

World 1031

Chapter 1031: Investigators for the Affairs

Jack spent the whole afternoon handing out the remaining second-class special classes and normal special classes.

Most of the players he didn't even know. He didn't spend so much time in the guild headquarters, after all. But if Jeanny trusted them, then he was okay with it.

With almost half the guild's core members now having special classes, their battle capabilities increased another notch. Additionally, they were now also kingdom faction members. If they carried out the kingdom faction quests, it would benefit the kingdom as well.

The kingdom faction quests had increased now that more players joined the kingdom faction, unlike the time when Jack was the sole member.

Now that Jack was king of the kingdom, he could also see that each completion of the kingdom faction quests contributed to the settlements the quests were based on. It helped increase the settlement stats by a bit, either its economy, productivity, security, or happiness. Or sometimes they just provided extra coins, mana, or even troops to the kingdom.

Jack dismissed everyone to do their own thing, but he called Jeanny and Domon over to the throne room. John was already in there playing with the monarch system.

Duke Alfredo and Duchess Isabelle were also there. Thaergood was elsewhere dealing with administrative matters.

"Wow, a nice throne room you have here!" Jet exclaimed.

Despite Jack only inviting Jeanny and Domon to the throne room, some people decided to just unashamedly follow as if they owned the place. Bowler, The Man, and Paytowin tailed behind Jet, while Leavemealone followed behind Domon.

"Woo-hoo! This place is big!" The Man yelled and started walking around the place with Bowler and Paytowin.

"Can you people please stop acting like school kids on their first trip to the museum?" Jack chided.

Duchess Isabelle and Duke Alfredo made silent chuckles while Jeanny shook her head.

Jack sat on the throne and then asked Jeanny, "How about the things with Theboldiere and Therowld?"

"I've selected four of our members. Two used to be police detectives, one used to be a private investigator, and the fourth used to be a reporter. They paired up into two teams and they had gone to those two settlements."

"Good. Have you explained to them the parameter of the missions and the deadline?" Jack asked.

"Yes, the team in Theboldiere will investigate the land dispute between the two landlords. Once they got a clearer picture of the incident, they will report their findings to me. I will let you know once they did. Same as the ones who head to Therowld. They will check Lord Elmond's household."

"Give their names to Isabelle. She can inform the authority there to assist if needed," Jack said.

Jeanny gave the four players' names to Isabelle and she immediately headed out to use the communication device to talk with the governors of those two settlements.

"Jeanny, please go and find more players with real-life investigative skills," Jack said. "We will need a lot of them. Peniel said that if these affairs are handled nicely, then more people will submit their cases to the kingdom. The better we complete these affairs, the more merit points they provide, which in turn increases my sovereign level. Even if those players have low levels, it doesn't matter as long as they are good investigators. Accept them into our guild and have them on standby to investigate these affairs."

"I understand. I have already spread out the words," Jeanny said. "I've also asked Florence from the Missing Outworlders Coordination Center to let us know if she had any info on players with such a skill. She had already given me some candidates and I've already sent people to check on them. If they check out, we will recruit them."

"Good!" Jack uttered.

Now, all he needed to do was wait for the report before deciding what to do with those two cases from the Affairs Overview. He believed with better information, he should be able to make a decision that could be considered well enough by the world system.

Jack then turned to his grandfather, "Gramps, I'm going to have someone introduce you to Lord Commander Armstrong. I want you to give these kingdom's soldiers some pointers about martial arts as you did to our guild soldiers."

"I understand that natives can be less compliant compared to our guild soldiers, it won't be as easy," Domon said.

"Some of them are eager learners," Jet said. He had taught martial arts to Grace's companion, Oswald. He had a good opinion of that native's enthusiasm for learning.

"I will give it a try," Domon said.

"I will help," Jet said.

"Good!" Jack uttered.

When Duchess Isabelle returned, she came with Thaergood. Jack had called him over to meet him in the throne room.

Thaergood frowned when he saw The Man, Paytowin, and Bowler running around the room like some kids. They even played catch around the sculptures lined along the side of the throne room. He was thinking about calling guards to chase these people out. But when he saw the king didn't mind, he decided to just ignore those fellows.

Seeing Isabelle and Thaergood arrive, Jack told the two and duke Alfredo that he was giving John the authority to deal with most of the settlement buildings, military development, and research choices.

He asked both Isabelle and Thaergood to give John their assistance. Thaergood wasn't so fond of the idea.

Jack told them he would be going out often but would return at least once a month to deal with necessary matters. Thaergood told Jack that he should bring at least a regiment to accompany him.

Although that would be cool, Jack refused. Bringing such a large group would just hinder his freedom. He told them not to worry. He could take care of himself and if there was a problem, he could call his royal agents for help.

Thaergood wasn't assured. Three out of the five royal agents were recruits. Duke Alfredo was the only royal agent who could be depended upon. But since the king had made the decision, there was nothing he could do.

Chapter 1032: Information about the Mysterious Key

Jack explained to Isabelle and Thaergood about his intention to have the troops train in martial arts. He then asked the two to bring Domon and Jet to Lord Commander Armstrong who was stationed in this capital. Jack appointed Armstrong as the supreme commander of the capital's troops.

The two agreed to work together with Armstrong and Domon for the training program. They would be taking Domon and Jet to Armstrong right away.

Before he dismissed them, Jack took out something from his inventory and showed it to the three natives.

"Have you people seen this key before?" Jack asked.

The key he showed was the Themisphere Legacy Key. The key was yellow in color, almost golden. Its size was larger than a normal key. It also had unique carvings along its surface. Anyone who had seen it before should be able to recognize it again.

The three just gave Jack a confused expression.

"Where do you get it?" Isabelle asked.

"Uh... From late King Themis," Jack answered truthfully.

"It says it is this kingdom's legacy key," Duke Alfredo said after using his Inspect. "Perhaps it is to open something in Your Majesty's chamber."

Jack shook his head. "I've tried searching around my chamber looking for a hole that fits this key. No luck," He said.

Jack was disappointed that the three had no idea about this mysterious key, but he thought it just couldn't be helped.

When Jack was about to store the key, Thaergood said, "Perhaps Your Majesty can try searching around in the East-wing's basement."

"Do you mean the dungeon? Where I was locked up before?" Jack asked.

"No, that's the West-wing's basement," Thaergood said. "The East-wing's basement was forbidden for other palace's inhabitants. We never truly know why. However, I do hear that the late King Themis sometimes went there on occasion."

"Oh, that's good to know. Thank you for your information!" Jack said. He guessed this clue was as good as any.

Jack then dismissed both Isabelle and Thaergood to go with Domon and Jet. Before leaving, Thaergood informed Jack that there was a meeting the next day with the advisors and magistrates to discuss state matters. He asked Jack to not leave the palace yet.

Leavemealone followed Domon. Duke Alfredo wanted to excuse himself but Jack asked him to stay.

"Duke, can I borrow something from you?" Jack asked.

"What do you need, Your Majesty?"

