rush] before, which was saying something.

Still, Skullius powered through because he knew that the benefits were worth the cost.

Minutes seemed to pass.

Then hours.

Skullius put in all his raw mental oomph while feeling a tremendously uncomfortable sensation.

If one was given a task to walk up a hill but with a sack full of rocks and with the handicap of one step per minute, it was easy to fall into despair.

But Skullius powered through while greeting his unseen teeth.

Thankfully he had enough Null Life Essence for this task and after he had lost track of how many turns he had made...

He finally reached the end.

He hit a wall and at first, nothing happened.



But then... a surge of energy pushed his vision back as the moment he himself return to his body, he was finally rewarded for his efforts!

Unlike what he expected though, something marvellous showed itself.

[You have challenged the higher Tiers of mana utilisation from this world and have succeeded!]

[Your understanding of the compounds of the world and mana increases!]

['Depths of the Core' has reached LV4]

['Bringer of All' has reached LV3]

['Elevated Mana Manipulation' has levelled up]

"Yes! Finally!"

Skullius' sockets flared as he saw these notifications.

The Silentburn Levin over his bones crackled as he grew excited.

However, this wasn't all.

[The Vehement Bone Nullmancer grows...]

[You have awakened a powerful skill to better crush the balance and overpower other warriors in the lands]

[The Nullmancer passive skill, 'Epiphany' has been unlocked]

Skullius cackled as he saw the arrival of a new skill!

This was something he hadn't been expecting at all!

Finally, his class was showing some more growth!

He immediately delved into the skill's description.

...!

Skullius read it an additional time.

Then again.

...!

After re-reading it more than ten times, each successive time causing a flaring in his excitement, the Penetrator roared into the sky as his joy knew no bounds in this moment!

"Why I have been ignoring this power is a mystery even to me!" he called before he turned to his Hound.

This excitement could be revelled in later as there was time to spare.

Now, he wanted to get ready to move on with the proceedings.

With something like this in his arsenal...

He couldn't help but want to rid himself of this current situation so he could explore everything further.

"My bro, how big can your mouth get?" Skullius asked the Hound as he stored his staff and activated [Flesh It Like You Mean It].

Chapter 339: Aftermath

The process to clean up the city began as corpses couldn't be left to remain overnight.

Even though the battle had been won, with the Terrors' rampage having only lasted for roughly 30 minutes, the amount of damage done was extensive.

At least two thirds of the city were in complete shambles and thinking back to how the city had looked before only brought unwanted stress.

Wails could be heard everywhere as many cried over the dead that were being lined up and covered in cloth before being taken away as many of them could hardly be recognised from either being dismembered or disembowled.

Some of the people had been turned into squid-like octopi through the strange poison that was shot from the Terrors' tentacles, leaving them completely unrecognisable as they would wiggle about on the dry ground grotesquely.

This was uncomfortable to watch, especially for the family members that could catch glimpses of items that made them recognise them through the remnants of clothing or jewellery they wore.

Mercenaries and Knights alike did their best to control the situation but the fact that Inhone City wasn't the only place infested with casualties made the atmosphere after victory more sombre than what most would have appreciated.

Erkus ordered for some Knights to go and check the surrounding cities and towns for any sign of the Terrors and to search for survivors, the Purity Knights that remained helping in on the effort as well, Gin included.

As all these operations were taking place, a meeting was happening within the Guilds Association.

Terian, Tulnas, Silrat, Damilla and Erkus were sitting down with a certain individual once again, this setup starting to feel like a glorified court case.

The individual they were gathering for was naturally Festos.

However, this would be the last time.

Silrat wanted to make sure of it.

"So, you mean to tell us that you were in the Association building this whole time?" Damilla questioned with a raised brow.

Skullius who was in his Discount Human form promptly nodded.

"That's right," he responded.

Tulnas stroked his chin.

He remembered that before the battle, Skullius had suddenly disappeared and only when everyone entered the Guilds Association building afterwards while deliberating on the matter about the mercenaries' deaths did they find the Discount Human sitting down calmly while reading a book.

'Did he really just run away so he could sit through the entire incident?' Tulnas thought.

