

Unlimited Power - The Arcane Path (COMPLETED)

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'Although Leon's next step was clear

instead of looking for the spirit of light

he decided to stay on Shadow's planet for a week. Despite the fact that he became Leon's ally several days ago

the darkness was yet to disappear from the planet... Even though it was a pretty decent spell

Shadow used one that consumed only a small amount of mana to stay active

but that also could maintain itself for a few days in case something happens with Shadow.'

'Given Shadow's behavior

Leon thought the planet he had chosen to stay on would be more desolate and grimmer. However

Leon only found a planet that made him recall an Ambiental park. The vegetation was full of life

and everything was very colorful... despite that

Leon was feeling annoyed seeing that because he was troubled. Leon couldn't forget about Earth's situation

nor about his friends... and the fact that Ilyana didn't give him a single report was annoying as hell.'

"Once I finish this training

I will giver her a piece of my mind..." Leon bit his lips

annoyed. "Anyway... Sekundez

do you have any other spells that you can teach me?"

"Yes

but to learn them

you will have to have Time Manipulation at level max

and I also need to be at the max level

" Sekundez replied.'

'It was only evident that useful time magic spells would have such requirements

but Leon still felt depressed hearing it. Regardless

since training those would be a pain

Leon's only option was to wait for his other summons to reach the max level before focusing on Sekundez to do the same.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Heat Drive.'

'Cost: 500 mana per second'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Knee Assault.'

'Cost: 500 stamina'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Kaiser Wave.'

'Cost: 500 mana and 500 stamina'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Spiral Blast.'

'Cost: 500 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Armor Breaker.'

'Cost: 1000 stamina'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

"Learning physical skills is good and all

but I guess I should tell my replica to focus on using spells since those are easier to learn and practice

" Leon rubbed his chin. "For the time being

the list of skills I can learn from dragons is still pretty big

so I can afford to train physical skills only now and then to make good use of my health and stamina."

'It would be a good idea to train Dark Aura since Leon soon would have to a place full of light thanks to the spirit of light actions. By using that

he probably wouldn't go blind... even though Leon probably heal the damage in his eyes using Full-Recover

he didn't want to experience such things.'

"The problem is the cost of mana

but maybe it will come in handy in the case to obtain their cooperation

I have to defeat the spirit of light in a fight

" Leon said.'

"The trial probably won't be a fight

" Sekundez said. "The fragments of the spirit of light I found so far were all pacifists. You should be more worried about your usual violent behavior since spirits of light tend to be pacifists. They don't get along well with violent beings."

"I'm not violent... I'm just prone to solve problems by using brute strength

" Leon said.'

'Although that wasn't a good argument

it was the only one Leon could think of. In any case

Leon didn't expect to hear that. Even though he didn't see the spirit that gave power to the angels

he didn't expect much from a being that gave power to those creatures that blindly attacked anything that didn't have wings.'

"By the way... how did you manage to meet other fragments of the spirit of light?" Leon asked.'

"I didn't spend my entire life in that temple

" Sekundez replied. "Besides

some people that challenged me also had the power of the spirit of light

so I had the chance to talk with them directly while their masters were trying to complete the trial."

"I see... in any case. Most spirits can absorb the mana of some elements to level up faster. Can you do the same thing?" Leon asked.'

"I can absorb the power of all elements and become stronger by absorbing it

but the process isn't that efficient

" Sekundez replied.'

"Why?" Leon asked.'

"Basically

I make the time of certain spells go back in time to the moment where they were just mana

and I absorb it

" Sekundez explained. "Although I just make the time go back to a single thing and only for a few moments

a lot of mana is used. That skill is called Temporal Absorption and is one of the skills I will teach you eventually

but as you can imagine

it is only useful against powerful skills."

'Just knowing that Leon could absorb mana like that was enough to make Leon feel excited to learn it. Although its use would be difficult

it was the perfect skill to use against dragons.'

'Congratulations! The skill Accelerate has leveled up.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! The skill Summon Efreets Fragment has leveled up.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! The skill Summon Undine's Fragment has leveled up.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! The skill Summon Sylph's Fragment has leveled up.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! The skill Summon Gnome's Fragment has leveled up.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! The skill Summon Celsius' Fragment has leveled up.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! The skill Summon Volt's Fragment has leveled up.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

"Accelerate is at level three hundred... Meanwhile

all my spirits reached the level six hundred

" Leon nodded to himself. "It is good progress

but not fast enough."

'Accelerate was almost at the level where one second in the real world was one hour in Leon's mindscape. Despite that

he would only really feel satisfied once he reaches the same level as Sekundez... it would be insane. Still

Leon wanted to create an environment where one second

in reality

would be five thousand years in an imaginary dimension.'

"Now

I finally understand why Ilyana has so many tomes stored in her vault

" Leon said.'

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'At the end of that week

just when Leon was about to leave and look for the spirit of light

he received the notifications that his spirits reached the max level. That was awesome

but suddenly all of them left the imaginary dimension. Everyone left except for Shadow because he had a late start.'

"That new spirit is really annoying

" Celsius said after a long sigh. "I can't believe it is more powerful than us."

"Hahaha! I'm finally free from that depressing atmosphere!" Efrete laughed.'

'Although the others didn't say anything about it

Leon could feel that they were quite troubled by Shadow's behavior... even Undine and Volt were the most understanding ones. As for Sylph and Gnome

they looked bored but didn't complain since they had the mentality of good kids.'

"Bullying the new kid

huh

" Leon crossed his arms and frowned. "How unexpected of you guys."

'Although Leon said that

he was fully aware that Shadow was hard to deal with like a troublesome teenager the problem was: Shadow was much older than any teenager

so he would never grow up from that behavior. In the end

Leon decided to assimilate the knowledge more frequently to make new and refreshed replicas. Although Leon would always revive the memories of his replicas

he couldn't remember them since he always deleted those soon afterward.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Wind Slicer.'