"I remember the first time I visited your manor, I saw two items there. A divine crystal and the Horn of Silver Rhino Emperor. Do you mind if I borrow them for maybe a week?"

"Borrow?" Alfredo chuckled. "That's all right. I'll give them to Your Majesty."

"What? There is no need for that! I only want to borrow it. Truly! I will return them afterward," Jack said. Of those two items, one was a legendary material while the other was a unique-grade consumable. It was too valuable to just be given away.

"No, it's fine. It has been sitting in my workroom for a long time just collecting dust. If they can be of use to the kingdom, I don't mind offering them. I will fetch them and bring them here before the night."

Jack was touched by the gesture. "Thank you very much, duke."

Alfredo waved him off. He then excused himself to go fetch the two items.

"With this, you will have all the materials to upgrade your Lightning God Blessing to its highest level," Peniel said.

"Yes, but we need to make a copy first," Jack said and turned to Jeanny. "We might need them later. Haon also needed the divine crystal for his Fire God Blessing."

"I hope the mana core requirement is not too many. We don't even have enough to provide the bloodlines to our other core members."

"You can just copy the divine crystal later," Peniel said. "He won't be able to upgrade his Lightning God Blessing anyway."

"Oh? Why is that?" Jack asked.

"There is another hidden requirement for the final level of the divine treasure. You will need to be at least level 80 before you can upgrade it."

"The hell? Isn't that still a long way to go?" Jack asked.

"Yeah. Do you think you can just get the max-level divine treasure so early?" Peniel asked back.

"Of course! That way, I can trash everyone else while they are all still low levels," Jack said.

Peniel didn't bother to respond to that.

"Well, I will just keep that divine crystal and prioritize copying other items first then," Jeanny said.

While waiting for Duke Alfredo, Jack practiced his martial art. He ended up sparing with Jeanny since she had nothing to do. Bowler, The Man, and Paytowin got bored playing around the throne room and decided to leave. John was still playing around with the monarch system, ignoring all of them.

Duke Alfredo didn't make them wait for long. He returned not long after with the two items.

When Jack first lay his eyes on the divine crystal, it didn't seem like much until he used Inspect on it. Now, he could feel its power using his mana sense. It was as if there was a sun trapped inside that small crystal.

"Impressive," John remarked. The divine crystal was interesting enough that he stopped playing with the monarch system. Both he and Jeanny could also feel the crystal's mana.

"I will keep it safe and make a copy once I can. We probably need it for other things as well," Jeanny said to Jack and John through a message.

The Horn of Silver Rhino Emperor was also badass. Not only did it summon a mythical-grade beast for a one-hour duration, but it also could be used three times. As opposed to other summoning crystal which was only one-time usage. This horn would be a good thing to use in the war, Jack had the urge to scold the duke why he didn't bring it during the invasion war.

Jeanny turned to Duke Alfredo and gave him her sincerest thanks.

"Once you make a copy, I want that horn as well," John sent Jeanny a message.

"Don't you have enough minions already with your summoning spells?" Jack asked.

"I never find any number for my minions to be enough," John replied.

Chapter 1033: A Call from Wilted

Jeanny left soon. She had many things to do in the guild. She could now practically be said to be the only leader in Everlasting Heavenly Legends. Jack was always too busy doing his own things, John was now too absorbed after getting a new plaything. Between managing a country and managing a guild, there was no contest as to which one John preferred.

Before Jeanny left, Jack asked her to deliver the pills of growth she had copied to Jonathan and Amy.

Those who were selected as royal agents. Aside from getting access to freely use the city's zone portals, Jack could also send mental messages to them.

Jack instructed both Jonathan and Amy to come to Thereath's zone portal and meet Jeanny there. Jeanny would give the two the pills of growth to increase both their grades to rare elite.

Jack went out to the capital and imprinted the Themisphere King's Sword for his magic weapon spell. He also took the time to visit Samantha and talked about Amy. Samantha was relieved that Jack had appointed Amy as his royal agent instead of leaving her as a common foot soldier. Jack also picked up the profit from his restaurant and bakery.

When he returned to the palace in the evening, John had left.

Jack decided to head to the East-wing basement that Thaergood mentioned before. As he was walking toward the basement, he received a message.

"Oh? Wilted? Why did she message me?" Jack asked after seeing the name of the sender. "Didn't she complain that long-range message was expensive?"

"Maybe she wants to ask for refuge?" Peniel offered her opinion. "She did lose in Liguritutum. Maybe World Maker and the Liguritutum army were hunting her now and she got nowhere to go."

"Hm, let's just check her message," Jack said and opened her message.

"Is it true?! Do you truly become a king?" Wilted's message asked.

Jack didn't think her finding out about the news to be strange. The formal diplomatic messages he had sent to the other countries might not arrive yet, but the outworlders in those countries should have known already.

Nowadays, most players who chose to be adventurers had access to other countries, and players' messaging system was instant. So, since Jack's coronation was broadcasted to all of Themisphere, some players in this country might have sent messages about the news to the players in the other countries.

"Hehe, surprised, aren't you? I'm the first player to have become a monarch," Jack said proudly. He knew it was so because the system told him so and also gave him a bonus of 100 ruling points.

"You bet I'm surprised. I don't even know it's possible," Wilted replied. "Probably because this is not a real game anymore, so everything is possible now like the real world."

"Huh? Really? Then what about the monarch system?" Jack asked.

The monarch system was clearly a game system. If it was following the real world, Jack would've ruled in an old-fashioned way, by giving manual instructions to the court officers to carry out tasks, not by giving them via 3D holographic screens.

"How do you know about the monarch system?" Wilted asked.

"Duh! Because I'm a king now, remember? Didn't we just establish that in our first conversation?" Jack asked back. He felt like he was talking to a retard.

"Describe everything about the monarch system to me!" Wilted commanded.

"Lady, this will take a long message," Jack said. But since he was loaded with coins, he didn't mind paying for the messaging fees. He described each of the overview screens one by one to Wilted.

After a long messaging period, Jack finally completed his narration. "There. That's all to it. Now that we are talking about the system, is there any secret feature that I might have missed?"

Instead of responding to Jack's question, Wilted gave him a message that seemed to be muttering, "It is exactly like the system we designed..."

"Lady, won't it be weird if it is not like the system you designed? You ARE the designer of this game world, aren't you?"

"No, you don't understand. Although my partner and I did design the monarch system, we never actually implemented it into the game. We are just having it as an idea. We agreed that having one player become a ruler of a country will ruin the whole balance thing, so the idea is scrapped."

"Huh? It looks pretty implemented to me," Jack said. "Maybe it's Apollyon who activated it back?"

"No, Apollyon can't activate it because it is never in the system. My partner and I stored the simulated program in a separate drive, which he kept. After his death, I take all his belongings, including that drive. So, Apollyon never lay a hand on it."

"Then, maybe your partner secretly installed the monarch system behind your back?" Jack offered his guess.

"He won't do that... We always shared everything about the game," Wilted said.