Due to the fact that the Galemonger had ventured into the Association building, the Terrors had avoided attacking the structure from the beginning and later on, the battle between the city's fighters and the Terrors had been thickest around here thus the building had remained more or less intact.

"I decided to avoid fighting with the others in case I accidentally triggered my curse. It's the easiest way to get everyone killed after all..." Skullius added.

Erkus, Terian and Damilla were forced to think back to the day of Skullius' first interrogation when he had talked about the curse.

Erkus now understood what the Diviner and the Association Branch Head had been fighting about as both had given their respective accounts.

Silrat, Damilla and Terian had seen the creature that Skullius had mentioned in real time and in the incident described, many had died just by trying to help the damn thing.

"You said that thing would ask you something and if you refused it would kill people. Going by that logic, it must have asked you to do something, right?" the Diviner asked.

"Yes," Skullius said firmly, his silver eyes remaining calm as he stared at his interrogator.

"What was it?"

The Discount Human emitted a sigh before answering.

"It wanted me to kill the City Lord."

...!

Everyone in the room was shocked at this revelation.

Skullius himself was chortling inside. This was naturally a big lie that he chained onto the bigger lie that the tall creature they were all frightened of was actually a separate entity.

This response was just to spook everyone.

Erkus was a bit bewildered.

"Kill me? Why?" he asked.

Everyone's reaction was exactly what Skullius wanted, though for Silrat and Tulnas who knew more detail about Skullius' curse, they realised that he was probably bluffing.

In that case, he would need support.

"I don't know. We are not exactly friends who can ask each other our motives. After it requested me to do this, I thought it would be better to just settle down. I couldn't fulfill its request anyway," the Discount Human said.

The tension between the Capital Service folks increased.

Terian was more concerned with the power he had seen from the tall creature especially after it transformed.

If it could easily fight a Tier 8 like that, then it was a very big problem.

On top of this, he wondered why he had been spared and why this creature had helped Unbreakable kill the Galemonger.

It didn't make sense at all. The truth was covered in a shadow of mystery.

At this point, Terian found it fitting to describe his own encounter with the creature.

"I do not want to appear to vouch for this creature, but during the fight with the Cluster beast, it saved my life. Additionally, I can say with confidence that it is the only reason we were able to achieve a quick victory. This does not discount the evil that it did, but I'm sure you can understand what I mean..."

Skullius' eyes leaked a cunning glint. This is exactly what he had wanted. A seed that would muddy the waters.

Damilla couldn't help but look at the old man with confusion. She had wanted to immediately Divine Skullius but hearing Terian's account gave her more to think about.

Now it was his turn to say things that seemed to contradict their stance.

That creature had saved his life?

All this being's actions seemed contradictory and erratic.

Did it even have a pattern of attack?

Was it really related to the Green Neolists?

Nothing was clear.

"I know we're all adults here but dare I say that this incident was something that I forewarned. While searches for the Cluster were done, I did encourage you to strengthen the defences around the city, advice that you did not heed," Tulnas said, clearly assigning blame as he leaned back against the chair comfortably.

Erkus couldn't refute this point and neither could Damilla as she had outright doubted his words back when he mentioned this.

However, their side didn't seem to want to give up.

The City Lord emitted a deep sigh heavily strained with all he had to deal with following the incident.

"This issue can't be dealt with casually..."

"Indeed it cannot," Silrat said, causing everyone to turn to him. "Allow me to give you some sliver of good news then. I'm happy to announce that in a few days, I will be stepping down as the Head of the Association Branch in Inhone City. A replacement will be coming in that time and Tulnas will be his second..."

...!

"What?!" Terian temporarily lost his cool while Damilla turned pale.

Erkus merely sighed exasperatedly as he clutched his forehead.

"Furthermore... a few other individuals along with me and Festos, will be leaving for Genhuis City for a Potential Aptitude Evaluation. That is after I settle my affairs, of course."

Damilla couldn't help but stare at the Discount Human, then at Silrat then back at the Discount Human again.

Such a thing....

So suddenly....

Terian finally reeled in his shock. When he thought about it, the last aspect wasn't so bad. It was just that Tulnas becoming a vice head of the Association...

He could see a cheeky smile on the brat's face.

Erkus seemed to also share his sentiment on the last reveal that Silrat had made.