'Cost: 1000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Storm Blade.'

'Cost: 1000 mana per second'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Phoenix Ascension.'

'Cost: 5000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Phoenix Dive.'

'Cost: 5000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

"New and cooler spells... if only they were stronger than my plasma attacks

I would use them in real battles

instead of using them just to obtain status points." Leon said after a long sigh.'

'Wind Slicer was a generic spell

but Storm Blade was very different. Although those weren't that powerful

by casting that spell

Leon created several swords that could cut an enemy or several of them in quick sequence

just like a tornado. As for Phoenix Ascension and Phoenix Dive

those were just a bigger and flashier version of Fire Armor. Instead of protecting Leon

he created a massive firebird around his body and fired the same toward his enemies upward or downward.'

"It is time to look for another spirit for you guys to bully

" Leon said.'

"We didn't bully anyone. It is just tiring to deal with Shadow

" Celsius protested.'

"Whatever... I believe that you guys can still teach me some new spells

" Leon said. "So

relax while you can because eventually

you will have to teach me then

and the best place to learn and practice spells is in that dimension."

'Leon thought he would hear some protests

but nothing happened. Most likely

the spirits customized the imaginary dimension to their liking. Leon knew that

but he couldn't imagine how they could feel relaxed in there. Although Leon could force and increase the dimensions of his mindscape

his brain was already too busy dealing with Mana Magnetism

so his mindscape was just five kilometers long

a large and tall cube. To make things fair

they shared all the terrain among themselves

so each spirit had an area to play around that was five kilometers long

wide

and eight hundred meters tall... they claimed Leon's mindscape for themselves without asking for permission

but it couldn't be helped. The spirits helped him quite a lot

after all.'

'Regardless

Leon had to prepare himself for a while

but he eventually had enough mana to move toward the location where he felt another spiritual-like presence. As expected

he appeared in what to be inside of a massive lamp. The light was so dazzling that even with Dark Armor

Leon was having difficulties keeping his eyes open. To make matters worse

Light Resistance wasn't helping in any way.'

""What know..." Leon muttered.'

'This time Leon couldn't feel the spirit's presence. That was weird since he could feel it from afar... in any case

it was clear that the spirit of light was using another method to keep themselves hidden. However

that wouldn't work forever... Leon discovered recently another property of Black Hole

that skill sucked mana from any living being aside from Leon that was nearby. If that environment had been created by using mana

it wouldn't last long.'

'Black Hole got more powerful

so even a miniature of the skill quickly started to drain the mana of the environment. Although Leon didn't have much mana left

he concluded soon things would end because some cracks started to appear immediately in that place.'

"This is enough

" Leon heard a male voice coming from all directions.'

'Suddenly

all the light disappeared

and another planet full of life revealed itself before Leon. However

before he could observe that place further

a figure covered in light appeared in front of him. It was evident that was the spirit of light

but fortunately

Leon still could look at it without getting his eyes annoyed by the light.'

"As expected of someone who managed to obtain the cooperation of all other spirits

" The spirit of light smiled brightly. "You dealt with my defensive spell in mere instants. I'm one of the fragments of Rem

the spirit of light. Nice to meet you."

"... Nice to meet you. My name is Leon

" Leon said after a brief moment of hesitation.'

'Leon didn't know what to expect from the spirit of light after he met Shadow. Although he heard somethings about it from Sekundez

he still didn't drop his guard. Fortunately

and strange enough... the spirit of light seemed rather normal.'

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""Well

then. Shall I give you my powers immediately? Or do you want to drain all the mana I stored before that?" Rem asked.'

""Huh?" Leon frowned. "What about the trials?""

'Leon got caught by surprise when he heard that

but in the end

it wasn't that surprising that a spirit could read his mind and even his memories to some extent. Sekundez could do a lot of things

after all. That being said

finding a so cooperative spirit raised a lot of questions in his head. Also

considering Sekundez warnings

Leon imagined he would have a hard time convincing a pacifist spirit to help someone like him who wanted to protect Earth and his friends no matter what.'

""You found me and destroyed my defensive spell in the blink of an eye

" Rem replied. "That is more than enough for you to obtain my powers and total cooperation. Besides

I know what you want to do with my powers

and I don't have any reason not to help someone who wants to protect others.""

'The reasoning was sound

but Leon couldn't help but feel weird

given that the spirit of light was too cooperative. Regardless

in the end

that only would help him... Leon didn't have time to waste since Earth was in danger

and his friends were fighting for their lives.'

"All right

then. Thank you for understanding my situation and for deciding to help me

" Leon said.'

'In the end

Leon spent two hours draining the mana stored in Rem's body. Still

he stopped when his mana was around twenty percent remaining. Leon didn't want to risk killing the spirit

after all.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Summon Rem's Fragment.'

'Cost: 100 mana per second.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Light Manipulation.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Light Solidification.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Light Aura.'

'Cost: 5000 mana per second.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Light-Speed Movement.'

'Cost: 1000 mana per second.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: True Damage.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Sphere of Light Transformation.'

'Cost: 1000 mana per second.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

"Hello

everyone

" Rem said already inside Leon's head. "It is nice to meet you. As you are aware

I'm Rem's fragment. Since we are allies now

I hope that we can get along."

"Sure

" Celsius said.'

"You look strong

" Efreet said. "How about we test our powers once you reach the max level?"

"Something smells fishy with you

" Undine said.'

'Although Leon shared Undine's feelings

at least he wasn't worrying all that much since Rem was pretty considerate and polite. Still

as usual

Leon soon understood that Rem was a pain in the ass just like Shadow... but in a totally different sense.'