'Really? I do remember he kept some secrets like the Valley of Tempus from you,' Jack thought but he didn't voice it out. He could sense the sadness in Wilted's message due to them bringing up her partner, so Jack tried to change the subject.

"Well, the reality is that the monarch system exists. Let's talk about a more important issue. How are you doing? I understand the civil war in Liguritutum is over and the rebel prince won. Are you still in that country?"

"I am still in the Liguritutum. I am in hiding, though. I am working with the insurgents. Remnants of the old ruler's loyalists who didn't accept the rebel prince as the legitimate ruler. We tried to cause as much disturbance as possible to halt their advance."

"Oh? You can do that? It's good then. If their plan can be delayed, it will give me enough time to build my force. How about Syndrillis? Is she okay?"

"The old ruler was killed when we lost. Syndrillis stopped fighting and left."

"So, she survives? Good! Do you know where she had gone to?" Jack asked. If he could find Syndrillis, probably he could persuade that dragon to be his country's guardian."

"I don't know. She is not in the mood to tell us her plan when she left," Wilted replied.

"Oh, that's too bad. Well, at least we know World Maker's side also doesn't have a country guardian."

"Also? Are you saying Themisphere loses Tiemezzys? What happened?"

"I angered him."

"... I don't even wanna ask how you do that."

"Anyway, if you need any place to escape to, please know Themisphere is open to you. Come here and we can work together to face World Maker."

"That's good to know. I might do that. But I will try to do what I can here first."

"Okay, be safe," Jack said and ended the message.

He had been messaging while walking around the so-called forbidden zone of the palace. The guards didn't prevent his entry since he was the king. After wandering while talking with Wilted, he found himself in front of an enormous locked door when he ended the conversation.

Chapter 1034: The Royal Chamber of the Ancestors

The enormous door sported an enormous keyhole. A keyhole that was large enough for the unusually large key inside Jack's inventory.

He took out the Themisphere Legacy Key and inserted it into that large keyhole. It fitted nicely. He then turned the key. Several sounds of clicking were heard. He was surprised a single turn of the key produced so many machinations within the door. Not long after, the sounds of clicking ended and the massive door opened ajar.

"Yes! It is indeed for this door!" Jack uttered triumphantly.

He pushed the door to let it open wider. It was very heavy, even for his strength.

After opening the door wide enough, he entered into a completely dark space. The dark seemed to resist his Dragon Eye's night vision ability, so Jack cast illumination. The light from the wisp revealed a wide corridor behind the door.

Before entering, he didn't forget to take the key out of the keyhole. He didn't want the door to accidentally close behind him, leaving himself trapped inside this place.

After storing the key back in his inventory, he entered the corridor.

It was a long corridor. The light from his illumination spell only lit up his vicinity, so he couldn't see how far this corridor go.

He looked at his radar. No sign of anything inside this place. He wondered if this was a place that nullify his radar ability. But he didn't worry, he also had mana sense. He didn't sense anything suspicious.

The corridor was dull. It was just stone walls, stone floors, and stone ceilings, without any decoration at all. Jack wondered where it led.

Then an unusual thing came into view. It was a statue. A statue of a person in a royal outfit. There were inscriptions under the statue.

Thenodeep, the eleventh king of Themisphere.

"So, this was the last king before Themos?" Jack said after reading the inscription. This late king was displayed with a stern expression. He was skinny and was holding the Themisphere's King Staff. The statue was detailed but also simple. Jack somehow sensed a great strength from the statue.

Although he sensed an abnormality in the statue, he couldn't tell what. He studied the statue for some while but couldn't find anything strange. So, Jack continued proceeding through the corridor.

Not several steps from where he found Thenodeep's statue, another statue came into view. Jack came over and read the inscriptions. It was the statue of Themisphere's tenth king, Thewolden.

The tenth king was a burly man holding the Themisphere's King Sword.

He continued. As expected, he found the statue of Themisphere's ninth king not far away. And so on. Each past king of Themisphere greeted him as he proceeded along the corridor.

After he saw the statue of the second king of Themisphere, he entered a large dome hall. When he entered the hall, it lit up. There was no clear source of light, the wall itself seemed to illuminate and dispelled the darkness. The light wasn't bright, it was soft and soothing.

As the darkness was dispelled, Jack laid eyes on the founder of Themisphere Kingdom, King Theridan.

He was a tall man with a strong gaze. He had a thin beard and wide shoulders. He held the Themisphere's King Sword in his hand. But the most impressive thing was the other statue behind him.

"Is... Is that a Therras Beast?" Jack asked.

The statue behind King Theridan looked like Therras in its sovereign mode. It stood bipedal and by doing so, was much taller than Theridan's statue in front of it.

The size of the therras beast statue was slightly larger than Jack's Therras. It also had more refined muscles. But the most distinguishing feature of this therras beast statue was the two wing-like things on its back. But instead of calling it a pair of wings, it was more like a pair of giant webbed hands.

"Is that the founder's therras beast pet? It was so different from mine," Jack uttered.

"The founder's therras beast is in its perfect form," Peniel answered.

"Perfect form? I thought its sovereign mode is already its perfect form?" Jack asked and walked forward to have a better look at the therras beast statue.

As he got closer, Theridan statue suddenly glowed. A pillar of light shot down from the ceiling. Jack was taken aback by this sudden turn of events and stopped.

He then heard a voice that seemed to reverberate around the room. "The thirteenth king of Themisphere! One who is not of my descendants. One who is not of this world. You dare to come before me?!"

A ghost version of Theridan floated before him. Jack also felt strong mana radiate from this ghost. However, the mana he sensed told him that this ghost was harmless to him. His radar also didn't show it as hostile.

Thus, Jack's alarm, upon seeing the appearance of this ghost and its antagonizing declaration, subsided.

"Greetings, King Theridan," He said to the ghost and bowed. This was, after all, the first king of Themisphere.

"Hmph! At least you are polite after stealing my kingdom," Theridan said.

"I didn't steal it. King Themos threw it away for the Sangrod Empire. I simply picked it back up since it is ownerless," Jack defended himself.

Theridan stared at Jack sharply. The stare made Jack think that perhaps he had spoken too candidly. That was his bad habit. He figured this made him a truly bad player in political matters.

But instead of being offended, Theridan gave him an unexpected query, "You can hear me?"

"Uh... Yes..." Jack answered, confused. "Am I not supposed to hear you?" He asked.

"Well, I... Normally, when my descendants came down here, they only saw my apparition. They couldn't hear me," Theridan said, but it was more like he was muttering to himself than talking to Jack.

'Oh? So your words when you appeared were not to scare me?' Jack thought.

The ghostly Theridan seemed to realize he had lost his composure in front of Jack. He hurriedly straightened himself and then declared with regal disposition, "Outworlder! You might not be of my descendant, but I can see you didn't mean this country any harm. You have also been good and supportive to my youngest descendant, Alonzo, who should have been the rightful king. It is unfortunate that my line finally ended, but a country doesn't exist just for its king, contrary to what that upstart Themos thought. As long as people are believing and upholding its virtues, Themisphere will continue to exist, no matter who the king is!"