"I suppose this might be the best way to continue forward."

At least if this troublesome Mage left the City, he wouldn't have to deal with him and this problem anymore.

"Let us keep this matter away from those Purity Knights. I am sure they would not let this go. The arrival of a Grand Priest investigating the matter of this curse isn't good for the city and certainly not for you. On that aspect, I assume we can agree?" Erkus said as he massaged his temples.

"Absolutely," Silrat said.

None of them wanted to deal with the Purity more than they needed to.

Knock, knock!

Someone requested entry into the private meeting at this moment, and Erkus gave his consent.

The door slid open to reveal an old man who waddled in with partially bloody bandages wrapped all over his frail body.

"Good evening," the man said with a subdued and weak voice.

Chapter 340: Second Benefactor (1)



As the old man entered the room, Erkus wore a look of relief before turning to Skullius, Silrat and Tulnas.

"Let's leave the matter of Festos here. We'll discuss the other prospects later on," he said.

The three nodded and stood as they walked to the door.

Tulnas patted the old man's shoulder with a cherry grin while Silrat nodded at the man who humbly gave a short bow to both of them.

When Skullius was passing by him however, he couldn't help but narrow his eyes as he felt something... uncannily familiar.

The same was true for the Discount Human who couldn't help but peruse the face of the old man.

He knew the old man as the rambling bro who kept talking about regret and gardening but as he looked at the man now...

"Why do I feel weird about him suddenly? Have I met this guy somewhere else?" he asked himself.

Ultimately, the two passed each other without a word, Skullius and the group exiting the building.

Erkus gestured towards an empty seat, showing the old man where to sit.

The elderly man sat down in a subtly humble manner.

"You've finally decided to show up," Erkus said.

"I apologise. I deeply regret that—"

"No, no. Don't start with that again. Just give me a full report."

"Right..." the old man said as he went on to narrate everything that had happened.

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"It's a pretty unfair deal now that I think about it. I was pretty happy when you mentioned it at first but now... the amount of work and convincing that I will need to cement my position is ridiculous," Tulnas said as he looked at how broken everything was.

"Well, at least you get to reform the Association if you play your cards right. Though I doubt my replacement will let you walk all over him," Silrat said.

"If he's a ladies man I can always charm him with my wide collection. If not we'll just have to see who is manlier than the other."

"If I were you I'd focus more on using the mercenaries' support to trump his hold over them. You have plenty of time to work that out."

"I know that," Tulnas said before he turned to Skullius who was uncharacteristically quiet since they exited the Association building. "You sure know to lie. How did you know that Damilla wouldn't try to divine you?"

Skullius shook himself of his thoughts to respond.

"Well... it was a gamble I guess..." the Discount Human said, much to Tulnas' amusement.

In truth, Skullius had decided to see if Silrat hadn't been so spooked by UNCoddled's effects that he would turn against him.

Seeing as the man had still shown up to defend him, he knew he had the support.

Furthermore, a Tie of Exchange couldn't be so easily broken once engaged.

"My accolades won't be stripped because of this incident right? I still want my share of spoils for solving an 'international crisis' as Damilla always puts it."

"Of course you will get them. As soon as another case is solved with the information you provided your rewards will be on their way," Silrat answered before he turned to the Discount Human.

"You're free for now. How do you want to spend the rest of the night? There are lots of good rooms in the Association."

"No. I'll be fine. I'll wander around and return later," Skullius said as he turned to leave.

The three men split up for the night with Silrat going back into the Association building while Tulnas headed for his Guild Residence.

Skullius sighed.

He wouldn't have to be dragged here or there anymore.

His thoughts had been occupied by the many gains he had gotten from the Galemonger.

After receiving the marvellous boons from trying to replicate an aspect of the staff, he had snuck into the city with the Limitless Body Null Demon Hound.

He had the creature bulk up in size and jumped into its mouth so that he too wouldn't be seen as he entered the city and snuck into the Guild's Association.

With everything going well, the Discount Human walked with a skip in his step and a smile on his face until he remembered something.

"That's right," he said before he unblocked a certain someone.