'◆◆◆Heh

so you were the first spirit who decided to follow

Leon

" Rem said. "It seems you had a lot of fun with him since then."

"So

you like to fight against Leon now and then

Efreet

" Rem said. "That is very impressive considering that we are basically a part of his power

and we will never be able to surpass him in terms of raw strength."

"As expected of Gnome!" Rem said. "You managed to convince our master to give you mana to create your own labyrinth. That is very impressive since that isn't something that would help him in any way."

'If Shadow was like a depressive teen

Rem was a happy-go-looking guy who liked to talk a lot and even access the memories of everyone without asking for permission. He was a real chatterbox and couldn't see how problematic it was for everyone that he was reading their memories. Although Leon could do something similar

he would never do that to his allies.'

"In any case

I think you should join Shadow to recover your power as fast as possible

" Leon said.'

'Before Rem could give him an answer

Leon used Mindscape Transportation and sent Rem to his mindscape. He wanted to hear some explanations of the skill he just received

but considering Rem's behavior

that would only annoy Leon instead of informing him.'

'Light Manipulation was a self-explanatory skill. Although it was powerful

the logic behind now that Leon had Rem's cooperation was relatively simple. The same could be applied to Light solidification. By using some extra mana

Leon could solidify things made of light. That would be useful in the future...'

"'Light Aura... I thought that was the skill that granted the angels the power to keep that small sphere form

but I was wrong

" Leon rubbed his chin. "That skill is Light Sphere Transformation... by using that skill

I will be able to increase my defenses and probably use Light-Speed movement without damaging my body."

'The only skill Leon had no idea how truly worked was True Damage

but after some tests

he quickly understood what that could do. In essence

with that skill

Leon could attack the health

mana

and stamina of his enemies directly and ignore their defenses completely. Leon couldn't help but grim after noticing that.'

"... It is too soon to get excited

" Leon shook his head. "Although I finally obtained the cooperation of all spirits I'm still far from reaching my goal."

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Shockwave.'

'Cost: 300 mana and 300 stamina'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Pitfall.'

'Cost: 500 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Magma Surge.'

'Cost: 500 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Judgement Blade.'

'Cost: 2500 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'As usual

Leon decided to assimilate the knowledge and experience his replica obtained to calm down. After that

Leon began to concentrate because his next steps would need to be carefully selected.'

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'Leon's next goal was to return to Earth and help his friends. Things will get really easy if he gives them the power of the spirits

but he would have to convince his spirits first. Although things worked out when he gave them a part of Efreet's power

things would be complicated with others. It would become even troublesome when it's Sekundez

Shadow

and Rem's turn.'

"After surviving this far

Ilyana won't complain if I give a hand to those who faced dragons and survived to tell the story

" Leon rubbed his chin. "In any case... I need to become strong enough to deal with harvesters before returning to Earth."

"You already strong enough to do that

" Sekundez said. "You can easily defeat those three the woman you call Ilyana was facing. Against those three

you will probably die

but winning in a one-on-one fight shouldn't be difficult."

'Leon

after everything Leon had to experience

he was probably at the level when he could deal with harvesters like the ones who appeared on Earth. They weren't among the strongest since they were the first to arrive

but it was clear they were supposed to be way more powerful than any human on Earth.'

'In any case

to return as soon as possible

the only thing Leon could do was to ask for Sekundez help and make her use Accelerate alongside him to duplicate the effectiveness of the skill. Leon already had used the mithril he created from draining Shadow's mana

but now he had another massive mithril spear

thanks to Rem's stored mana.'

"Before that... I wonder if it isn't a good idea to look for other fragments to increase you guys' power

" Leon said. "I can't increase Sekundez power by looking for another fragment

and the same thing probably applies for Shadow and Rem

but for everyone else. It should be possible."

"Didn't you know? You can make any spirit forcefully evolve

" Sekundez said. "You just have to feed them with your mana."

"Really? Ilyana never told me about that." Leon frowned.'

'◆◆◆She probably concluded that you imagined that

" Sekundez replied. "If you think about it

it is only evident that it is possible. Given the circumstances of a spirit birth

do you think we just appear on our max level?"

"No... but I heard about it that the spirits have powers according to the planet they are

" Leon frowned. "But I guess that makes sense... if a spirit experiences their world reaching another stage of assimilation

that means that their potential would increase."

'Although it made sense

it was quite surprising... considering that

it doesn't mean that even fragments can become as powerful as their original versions? As long as they have someone who gives them a lot of mana

their growth couldn't stop. Still... just how much mana Leon would need to sacrifice for that? Given that his replica was training his skills and learning new ones

Leon

for the time being

just have to recover enough mana to keep Accelerate and Mindscape Transportation active.'

'Leon wondered if just give them a massive amount of mithril would be enough for that

but as it turns out

his mana needed to be transferred to his spirits directly. Considering that was the case

Sekundez should have said that earlier. That way

Leon would have transferred Rem's mana to another spirit... However

Sekundez was a spirit who rarely talked. So

unless Leon brings certain topics

she wouldn't talk about it.'

"Now that I think about it... I can gain some time just by going to another planet that is on a lower stage of the assimilation

" Leon said after a long sigh. "How can I so forgetful... I'm just four hundred and twenty-two-year-old..."

'There were no purple crystals in Sekundez

Shadow

or Rem's worlds. So

Leon had to use Mana Dominion again to find a suitable planet... However

after a while

he didn't find any world on the third stage of assimilation. Thanks to the mana he obtained from Rem

Leon managed to feel and analyze the mana in fifty sola systems... but he only found five planets that had mana

and all of them were on the fourth stage.'

"I suppose it can't be helped..." Leon shrugged.'