"Um... Thank you for your support," Jack said with another bow. "So, you know about everything that happened?"

"I know everything that happens within this palace," Theridan replied.

Chapter 1035: Another Goes into a Cocoon State

"Miss Peniel," Theridan gestured at the fairy floating beside Jack. Since he knew everything happening within this palace, he also knew about Peniel.

"Your Majesty," Peniel made a curtsy for a reply.

"You know everything happening inside? What about outside?" Jack asked.

"My perception is only limited to this palace. What happens outside I know through the conversation of the people inside this palace," Theridan answered.

"Wow, spooky. I don't know that this palace is haunted," Jack said, which earned him Theridan's glare. "Are you alone here?"

"My other descendants who have been crowned king are here as well," Theridan said.

"So, what's the afterlife like?" Jack asked.

"Hm... Nothing much. We just watch over this place."

"... But you can't interfere."

"No," Theridan answered. "No one can even see me unless they come down here, which is normally only accessible to the king. I can only nod or give simple gestures while listening to them. They can't hear me, anyway."

"Wow! Sounds boring... Wait a minute. If I die, will my soul be trapped under here as well?" Jack asked. If that were the case, he would prefer to not be a king.

"I don't know. This is the first time we have an outworlder for a king. Do you even have a soul?" Theridan asked back.

"Of course, I have a soul," Jack said. But then realized, the Theridan here was originally a part of a program. Maybe he was scripted to be a part of a storyline. That's why he could interact with players while unable to with the other natives.

"So, normally what did the past kings do when they came down here?" Jack asked.

"They basically shared the problems that troubled them," Theridan answered.

"And you just listened?"

"They couldn't hear even if I talked back."

'Great. He is a silent ghost shrink,' Jack thought.

"You know, Themos came down here when that accursed vampire came and made him the offer. I, of course, tried to persuade him to not do it. Although he couldn't hear me, I think he understood my gestures, but he still accepted the offer. Bastard! Our entire noble line ends just because he is too fearful of death!"

"That is indeed a pity... Hey, wait! You saw the vampire that made Themos the offer? So, can you recognize that vampire?"

"I don't recognize that punk, but I heard Themos call him Marcus."

"Marcus? Marcus Maxius? The emperor of the Sangrod Empire?" Jack uttered.

"I can't be sure. As I said, I didn't recognize him. Marcus was already an emperor of Sangrod when I defeated the past dynasty and built the Themisphere kingdom. At that time, he only sent a representative to congratulate me, so I never lay eyes on that vampire emperor. He was well-known for his secrecy. I heard he also rarely showed himself to his court officials. If he was indeed the same Marcus, then damn that Sangrod! Here I thought that they are allies."

"This is good info. Luckily, we can speak to each other," Jack said.

"You should tell Duchess Isabelle about this," Peniel said. "Her spies might be able to gain more evidence if they know whom to look for."

Jack nodded. He then said to Theridan, "Ghost king, while we are talking about the secrets within this palace. Do you mind telling me if there is anyone in this palace that speaks badly about me?"

Theridan gave Jack a side-eye. Peniel slapped Jack's head.

"Let me give you a piece of advice, young king. No matter what you do, some people will always speak badly of you. What you need to do is be faithful to yourself. As long as you believe your actions are for the good of the country and its people, you don't need to worry about what others think of you."

"Thank you, ghost king. I will carve this advice into my heart," Jack said.

"Can you please stop using the ghost word, and what are you doing down here anyway?" It's Theridan who asked the question now.

"I'm just curious. I found this key from Themis and was just trying to see what kind of a place it led to," Jack showed the Themisphere Legacy Key.

"Oh, that key. The entrance to this place originally didn't have a door. The third king added it, to make this place more exclusive to the royal line. Not like it makes any difference since those who are not kings can't see us anyway."

"Well, you must be glad that I came down here to chat with you then. So, we can only talk down here? Or can I summon you and we talk somewhere else in this palace?"

"No. Other than here, you won't be able to see me," Theridan replied.

Jack nodded. His attention was back to the large statue of the therras beast again.

"Impressive therras beast you have," Jack said.

"Yeah. Its name is Terraxx. It truly helped me back then. We are like brothers," Theridan said.

"Did Terraxx come with those wing things on its back right from the start? Or did you do something to make it grow those wings?"

"It's already like that from the start," Theridan answered. "Why do you ask?"

"Oh, I see. A pity. I thought there is a way for me to have my therras grow those wings too."

"Oh, yes! I remember you summoned one at the beginning of your fight with Themis," Theridan uttered. "It got unsummon too fast that I didn't get a good look. Show me your Therras beast, please."

"Okay," Jack complied. Therras soon appeared next to him.

"An armored therras beast. Impressive!" Theridan exclaimed.

When Therras appeared, the therras beast statue behind Theridan's statue seemed to move. Except it was not truly moving. A spirit copy of the therras beast came out of the statue. It had a ghostly appearance just like the ghostly Theridan.

It floated toward Jack's Therras.

"Terraxx, you are awake! I miss you, brother!" Theridan called excitedly.

Terraxx turned to Theridan and acknowledged him, but he soon returned his attention to Therras, who stared back with equal fascination.

As the two therras beasts stared at one another, Jack chuckled. "Well, I guess your therras beast is as bored as you. It needed someone to chat with."

Suddenly, Terraxx lunged forward without a warning. Its spirit self went through Therras. It then quickly circled Therras. Therras roared loudly. Jack sensed agitation in its roar.

"Hey! What is your therras beast doing?!" Jack asked Theridan, but Theridan's expression showed that he was equally baffled.

The speed by which Terraxx circled Therras became so fast that it was a blur.

Jack was in a quandary. He didn't know if he should attack? Therras seemed agitated but it didn't lose any HP. Would his attack even affect the spirit form of Terraxx?

He decided to just try unsummoning Therras. However, it failed. He received a notification that Therras can't be unsummoned.

Terraxx finally stopped spinning. They could no longer see both therras beasts, though. In its place was instead a large and white-silvery thing like a cocoon. Jack had seen something like this not long ago.

Chapter 1036: Beast Monarch

"This... Is it...?"

"It's metamorphosing!" Peniel exclaimed, cutting Jack's stammer.

"I thought only a vampire can metamorphose?" Jack asked.

"I never said that it can only happen to a vampire," Peniel replied.

"Hey, does this mean..."

"Yes, most likely Therras' grade will increase after it comes out of that cocoon," Peniel answered before Jack finished his question.

"Woo-hoo...!" Jack uttered. He never expected his curiosity in exploring this place would yield this boon.

"I am honestly surprised by your therras beast. This means you are a beastmaster, aren't you?" Theridan asked.

"I am. I am also a blade dancer and an archmage. Well, used to. Those two classes have upgraded to special classes," Jack replied.

"Interesting. I thought outworlders stick to one specific class?"