"TOMATO FLINGER! YOU DARE IGNORE ME LIKE THAT?! YOU DARE KEEP ME IN THAT DREADED BUBBLE LIKE A COMMON IDIOT?! I WILL MAKE YOU PAY! I WILL..."

"Yeah, yeah. I heard you the first time..." Skullius said with exasperation.

Now, it was time to iron out the details of his next little expedition that had Sila taking the lead.

He strolled with the raving old geezer in his head while heading towards a certain Inn he hoped had survived the destruction, though it was highly unlikely.

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Two days later...

The city had made some progress when it came to cleaning up and rebuilding some of the most important structures but in terms of social welfare and individual states of mind, the atmosphere was still heavy.

This didn't stop events from continuing to happen however, as the news that Tulnas and Silrat wanted to hear the most arrived.

Two other branches of the Guilds Association had managed to find Evenfall Cultists with the information Tulnas had provided!

This effectively cemented both Tulnas and Silrat's credibility and achievements in the Association's eyes and soon, the wave would spread!

Their rewards were guaranteed and Silrat felt that he now had more reason and confidence when venture to Genhuis City.

Furthermore, two expected arrivals finally reached the city.

In front of the Guilds' Association, Silrat, Tulnas, Jac and Skullius could be seen as they waited for the two approaching carriages.

One was further in front while the other trailed a bit behind.

Soon, the first carriage reached their positions and from the locomotive which looked quite sturdy with a red pigment over the wood used to make it as well as a familiar insignia, four individuals came out.

Three of them donned incredibly expensive looking armours while their bodies bellowed with suffocating power, the other, who was a man dressed in a sharp suit, not emitting such extreme presence but a stern and strict energy instead.

He looked around the city then at the Association building with a disappointed grunt before walking over to the four who waited to welcome him.

Silrat took the first step, extending his hand which the other man reluctantly shook.

"Greetings. My name is Silrat, former Head of this Association Branch. I didn't expect you so soon."

The other man whose brown eyes showed nothing but condescension as he towered over Silrat hummed first before giving what could be considered a reply.

"Ednuk," he said. "Indeed. Though my letter should have spelled to you my reason for coming earlier than expected. Am I correct?" he said.

"Of course. It is indeed good to look in on people when they least expect it," Silrat replied with a fake smile while vomiting profanities at this man in his mind.

"Allow me to introduce your Vice Head," Silrat said as he respectfully gestured towards Tulnas who wore a chilling smile and shook the new Guild Association Head's hand.

"I look forward to working with you," the Tamer said as the look in his eye was akin to that of a snake.

"Hmmm. I wonder if your presence can be justified in the long run," the new Head spat.

"Oh it will," Tulnas spat back.

Skullius and Jac watched this subdued confrontation in amusement.

From the second carriage which only just now stopped and parked at the side, its design being more luxurious in nature with two guards having been riding alongside it for the entire journey, a feminine figure emerged from within.

Her red hair which was tied into a Finnish braid as well as her scarlet eyes sparked a light into the eyes of anyone who saw them, her beautiful face capturing everyone's attention, especially the new Head of the Association Branch who looked particularly smitten by her appearance.

On seeing this, Tulnas' face turned into that of a devil as he had confirmed that this man was doomed.

On the other hand, Skullius gaped as he looked he viewed this woman. Not because he had been smitten by her looks or expensive farthingale, but because...

"Stylla?!"

The lady who was indeed Stylla smiled as she saw Skullius, her approach as she was encircled by guards being graceful above anything else.

Silrat walked over and gave a nod of acknowledgement which Stylla reciprocated.

"I came over as soon as I heard the news. I'm glad you are more or less alive from the looks of it," Stylla said.

"Indeed," Silrat responded.

Stylla then turned to Jac who was beside the still shocked Skullius.

"You're looking good too, Uncle Jac," she said in a cheery voice.

"Heh... Takes more than the city's literal destruction to kill me, my dear," Jac said as he slapped Skullius' back. "Isn't that right, Festos?"

The Discount Human promptly tore himself from the shock as he posed a question to Silrat.

"She's...she's the benefactor you were waiting for?!"

Silrat laughed heartily before giving a formal introduction.

"Indeed. Festos, meet the Stylla of the prestigious Bryne Family. Our benefactor."