'Finding a place where the passage of time would be ten times slower in comparison to Earth was already great

to begin with. Again

before Leon could do anything

he decided to assimilate his replica's experience.'

'Congratulations! The skill Summon Shadow's Fragment has reached the max level.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Gungnir'

'Cost: 2000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Sting Shot.'

'Cost: 2000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Blast Arrow.'

'Cost: 2000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Grand Arrow.'

'Cost: 3000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Dragons sure had flashy names for skills. Even though Leon had memorized the moment a dragon used such a spell

it was one of those memories he could only access by using Mind Melding. In any case

before Leon could think of anything else

Shadow appeared and let out the longest sigh Leon ever heard. He didn't know if it was intentional or not

but Shadow was quick to make things depressed.'

"... What a happy idiot

" Shadow said. "Leon

I have a favor to ask

I want to stay in your imaginary dimension while Rem is on the outside world

and when he is there

I want to be on the outside."

"Sure

but I can't let you do what you want in the middle of important battles

" Leon warned. "So

you will have to deal with other eventually."

'As expected

Shadow and Rem were like water and oil. Even though that couldn't be helped

Leon didn't intend to spoil his spirits more than the necessary. So

he would count on them

even if their teamwork sucks.'

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"Anyway

Shadow

" Leon said. "I want to learn Teleport; you can help me with that right?"

"... Yes

" Shadow said after a long sigh.'

"Your lack of motivation is so annoying that I would force you to teach me to step by step that spells if I weren't in a hurry

" Leon furrowed his eyebrows. "Just use the spell. After that

I will make a copy of your memory and replicate whatever you did."

'Although he didn't say thank you

Shadow felt thankful for it. It was problematic to have a spirit like that

but it wasn't good to force his allies to do every single thing for him. For the good or for the worse

Leon only wanted to count on them during fights.'

'In any case

since his replica trained a little bit the spells he learned from Shadow

Darkness Manipulation already was at the level necessary. For efficiency's sake

Leon should have made his replica train that before

but Leon's mind wasn't working properly due to the headache. Regardless

much faster than expected

Leon learned the spell in just ten minutes.'

'Teleport'

'Cost: 5000 mana'

'Cooldown time: 5 seconds'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

""The range is one kilometer as well... even though the cost is five-time higher

" Leon rubbed his chin. "The cost is too high for me to use in one go and move to the planet... I guess my replica will have to train it."

'Although his replica could skills much faster in that dimension

the cost of the skill was too high. So

Leon had to wait for one hour. After that

the skill reached the level of three hundred. Despite that

Leon had to consume a huge chunk of his mithril spear to reach the world in question

and he also had to use it several times.'

'Congratulations! The skill Teleport has leveled up.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! The skill Teleport has leveled up.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! The skill Teleport has leveled up.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'...'

"... In the end

I spent much more mana and time when I tried to save both

" Leon said after a long sigh.'

'Regardless

soon Leon forgot about that because he recognized that world covered in snow. Leon didn't feel any presence there like before

but he still had to confirm it with the person who lived that before.'

"Hey

Celsius... is this..." Leon frowned.'

"Yes

the place where you found my old friend and me

" Celsius replied.'

'Some time has passed since that time

so it was only obvious that such a planet would have reached the fourth stage of assimilation. But it was kind of surprising that Leon couldn't feel the presence of monsters. Even though the world was covered in snow

he didn't feel all that much cold. But all that was because Leon had Ice Resistance and Ice Immunity at the max level.'

"I can't feel any dungeons here... I guess the connection to other worlds disappeared when all the monsters of this place died

" Leon concluded. "Well

I guess this will be a good base of operations for the time being."

'Although Leon wasn't being bothered by the cold

the snow was kind of annoying. So

he created a massive building to use as a temporary house. Leon already had to deal with an annoying headache. He didn't need to feel more uncomfortable than that. So

he created some objects to increase his comfort like a bed and a couch.'

"Well

now... before returning to Earth

I have to decide my main offensive spells

" Leon said to himself. "What is more powerful

my plasma projectiles

dark magic

or light magic? What do you think

Sekundez?"

"I'm pretty sure those three types are equally useful

" Sekundez replied. "You just need to use them at the right time."

"Thank you

captain obvious

" Leon sighed. "It will be a pain

but I can't delete the memories of when I used those spells against difficult enemies. That way

I will be able to use them at the right time as you said... by the way

Shadow. Why didn't you teach my replica other spells?"

"Because you didn't ask... Besides

he was busy learning other spells

" Shadow hesitated a little bit.'

"Then... What exactly did you while you were there?" Leon frowned. "You just existed?"

"Something like that

" Shadow replied.'

'Leon sighed and massaged his eyebrows. Even his patience had a limit

but in the end

the only thing he did was to transmit his anger throughout his voice.'

"Return to that dimension and teach my replica some offensive skills

" Leon said. "Tell to Rem that he also needs to do that."

"But

he is annoying..." Shadow retorted. "I don't want to deal with him."

"This will be your punishment for lazing around

" Leon said. "Deal with it in silence."

'Before Shadow could retort again

Leon sent him to that dimension. Despite that

Leon had to wait for several minutes to calm down his nerves. He never thought he would have to deal with a difficult child like that.'

"That surprised me

" Volt said. "I guess even Leon isn't immune to Shadow's behavior.'