"I have fortunate encounters that give me the special ability to have multiple classes," Jack answered.

Theridan nodded. "You said that your two classes of blade dancer and archmage have upgraded to special classes. So, you mean your beastmaster is still in the elite class?"

"Yes. Unfortunately, I am still not lucky enough to get the special class for beastmaster."

"Hm... I guess your luck is about to change," Theridan said.

"Oh...? Wait, do you mean..."

"Terraxx wasn't a charitable beast. Even to other Therras Beast, it acted haughty. It was always very proud of itself. To aid your Therras Beast in metamorphosis means it acknowledges your pet. This showed that you are also not an ordinary beastmaster. Well, since you have successfully ascended to the throne I left behind, I think we can both agree that you are anything but ordinary. I guess I can make you my proper successor."

"Successor...?" Jack asked.

"I told you before. The first king of Themisphere was also a beastmaster, right?" Peniel said to Jack through their minds.

"To my disappointment, none of my descendants was able to tame another Therras Beast. I even heard that the Therras Beast had gone extinct. It truly pained my heart when I hear that. To see one before me again now, by one who has succeeded my throne. I guess it is fate. The new chapter in Themisphere will be written by another king who possesses a Therras Beast. You will be the first king in this country's new chapter, and you have my blessing!"

Once Theridan finished his words, Jack heard a notification, "Congratulations to have been granted a special class. Your Beastmaster class has been upgraded to the special class, Beast Monarch."

It took a few seconds before Jack reacted, "Hell, yeah!"

Not only had his pet received metamorphosis, but he was also granted the special class he had been searching for. He was glad that he was nosy enough to look for clues on the Themisphere Legacy Key.

"Hey, Peniel. Just to be sure, this special class is first-class, right?" Jack asked in his mind.

"That's correct," Peniel replied.

"I am extremely grateful for this gift, Your Majesty," Jack bowed again to Theridan.

"Use it with wisdom. I hope it helps you in ruling our kingdom, Your Majesty," Theridan replied.

Jack opened his status window to check his new special class' passive abilities.

*

Strength, Dexterity, Reflex, Wisdom +10%.

Pet's damage and damage reduction +20% during the first 10 minutes after being summoned.
Cooldown: 2 hours

Pet's attributes +50%, summoned creatures' attributes +20%

Within a 500-meter radius, attributes of allies' pets + 30%, attributes of allies' summons +10%

*

"Hey, Peniel. Between this Beast Monarch and the Royal Beast Lord, which one is better?" Jack asked.

"They are both first-class special classes, so they are pretty much equal. But I guess Royal Beast Lord is more suitable for personal prowess, while this Beast Monarch enhanced allies which makes it shines in a team fight."

Jack checked the skills from this special class. Since his previous Beastmaster class was already level 63, he immediately received two new skills after becoming Beast Monarch.

*

Gigantify Pet, level 1/20 (Active skill)

Double the pet's size. Attributes, defenses, and resistances +100%.

Damage +10%, damage reduction +30%

Immune to movement restriction. All status ailment resistances +50%

Duration: 2 minutes

Cooldown: 30 minutes.

Stamina: 250

*

Beast Command, level 1/20 (Active skill)

Take control of a target enemy's pet. The targeted pet has to be lower in grade and not more than 10 levels higher than own pet.

After the skill's duration ends, deals 2000% physical damage to the pet. If it doesn't die, it is forcefully unsummoned and cannot be summoned for 1 hour.

Duration: 10 minutes

Cooldown: 3 hours

Stamina: 200

*

"Peniel, this Beast Command skill is similar to David's Barghest's Charm Monster skill, isn't it?" Jack asked. "But I remember that Barghest's skill has a probability percentage. No percentage is described here. Does this mean any pet I target is 100% getting controlled?"

"Unless the owner has immunity to charm skill, that's correct," Peniel answered. "Additionally, the Barghest's skill lasted only thirty seconds. Your Beast Command took control of the enemy's pet for ten long minutes."

"Even after the duration ends, the enemy will still lose the pet for one hour if it doesn't die. That effectively removed a beastmaster's most powerful asset from a battle. Any beastmaster will cry if they encounter me," Jack chuckled.

"That's why it's called Beast Monarch," Theridan said. "This special class is a monarch among the beastmasters. I hope this class aids you as it aided me in ushering another era of prosperity in Themisphere."

"I won't let you down, Your Majesty," Jack bowed again.

"Well, at least you are not calling me ghost king again," Theridan said, which drew Jack's and Peniel's laughs.

"So, how long will it be in that state?" Jack asked about Therras' cocoon state.

"Can be minutes, can be days, can even be months," Peniel answered.

Jack was irritated. Peniel gave the exact same answer as when he asked about Arlcard's cocoon state.

Since even Arlcard hadn't come out of his cocoon despite Arlcard going into the state earlier, Jack guessed Therras would take a longer time. This meant at the moment, he lost two of his most powerful aides. He thought maybe he should postpone his plan of going out adventuring for a little more while.

Chapter 1037: Questioning the Fourth King

"Your Majesty, you said the ghosts... Um, I mean, the spirits of the other Themisphere's kings are down here, didn't you? Can you call one of them out? There's something I want to ask," Jack said to Theridan.

"Which one?" Theridan asked.

"The fourth king, Thebalder," Jack answered.

"Hey! You heard him. Are you going to show yourself?" Theridan called out.

Seeing Jack's questioning expression, Theridan said, "I said before, right? I see and hear everything that happens in this palace. The others are the same. They have heard us talking all this time."

"Oh...", Hearing that brought Jack back to the time when he was standing before the fourth king's statue during his walk through the corridor.

When he saw the statue and read the name under the statue, he laughed himself off. When Peniel asked him why he laughed, he said, "See, Thebalder."

He was pointing at the statue's head, which showed the king with a bald head. He and Peniel laughed together then.

As he was pondering that episode, Thebalder appeared before him. His appearance was the same as his statue. His crown was sitting on his bald head. From the dead king's expression, it was clear that Thebalder was aware of that earlier incident.

"Ah... Greetings, Your Majesty. I'm just an inexperienced junior. Please, don't put any of my silly acts to heart," Jack uttered while bowing.

Theridan was aware of what incident Jack mentioned. He was silently chuckling.

"Hm, I'm not that petty. Such a childish act won't offend me," Thebalder said while folding his arms. "So, what does the new not-our-descendant king want to ask about?"

'You are clearly offended,' Jack said within. Without, he said, "I heard that before your unfortunate demise, you went on an adventure with the son of Verremor's grand chief who also brought along Verremor's then-national treasure, the Totem Banner."

"That's correct," Thebalder's expression turned solemn after hearing this. He could imagine where this conversation was heading.

"Then you know what happened at that time had become a source of enmity between our country and Verremor," Jack said. "Do you mind telling me the whole story?"

Thebalder was silent.

Theridan said to him, "Great grandson, this is your chance to set things straight. Before this, none of our descendants could hear us. Hence, you have never been able to convey the truth. This is your chance."

"Things have already been misunderstood for so long. I don't think it will be easy to change everyone's minds," Thebalder said.

"It is better late than never," Theridan countered.

"Please let me know the truth, Your Majesty," Jack pleaded. "I promise I will do everything in my power if there is a chance to repair this broken relationship between us and Verremor."

Thebalder closed his eyes. It was apparent that he was going through internal turmoil. Whatever had happened must not be an easy memory for him to recall.

"I and Verremor's grand chief's son... We were the best of friends," Thebalder finally spoke. "His name was Mojuto Raretooth."

"Raretooth?" Jack uttered.

"What is it?" Thebalder asked when he saw Jack's reaction.

"I went through quite a conflict with the Raretooth tribe. I also heard that it was the tribe that had aggressively pushed for the recent Verremor invasion. Now I understand... So, they still carry the grudge from the past."

"Which tribe holds the position of the grand chief of Verremor now?" Thebalder asked.

"It's the Proudtsk tribe. The current grand chief of Verremor is Kabaka Proudtsk," Jack answered. He learned this information from reviewing the Foreign Overview screen of the monarch system.

"It's not strange," Theridan said. "Verremor's central government is formed from the council of ten tribes. The head of the seat often changes places between those ten tribes."

Thebalder nodded. "How are the descendants of the Raretooth tribe?"

"Bitter and angry," Jack replied. "They spearheaded the invasion."

"I don't know if any of this can still be fixed... But okay, I will tell you everything. Whether you can use this to patch our relationship with Verremor, that is up to you," Thebalder said.

Jack nodded. He sincerely wanted that to be possible.

"As I said, I and the grand chief's son, Mojuto, are the best of friends," Thebalder said. "The fact is, he had taken his country's national treasure, the Totem Banner, at my behest."

Jack almost asked why he did that but stopped himself. He understood he was sometimes too impatience. So, he instead gave Thebalder an attentive expression, urging him to continue.

"The reason was that a team of adventurers have encountered something troubling. Something within the Themisphere's territory. The adventurers went to an ancient ruin and accidentally activated a device that opened a portal to the underworld.

"I and my trusted retainers immediately went to check it out. It was indeed true. Some lesser demonic creatures had even come out of the portal and caused trouble to the surrounding areas. I led an army and tried to contain the situation, but as long as the portal was opened, demonic creatures would keep on pouring out. Not to mention, the level and grade of the demons that came out of the portal increased as time passed.

"Not knowing what to do, I finally enlisted help from the Order of Magi. They studied the portal and told me that an artifact of extreme power was needed to close the portal. Themisphere had one such artifact at the time. It was our national treasure, the Boundless Cache."

"Boundless Cache?" Jack couldn't help but blurted out this time.

"It's a legendary-grade artifact," Peniel explained. "The country that possessed this artifact will have all its buildings' and units' upkeep reduced. Additionally, the artifact generates 100,000 gold coins, 20,000 mana, and 5 ruling point every week."

"You are very knowledgable, miss," Theridan praised.

"100,000 gold coins every week?" Jack uttered. "That means 400,000 gold coins a month. That's more than half our current monthly net income."

"Don't forget the 5 ruling point every week. That means you have free 20 ruling points a month," Peniel said.

"The heck! We used to have that kind of national treasure? What happened to it?!"

Chapter 1038: The Reason for Two Country's Enmity

"The Boundless Cache was indeed important to us. However, resolving the crisis of the demonic portal took precedence," Thebalder said. "Thus, I gave our national treasure to the mages from the Order of Magi as a power source to close the portal. Unfortunately, the power from the Boundless Cache was not enough. They needed at least another item of equal power."

"That's why you asked for the Totem Banner from Verremor," Jack guessed.

"That's right," Thebalder said. "I made a formal visit to the grand chief at the time to borrow the treasure. The people from the Order of Magi assured me that once the portal was sealed, both artifacts could be returned. Unfortunately, the grand chief turned me down."

"I don't find it's strange," Theridan said. "If it is another country that made such a request for our national treasure, I will also reject it. Even if that country is an ally."

"But if the portal is left unchecked, it will spread to other countries, not just ours!" Thebalder said.

"Most of the time, it's difficult to understand the urgency when the fire burns on the other side of the river," Theridan said.

"Yes. I tried to make the grand chief see that, but it is as you said, great grandfather. He just couldn't see the urgency," Thebalder said. "With a heavy heart, I returned empty-handed. But unexpectedly, Mojuto showed up soon after I am back in Themisphere. What's even more surprising, was that he brought the Totem Banner with him. He had secretly taken the national treasure without his father's approval."

"His friendship with you is commendable," Jack remarked.

"That is true. And I value his friendship till now, even when my life is no more," Thebalder said. A hint of deep sadness was seen on his ghostly face.

"What happened then?" Jack asked.

"The two of us went back to the site. Mojuto witnessed my army battling the demonic horde. He understood then that he had made the right choice. This crisis needed to be dealt with as soon as possible. The Order of Magi had constructed a rune diagram around the portal to contain it. Regrettably, during my absence, more demonic creatures came out of the portal. They had driven everyone away from the circle of power the Order of Magi people had created.

"The two legendary artifacts needed to be placed within that rune diagram. So, together with my elite team, Mojuto and I fought our way toward the portal. We suffered heavy losses but we finally reached the portal. The people from the Order of Magi who followed behind us immediately reactivated the rune diagram they had prepared prior.

"We installed both the Boundless Cache and the Totem Banner to power up the diagram which would close the portal. The Order of Magi people then started erecting a seal to contain the area around the portal while the two treasures do their work closing the portal.

"However, the sealing took time. While it was being formed, a powerful archdemon came through the portal. It slaughtered my elite team. Mojuto and I fought as best as we could to stop him from disturbing the Order of Magi people.

"I was heavily wounded in the process but we bought everyone enough time. The Order of Magi people called us to exit the area. But if we did, the archdemon would follow us out and destroy the core of the rune diagram. Someone needed to stay behind and stopped the archdemon.

"Since I'm already wounded and this is my country, I volunteered myself. However, Mojuto used his orcish strength and throw me out. He stayed behind and blocked the archdemon. The Order of Magi people could finally not wait anymore and they activated the seal.

"The area around the portal was completely sealed with Mojuto inside it. He had sacrificed himself when it should have been me!"

Thebalder sighed heavily. He then continued, "The people from the Order of Magi stayed behind to reinforce the sealing and channel their energy into the rune diagram to aid the portal-closing. Unfortunately, the portal had already opened too wide. It couldn't be closed in a short time. But with the power from the two national treasures, the seal would block any further incursion while the portal was slowly shut. Before that happened, the two national treasures couldn't be removed. Otherwise, all our efforts would be wasted.

"The Order of Magi built an encampment around the place and demanded the existence of this portal be kept a secret. Otherwise, demonic cults who worship demon force might come and try to sabotage the seal.