'Health: 72219 +'

'Mana: 248952 +'

'Stamina: 69521 +'

'Strength: 227 +'

'Dexterity: 288 +'

'Speed: 390 +'

'Intelligence: 151365 +'

'Endurance: 855 +'

'Control: 50000+'

'Mentality: 10000 +'

'Luck: 42 +'

'Recovery: 90000 +'

'Willpower: 545 +'

'Coins: 000'

'Status: 00'

'Skill List'

'Active Skills: Spatial Manipulation Lv Max

Clairvoyance Lv Max

Summon Efreets Fragment Lv Max

Summon Undine's Fragment Lv Max

Summon Sylph's Fragment Lv Max

Summon Gnome's Fragment Lv Max

Summon Celsius' Fragment Lv Max

Summon Volt's Fragment Lv Max

Summon Shadow's Fragment Lv Max'

'Passive Skills:'

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'Although Leon became quite mad

one hour later

he ended up letting Shadow return. Not because he was feeling guilty or anything like it

but because Shadow worked really hard and also begged Leon to get away from Rem.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Bullet of Darkness.'

'Cost: 100 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Punch of Darkness.'

'Cost: 750 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Lance of Darkness.'

'Cost: 1000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Sword of Darkness.'

'Cost: 2000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Arrow of Darkness.'

'Cost: 2000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Cannon of Darkness.'

'Cost: 10000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Unholy Spike.'

'Cost: 5000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

"Well

I guess it is fine... obedient kids have to be rewarded

" Leon said while he was reading those notifications. "However

if something like that happens again...'

"I got it. I got it!" Shadow said anxiously. "It won't happen again! I will do anything as long as you keep me away from Rem!"

"As long as you understand that..." Leon said.'

"I guess I was wrong..." Volt said. "Leon is just too lenient."

"I bet he is the type of man who becomes a father and spoils his kids rotten

" Undine smirked.'

'Now Leon finally could understand how Sekundez would feel whenever he tried to speak his mind out loud as if no one was hearing. He wished that his spirits didn't talk on his back when he was listening

but Leon couldn't complain about it since that was a flaw that he also had.'

'Regardless

even though Leon managed to find a way to motivate Shadow to work hard

Leon couldn't relax yet. To make his spirits evolve now that they reached the max level

he would have to give them huge amounts of mana and to do that. He would have to increase the Mana Magnetism output.'

"In the end

I can't wait for my recovery to get more efficient... it is the only way

" Leon muttered.'

"It is not the only way. You can always obtain more mana by absorbing mana from enemies

" Sekundez said.'

"Yeah

but you can't see any monster here

can you?" Leon asked. "I was lucky in finding such world because harvesters probably aren't monitoring this place anymore. If I go to another world and drain the monsters' mana

they eventually will find me. While I want to fight those bastards as soon as possible

I can't take any chances while my friends and Earth are on the line. The big shots will probably come to Earth if the conflict escalates there or anywhere else."

'Sekundez couldn't retort Leon's logic because she knew he was right. Although Leon was the one who was having a hard time convincing himself

he didn't let himself rush toward the battles. At that point in time

a single mistake would cause thousands of deaths

and Leon's hands were already dirt with the blood of too many.'

"Sekundez

when you reach the max level

can you teach me a way to make time to pass faster and my recovery work faster?" Leon asked. "I think Accelerate was supposed to have such effect

but I have the feeling that isn't the case.'

"... Why are you always thinking of ways to die faster?" Sekundez asked

visibly shocked. "Don't you have any concerns about your own well-being?"

"I don't think I have I have..." Leon frowned. "Can you answer my questions now?"

"... Yes

it is possible

" Sekundez said after a long sigh. "And you are right. Accelerate can't help you to make your recovery work faster. There is another spell that can do that... obviously

the effects are much weaker than Accelerate. But are you aware of the effects of such skill on your body and mind?"

"Yes

it will make time pass faster only to my body and mind

" Leon nodded. "Although that will be useful

I will age faster than other people."

"Yes... even if you survive the use of Mana Magnetism for more than a few years

you will decrease your lifespan considerably

" Sekundez added. "Also

that skill only is effective to make someone age faster and to make recovery stat more frequently useful. So

the effectiveness of Accelerate or any other spell won't grow."

'That was a very troublesome effect... in the end

Leon could solve the problem of damaging his spirits

but the price would be his lifespan. All roads lead to Rome... In Leon's case

it was more accurate to say that all paths lead to his doom.'

""Well

I will think about it once I cross that bridge

" Leon shrugged. "I need to make you level up after all.""

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Bullet of Light.'

'Cost: 100 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Punch of Light.'

'Cost: 750 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Lance of Light.'

'Cost: 1000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'In the end

it would be faster to make Sekundez level up inside his mindscape. Still

Leon hesitated in doing that because Sekundez was also draining his mana to increase the training of his replica. If Leon leaves Sekundez there

the efficiency of the training will decrease by half. Leon hesitated and only assimilated his replica's experience and then left.'

""What would you recommend

Sekundez?" Leon asked. "Keep expanding the scope of Mana Magnetism or use the skill you mentioned.""

""I can't choose either

" Sekundez shook her head. "Both skills will cause your death

and I can't choose the way you will die."

'Sekundez talked as if Leon had control over that

but in the end

the only thing he could really do was work hard in order to die after reaching his goals.'

619 Chapter 617

'Eventually

Leon spent all the mana he had obtained thanks to Rem. So

he began to focus on expanding the range of Mana Magnetism again. Thanks to his recent increase in intelligence

Leon managed to do that with relative ease... even though that kind of action also increased the headache

Leon was feeling. It wasn't much

but Leon would be able to recover one thousand more points of mana aside from what was necessary to keep Accelerate and Mindscape Transportation active.'

"Sekundez

you can evolve

too

right?" Leon asked. "Transferring my mana to you can speed up your leveling up speed?"

"No

spirits can only assimilate your mana to evolve

" Sekundez replied. "So

I will only be able to do that once I reach the max level."

"I see... Well

who wants to evolve first?" Leon asked. "This might take a while

so someone patient will be the best option.'

"I want to be the first!" Sylph shouted.'

"Me too! Me too!" Gnome joined the fray.'

"I don't really want to use such methods to evolve

but I guess it is the only way

" Efreet said. "I also want to be the first."

"I guess you guys don't understand what being patient means..." Leon sighed.'

'In any case

Leon couldn't show favoritism. That being said

Celsius

Undine

and Volt were his first choices. However

since they weren't in a hurry

Sylph

Gnome

and Efreet had to choose between themselves... and there was only one way to solve them fairly. By using rock

paper

scissors.'

'In the end

Efreet won the contest

and Leon began to transfer his mana toward him. After twenty minutes

Leon had transferred one million mana points to Efreet

but he didn't notice anything different with him.'

"Do you feel different?" Leon asked.'

"Just refreshed thanks to your mana

" Efreet replied.'

'At the very least

that wasn't a bad sign

but that also meant that the process might become even more time-consuming than expected. Although that was troublesome

it wasn't so bad considering that Leon would eventually increase Mana Magnetism's scope.'

"Sekundez

do I have to keep transferring my mana non-stop

or can I take a break now and then?" Leon asked.'

"You are transferring your mana to the spirit very existence

" Sekundez replied. "Although you can't see or feel it

Efreet is becoming stronger as an existence. So

you can stop as much as you want."

'Leon wasn't tired

but he needed to assimilate his replica's experience every hour in order to give him orders more frequently.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Sword of Light.'

'Cost: 2000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Arrow of Light.'

'Cost: 2000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Cannon of Light.'

'Cost: 10000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

"Mmm... it looks like Rem is quite competitive

" Leon nodded in satisfaction. "

'It would be great if Shadow and Rem could compete with each other without annoying Leon

but as expected

he couldn't have everything he wants. After stopping to allocate his status points in intelligence

Leon resumed his job of transferring his mana for Efreet. Thanks to those points

Mana Magnetism range increased a little

but even so

Leon still had a long way to go.'

'Although that kind of thing would happen faster inside his mindscape

Leon couldn't stop his replica training since it was the only method where he could become stronger at a pretty awesome speed.'

'Fortunately

Leon only had to keep transferring his mana to Efreet for a few days. More or less around the time he transferred one billion mana points

Efreet started to glow... like a Pokémon.'

"The hell?" Leon said

surprised.'

'Congratulations! The skill Summon Efreet's Fragment evolved to Summon Great Efreet's Fragment.'

'Cost: 150 mana per second'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'While Leon was reading that notification

the glow around Efreet's body finally disappeared

and Leon saw a man made of fire in front of him. He was like two hundred and thirty centimeters tall. He also had bulging muscles. However

Leon recognized the vicious smile on his face. Efreet had lost his genderless appearance and closely resembled a human... but he had a pair of horns on his head.'

"Hahaha! So

I really evolved!" Efreet laughed. "I lost some of my power

but I can feel that my potential grew exponentially."

"Good for you

now wear some clothes

" Leon said. "The last thing I need is to see the body parts of another man that makes me feel depressed."

'In the end

Efreet could produce clothes. Only a fire armor appeared around him. Although the cost of mana increased

it was much better than see a man naked. Before Leon could notice

he started to look forward to the time Celsius and Undine would evolve. They would probably lose their genderless features as well... so...'

"I can hear your dirty thoughts..." Celsius said

visibly displeased.'

"I don't know if I feel relieved or worried by seeing you imagine this

" Undine frowned.'

'Leon shook his head and then analyzed his status. None of his statuses decreased

but Leon lost the skill Summon Efreet's Fragment. That was relief... in any case

Leon tried to test Efreet's power. As expected

it looked like his strength decreased

and it was around the level when he was at the level two hundred. That means that Efreet could become five times stronger than before.'

"I guess you can really become identical to the original spirit

" Leon rubbed his chin. "But I doubt we will have time for that."

'Although Leon wanted to make his spirits evolve as fast as possible

it wouldn't be a good idea to make them lose their power at the same time. So

Leon tried that again once Efreet reaches the level two hundred inside his mindscape.'

620 Chapter 618

'After Efreet reached the level two hundred

it was Sylph's turn to evolve. Although Mana Magnetism was little by little becoming more powerful

it would take at the very least ten days for him to evolve. However

Leon kind of wanted to focus more on that because he was eager to see the new form of his spirits.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Summon Haste.'

'Cost: 100 mana per second'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Summon Slow.'

'Cost: 100 mana per second'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Divine Ruination.'

'Cost: 3500 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Shadow Blade.'

'Cost: 3000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Dusk Blade.'

'Cost: 3000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

"Boy

oh boy... even though I try to learn skills that don't consume so much mana

it looks like it is a waste of time

" Leon said after a long sigh. "In any case

my replica did well in learning the ranged versions of Haste and Slow. It would be great if I could use skills Herculean Strength on my allies

but I'm pretty sure it isn't possible."

'Although Leon was learning several spells and growing strong quite fast

he felt like his mana wasn't growing like before. It was only evident given that he was forced to recover and spend almost thirty thousand mana points per minute

but it was troublesome not to be able to use Mana Sacrifice like before.'

"Well

this shouldn't be a problem. Eventually

I will run out of skills to learn... so I will use Mana Sacrifice like there was no tomorrow until I discover new spells to learn

" Leon nodded to himself.'

'That would only happen once Leon makes all his skills reach the max level

but given that his replica is working hard

it shouldn't take long for that to happen.'

'Congratulations! The skill Summon Rem's Fragment has reached the max level.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

"It looks like some interesting things happened while I was away

" Rem appeared already smiling brightly. "When will it be my turn to evolve?"

"I should have asked to evolve first..." Shadow said and then sighed.'

"You will be the last

Rem

" Leon answered.'