"My army wiped out the remaining demons and set up a blockade around the place. As for me, my grief for losing my best friend caused my wound to become worse and I passed away soon, without being able to properly explain what had happened to Verremor's grand chief... Or perhaps, I'm just too ashamed to go face Mojuto's father. I blame myself for that after my death. Perhaps if I'm not such a coward, I could have prevented the war between our countries."

"I doubt the grand chief would be understanding," Theridan said. "He lost a son and a national treasure because of you. Whatever you said, I don't think he would forgive you."

Thebalder didn't say anything, he just looked away with somber eyes.

"You said before after the portal is shut then we can take back the artifacts, right?" Jack asked. "How long ago was that? Surely the portal is closed already, isn't it?"

Thebalder shook his head. "It is almost two hundred years since then, but the Order of Magi said that it would take around three hundred years for the portal to completely closed."

"Three... Three hundred years? That means it still needs another one hundred years?" Jack asked.

Thebalder nodded.

Jack was speechless. That meant it would not happen during his lifetime. After some consideration, he asked, "Where is this portal located?"

"In Themonium," Thebalder answered.

"Do you mean near Themonium?" Jack asked. Themonium was one of the eight large cities of Themisphere. Not quite a metropolis like the eleven main cities, but larger than a town.

"No, I said the portal is inside Themonium," Thebalder said. "There was originally no settlement there. After I set up barricades for the demonic portal. More and more military structures were built around it. Later, they allowed civilians to settle nearby to support the military. It somehow grew into a settlement, with a population large enough to be a city now."

Chapter 1039: Visiting Themonium

"Are you saying one of our cities has a demonic portal that births a horde of demonic creatures inside it?" Jack asked with disbelief.

"It's not like I intended it to be that way," Thebalder shrugged. "Well, I didn't exactly explain the situation well to my officers or descendants, so I guess none of them know about the demonic portal. The Order of Magi people was also tight-lipped about it. I tried to inform the past kings when they came down here, but since they couldn't hear me, I just gave up eventually. Until you came. I'm glad I can finally tell this to someone."

"Themonium has already grown too large. There is nothing I can do even knowing about the portal now," Jack said. "We can only hope the process of closing the portal encountered no trouble. I will go there and have a look."

"Yes, I do think you should do that," Thebalder agreed. "I left my trusted magistrate to watch over that place. We have to make sure the Order of Magi people didn't just take the artifacts away after the portal is closed, after all. My magistrate's name was Robert Malva. He is also the head of the Malva noble house at that time. I believe his descendant should still be overseeing the place."

"They are," Jack said. He remembered the name of the governor of Themonium was Diana Malva.

"Considering you are not our descendant, you might need something to convince the Malva house," Thebalder said. He made a pulling gesture. Jack looked back and saw something shiny came flying from the corridor he came from. This shiny thing stopped in front of him.

"I instructed people to put this with my statue down here after my death," Thebalder said.

Jack took the shiny thing and saw that it was an ornamental item called Malva Crest.

"It's something Robert Malva gave to me as a sign of his allegiance. My name is also inscribed on the crest. This should help you when you talked to his descendant."

"Thank you, Your Majesty. I'm sure it will be."

Jack stood up and saluted the two past kings. "Thank you for your special class, King Theridan. Thank you for your information, king Thebalder. I will go to Themonium early tomorrow and make sure that everything is still all right. And if possible... See if it is possible to take the Totem Banner to repair our relationship with Verremor."

"In that case, I implore you to help fix the relationship between our two countries that I have ruined," Thebalder uttered with a slight bow.

Jack heard a quest notification then, Repair the relationship between Themisphere and Verremor. The difficulty was SS grade.

'Ho! A quest,' Jack thought. He considered it a bonus. He was going to try doing it either way.

"Seeing your sincerity for our country, I will also present you with a gift," Theridan said. "You asked before what the past kings of Themisphere doing by coming down here, didn't you? I wasn't completely honest with you. They came down here to receive our blessings."

"Blessing?" Jack asked, confused.

"Everyone. Come out!" Theridan commanded.

Soon after, nine other ghost-like figures appeared. They were exactly like the statues that Jack had seen when passing through the corridor. They were also Themisphere's past kings.

"After our talks, we can see that you indeed care about this country. Don't you all think so?" Theridan asked the others. They responded with a silent nod.

"We hereby grant you our blessing," Theridan said. His hand was outstretched at Jack. The other kings did the same. Jack heard a notification that he had received a new title.

*

Rightful Themisphere King (Title).

A sign that the bearer had been blessed by past kings of Themisphere.

Loyalty increase is boosted if this title is equipped when promoting, paying, or gifting the officers.

*

"Thank you, Your Majesty!" Jack said. This title would help when he next did the mass pay function.

"We wish you luck then. Themisphere's well-being is now in your hand," Theridan said. Thebalder and the other kings gave Jack a nod.

"I'll come down here to have a chat with you all if I have the time," Jack said while waving them goodbye.

Theridan just chuckled for a response.

Jack looked at Terras' cocoon state before leaving. This place was forbidden to others, so he didn't need to post guards like in the case of Arlcard's cocoon. He just made sure he locked the large door using the Themisphere Legacy Key on his way out.

*

The next day, Jack attended the meeting that was previously informed by Thaergood. The meeting was attended by all the advisors and magistrates. Duchess Isabelle and John were there as well since they were also advisors.

Affairs, petitions, and other details relating to state matters not covered by the monarch system were talked about in the meeting. Jack mostly had to decide what to do with each. He knew that these matters were important so he didn't act like his usual self and simply decided as if he was tossing a coin.

He also knew that he wasn't the wisest person so he didn't try to decide on his own. He asked for everyone's opinions and then simply picked the one he thought was best. He didn't care if he was seen as incompetent for doing that. He thought this was the best for his current limited experience regarding state matters.

He thought the meeting would only take a few hours but it instead took a whole day. After finishing, Jack asked Thaergood how often they would be having this kind of meeting. Thaergood said that it depended on the situation.

Jack asked him to put together the matters and just had a monthly meeting when he was scheduled to come back to use the Officer and Foreign Overviews in the Monarch system.

Since it was already nighttime when the meeting concluded, he postponed his trip to Themonium to the next day.

*

Early the next morning, Jack teleported to Themonium. This was the first time he was in this city so he walked around the place.

He used his Unrivaled Arcaner disguise. If he walked around as his real self in the regal outfit, he won't be able to walk freely. He couldn't use his Orb of Disguise to alter the appearance of his original self's equipment, only his disguise's equipment could be altered.

The city had fewer facilities compared to Thereath, but it was still a decently large city. Everything was also well organized and sufficient guards patrolled the streets. This city was among the ones with the best stats in the kingdom. He supposed this had to do with the governor who possessed high leadership and politics stats.

While he toured the city, he did his usual shopping spree in buying common-grade equipment and ores. Although his current regal outfits didn't need ores for leveling up, his other guild mates still needed them. Additionally, he was preparing in case he got better equipment to replace the regal outfits.