"Why?" Rem asked

shocked.'

"Because you were the last spirit that joined my side

" Leon replied. "It is only obvious that you turn will be the last. Just hang in there and don't bother me all that much."

'Leon thought of motivating his spirits to work by promising them that their turns might come sooner if they teach more simple spells to his replica

but that wouldn't be fair. In any case

after seeing Efrete evolving

even the usual calm and quiet Volt expressed his wish to evolve. That was quite surprising that they didn't show any interest in getting stronger faster than before... maybe there was some hierarchy among the spirits

and Leon wasn't aware of it. Or perhaps all of them were just that competitive.'

'As expected

things got quite noisy now that Rem and Shadow were in the place. Although Shadow was a bit depressed

the other spirits already got used to his presence and behavior. Basically

he was just lazy... so treating him as such would be less annoying for everyone else.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Hell Dive.'

'Cost: 1000 mana and 1000 stamina'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Critical Strike.'

'Cost: 2000 mana and 2000 stamina'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Power Bomb.'

'Cost: 1500 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Phoenix Strike.'

'Cost: 2000 mana per second'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Fatality.'

'Cost: 1000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

"Mmm... it looks like Efreet was to stay on my good side

and he is teaching some spells to my replica

" Leon rubbed his chin. "Most likely

he wants to become the first to evolve again if there is a chance to make the spirits evolve again."

'Although making the spirits stronger was a very interesting way to increase his own power

Leon didn't know if he would have that much time. Although time on Earth was passing ten times faster

everything could change in the blink of an eye

and Leon would have to return to Earth and cancel Accelerate and Mind Transportation... it would be insane to fight harvesters while trying to maintain such high-cost spells

after all.'

'By Leon's calculation

at the max level

the original Efreet would be at the max level

more than one hundred times stronger than a lesser fragment at the max level. While an ally like that would be useful

it would cost too much mana to keep and to evolve such spirit active. Considering that Leon had to spend one billion mana points to make Efreet evolve

in the best-case scenario

he would need one trillion mana points next time... Leon couldn't even imagine how many skills he could level up to the max level by using a massive amount of mana.'

"In any case

I don't have much of choice there

" Leon rubbed his chin. "One of the safest methods to deal with my opponents would be by trapping them using Mindscape Transportation. While my replica will have the same chances of winning against any opponent

things will work better if he has the support of the spirits."

'In fact

making his spirits become as powerful as their originals were probably the key to make Leon use Accelerate and Mindscape Transportation on himself without worrying about enemy attacks. Most likely

they would be able to stop any harvester and gain some time once they reach the apex of their strength.'

621 Chapter 619

'Leon was starting to get impatient again. Usually

he would erase his memories to get rid of his worries somewhat

but now that he really needed some battle experience

he couldn't do that. The situation wasn't exactly bad

but Leon wasn't someone who could do something for long while knowing that something far more important was happening somewhere else.'

"I guess this is the moment where my patience will truly be tested..." Leon sighed.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Abyssal Blade.'

'Cost: 5000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Unholy Sacrifice.'

'Cost: 5000 health'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Chain Lightning.'

'Cost: 1000 mana per second'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Frost Barrage.'

'Cost: 1000 mana per second'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Hell Stone.'

'Cost: 1000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'As usual

assimilating the experience of his replica made him focus for a while

but little by little

that trick was becoming less and less effective. In fact

it was making Leon grow even more impatient.'

"If I return to Earth now

even if I draw the attention of other harvesters

things will probably work out as long as I pass some of the knowledge to my friends

" Leon started to bit his nails. "They would need to train and level up some skills

but even at level one

the power of Rem

Shadow

and Sekundez should be useful to them."

'Leon would have to convince his spirits first to give their powers to a lot of people without confirming if they were worth it... but in the end

that way of thinking made Leon conclude that his enemies probably had done the same thing. Although it was common to see lone super-villains. A smart villain would grant power to their minions... just like the shadowy figure did to Donan. They wouldn't even imagine that using such skills without properly learning might cause their doom

but his enemies didn't have to worry while sacrificing some of their pawns.'

"Shit... even if the number of harvesters that have all the spirits is low

I also have to consider that they might keep using Summon Zombie and create a near unbeatable army

" Leon said

visibly annoyed. "In the end

making an appearance now without having the means to instant get rid of my enemies wouldn't solve anything."

'That was one hell of a headache

but Leon didn't have much of choice. For the time being

his best shot was to level up Sekundez and train the spells he learned from her to its limits. The same thing has to be applied to Rem and Shadow's spells. Although Leon could increase the output of the power of those spells

he didn't want to keep training to do that.'

"I have to calm down..." Leon said and then breathed in deeply. "I already messed up by destroying Sekundez's dimension... I can't mess up here in the real world."

'Leon managed to calm down that he eventually noticed that his spirits were too quiet. Since he was worried about many things

the spirits weren't causing a ruckus like usual. Not even Sylph

who was currently absorbing his mana to evolve.'

'Even Leon couldn't keep acting like that when he was worried about the few friends he made over the course of four hundred years. So

this time he calmed down for real before resuming his training.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Sonic Wave.'

'Cost: 5000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Esoteric Spike.'

'Cost: 2000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Holy Spike.'

'Cost: 5000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Brutal Swing.'

'Cost: 200 stamina'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Land Smash.'

'Cost: 2000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

"Mmm... Although now and then I learn a skill that doesn't consume stupid amounts of energy

those kinds of skills are rarely coming around now

" Leon rubbed his chin. "No wonder the number of skills my replica can learn and train in just a single hour doesn't increase... it is all thanks to the mana cost."

'It would be more efficient to train his first spells in order to gain status points. Although his replica doesn't have a target

Leon could always make the replica harm itself to train the skills faster

but he didn't want to do that. Although the replica was an exact copy of himself

Leon couldn't bring himself to cause such suffering to another existence. He was already going too far by constantly assimilating its memories

after all.'

"Maybe I don't need to make my replica suffer..." Leon said. "Sekundez

if I store some mana in a soul eater

can you use my mana to summon a random dragon through Mind Summoning?"

"Yes

I can

" Sekundez nodded. "However

to create the weakest version of any dragon

I will need ten million mana points. Well

considering that you just want to practice some weak skills

that should suffice."

'In the end

Leon still hesitated in doing that since he was creating another life or at least bringing others from his memories to increase the speed of his training. However

Leon ended up summoning the monster because he couldn't make his friends on Earth wait for him any longer.'

'It was time to do the things Leon wouldn't be able to do... he just wanted to save his friends and planet

but even though his intentions were pure

Leon's methods weren't. Idealism was fine

and all

but Leon finally found the limits of his idealism. Humans were dying every minute. Even though he could handle the death of a few strangers

he couldn't bring himself to ignore the death of thousands. To save as many as possible

Leon decided to sacrifice some of his conscience...'

622 Chapter 620

'Congratulations! The skill Frost Lance has reached the max level.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! The skill Water Bullet has reached the max level.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! The skill Ice Bullet has reached the max level.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! The skill Wind Bullet has reached the max level.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! The skill Fire Bullet has reached the max level.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! The skill Earth Bullet has reached the max level.'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

"Mmm... the progress is much better than I had expected

" Leon nodded to himself in satisfaction while he obtained the notifications of continuous level-ups. "As expected

it is much easier to be an asshole who doesn't care about morals."

'Eventually

it would reach a point where leveling up some skills wouldn't more efficient than learning new ones

but Leon was sure it would take a long while to reach that point. In any case

the addition of a dragon probably played an important role in the training. Even though the dragon was weak and it wasn't Leon's control

it was a good target to level up weaker spells.'

"In the end

there are more efficient ways to grow stronger than just increasing the number of weapons at my disposal

" Leon shrugged.'

"Hey

Leon

" Sylph protested. "Focus more on transferring mana to me! I want to evolve as soon as possible.'

"Yes

yes

" Leon said.'

'In the end

even though worry about every single thing every moment was tiresome

in some aspects

it was better than be bothered by his spirits. However

Leon got rid of those thoughts since they were far more understanding than him.'

"Now that I think about it... summoning mechanical wargs would have been much more efficient than summoning a weak dragon

" Leon rubbed his chin. "My summoned monsters are at the level max

after all."

'Considering that they were robots and not living creatures

Leon wouldn't have to worry about making them suffer just to make him get rid of some inconveniences. Regardless

what was done

was done. Besides

it was better for the experience's sake to fight against a real enemy.'

"If you want to use some monsters that are incapable of feeling anything to help your replica to train

Rem and Shadow can help you with that

" Sekundez said.'

"Is that so?" Leon frowned. "Is that true? Why didn't you guys say something?"

"You didn't ask..." Shadow replied

lacking motivation as usual.'

"Ah... that is true. I was so busy reading your memories that I didn't consider that possibility

" Rem said

as a matter of fact.'

'Leon sighed

but in the end

complaining was a waste of time. Those two were a pain the ass

so it couldn't be helped. Leon thought they would teach him some incredible spells

but as it turns out

those were another simple spell...'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Summon Golem of Light.'

'Cost: 150000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Summon Golem of Darkness.'

'Cost: 150000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Although the golems didn't have any skills and their statues weren't that impressive

nearly everything that touched them died. The Golem of Darkness's body had the properties of dark matter

so that could destroy everything that touched it. Something similar to the Golem of Light was capable of

the creature not only could cancel most forms of magical attacks but also could numb the senses of whatever touches it.'

"They are slow... but they can become a pretty useful line of defense

" Leon nodded to himself. "Aerial attacks would be their weak point as a line of defense

but it would be weird if this kind of creature didn't have any weakness."

'Considering the properties of those creatures

Leon began to wonder how he could defeat them if

by chance

he meets a harvester that can use those same spells. In the end

Leon soon found their weaknesses. Basically

they could only maintain those properties as long as they have mana. Once they ran out of fuel

they were no better than ordinary golems.'

"Don't you have any spell like this

Sekundez?" Leon asked.'

"Maybe... maybe not

" Sekundez replied.'

"Why sometimes you give me those ambiguous questions?" Leon frowned.'

'Either way

since Sekundez didn't teach Leon any new skill so far

something like that could only be learned once Sekundez recovers her powers.
Besides

among all spirits

Leon was really looking forward as to how powerful Sekundez would become once she evolves. She was naturally ten times stronger than spirits like Celsius

so Leon imagined that difference in power would continue or even grow once she evolves.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Memory of the North.'

'Cost: 10000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Sword Rain.'

'Cost: 1000 mana per second'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

'Congratulations! You have learned the skill: Spiritual Curse.'

'Cost: 1000 mana'

'You obtained 01 status points.'

"...Only three spells this time?" Leon said after sighing. "As expected

I did the right thing in starting to train to the level max my first offensive spells."

'The cost of the Memory of the North was stupid

but it couldn't be helped given that was another massive area of effect spell that could freeze anything in a radius that was equal to the stadium. However

Leon was more interested in Spiritual Curse since it made him recall of that nasty spell that made humans explode.'

"I see...

so this spell makes the target lose its mana continually

" Leon nodded to himself. "It isn't mortal but is somewhat useful."

'That being said

Leon had no intention whatsoever of using that kind of spell to recover his own mana. Why? It was because that spell made the target lose their mana through their ass... it was basically mana diarrhea.'