During his tour, he received a notification that Jonathan had completed the quest. The gang hideout had been destroyed.

'So fast,' he thought. Jonathan only took one and a half days to complete the quest. This was another benefit of doing quests instead of the Train command. If the royal agent could complete quests speedily, the gained exp points could be even more than normal training.

He opened his status window and look at the completed report.

Jonathan had leveled up to level 52. 'Not bad for a few days' work,' Jack thought. Jack was sure Jonathan received other rewards aside from exp points.

As for the kingdom's benefit, the quest completion had boosted the security stat of Therural, the nearby town. Not only that, the kingdom received one hundred gold coins from the raid. Several of the bandits also surrendered and agreed to serve the kingdom. They were now integrated into the troops that were stationed in Therural. Their number was around fifty level 40-45 and grades ranging from basic to elite. The leader of the surrendered bandits was a level 47 special elite.

Even though the number was small, this could be considered a free draft.

Jack immediately sent Jonathan on another quest again. He made sure to pick one that was not too difficult for Jonathan's level.

After browsing through the available quest, he picked one that required Jonathan to clear a small-sized monster settlement that was troubling a village. The existence of this monster settlement caused unrest and prevented the village from growing further. The average level of the monster was 45, Jack thought Jonathan should have no problem with this quest.

After finishing his tour, Jack went to the city hall. Two soldiers guarded the entrance. Unless one had an official matter, one won't be allowed entry.

Jack first went to a nearby alley to transform back to his real self before walking to the city hall's entrance.

The crowd was immediately riled when they saw Jack. When Serenity broadcasted Jack's coronation, everyone had a good look at Jack's face. Not to mention, the regal outfit was one of a kind. Everyone noticed the kingly presence from Jack's appearance.

The soldiers that were guarding the city hall took a few seconds before they convinced themselves that it was indeed the king who had arrived.

They immediately bowed and saluted, "Yourâ€"Your Majesty."

"I wish to speak with the governor," Jack said. He tried to sound as authoritative as possible. Which was uncomfortable, because it was against his nature.

The soldiers opened the gate. One rushed in to inform the governor, while the other one accompanied Jack into the city hall.

*

From the windows on the upper floor of the city hall, a woman was looking at the crowd outside who had gathered due to the appearance of the king. From the window, she had seen the king enter the building, but she stayed by the window.

Urgent knockings were heard. The woman let a few seconds pass before telling the one outside to enter.

It was one of the guards at the entrance who had rushed inside. "Maâ€"Madam, His Majesty has arrived. He demanded your presence."

The woman was the governor, Diana Malva. She sat back behind her desk and said, "Take the king to the main hall. I will be there soon."

The soldier was surprised by the governor's words.

"Anything else?" Diana asked with a displeased gaze.

"I... I will inform His Majesty," the soldier said awkwardly.

After the soldier left, Diana took a paper and pen and started scribbling. She was not in any hurry.

Chapter 1040: Reaffirm Loyalty

Jack was ushered to the main hall. It was a large and beautiful hall that was more like a display gallery. Paintings, sculptures, and other works of art filled the hall. Jack could see that the one in charge of this place was quite a collector.

Jack looked at those works of art as he waited. While he took it casually, it was Peniel who was agitated.

"Who does she think she is? How dare she makes the king wait for her?" Peniel grumbled.

"No need to get so worked up. I have expected such a treatment," Jack said.

"You have?"

"I checked her info from the monarch system last night, remember? Although her social stats are good, her loyalty is very low."

"Oh, right. Her loyalty was only 61," Peniel said, remembering.

"That is also after I use the mass pay," Jack said. "Which meant before that, her loyalty must be below 60 points."

Jack remembered when he was reviewing the cities during the day he first studied the monarch system, he had noticed some governors with very low loyalty. Diana Malva was one of them. He had proposed to elect a different governor. One with a higher loyalty stat, but Thaergood advised against it.

Discharging Warren was okay because of his known history with the king, but Thaergood reasoned that immediately demoting other officers on the first day of ruling would cause anxiety to the rest of the officers. Since the average loyalty was already not good, this anxiety might cause the loyalty of other officers to decline. That would negate the small increase from the mass pay Jack did earlier that day.

Furthermore, regarding Diana Malva, Thaergood said that her family had been ruling Themonium since its first establishment. The people in that city looked up to that family. Removing her from the governor's seat would just cause the city's Happiness to plummet.

Jack didn't like the idea of a single family having so much power in a city, but he followed Thaergood's advice and left Diana Malva alone. Jack didn't understand then why the kingdom let the Malva house grow unchecked in Themonium city. Only after hearing Thebalder's story yesterday that he understood.

Thebalder must have issued a decree to give the Malva house full autonomy of the place so that they could protect the portal and keep it hidden from the public. Even after the place grew to a settlement, Thebalder's descendants honored his wish and continued to let the Malva house manage the place.

It was almost ten minutes before Jack heard the soldiers behind him utter a respectful welcome, "Governor Malva."

Jack didn't turn. He kept his eyes on the painting before him. He heard footsteps approaching. Those footsteps stopped behind him.

"Everyone else, please leave! I wish to speak to Governor Malva alone," Jack said loudly without turning back.

"Yes, Your Majesty," the soldiers responded. Jack then heard them shuffling out of the hall.

Jack still didn't turn back. Diana also didn't make any move or say anything behind him.

They stayed that way for quite a while. Jack just continued to look at the painting, as if he was enjoying it very much. Peniel, on the other hand, was sitting on Jack's shoulder looking back. She was giving the lady governor who stood behind Jack an unfriendly stare.

Diana probably couldn't stand this awkward situation any longer. She finally said, "Greetings, Your Majesty. I'm Diana Malva, the governor of this city. I'm sorry to have made you wait. There are just too many matters that need my attention."

Jack finally turned back. He gave Diana a warm smile. "The fault is mine, governor. I shouldn't have come without notice."

Diana made a short bow after Jack turned to face her. Peniel was unhappy with the gesture, she should have fully bowed before the king. Jack, however, didn't show any sign of displeasure.

"If I may be so bold. May I ask the reason for Your Majesty's visit?" Diana asked.

"Governor Malva, there are only the two of us here. Let us be candid," Jack said. "I know that you don't especially like me. I don't blame you. I am just a boy practically half your age. Not only that, I am an outworlder. Some of you may even think that I am an invader who had taken over your country."

Jack paused a bit before asking, "Do you think I'm an invader who has taken over your country?"

There was also a pause before Diana answered, "I don't dare, Your Majesty."

"Maybe you don't, or maybe what you mean is that you don't dare to offend me. But whatever your thoughts are, I want to assure you that we are on the same side. I won't let any natives be bullied by outworlders and no outworlders will get any privilege if they don't merit it. I will treat natives and outworlders fairly."

"I'm sure Your Majesty will," Diana responded.

Jack smiled. "I know it's all just talks. Until you see for yourself, there is no use for me to say anything. I only ask that you give me a chance. Or at the very least, trust in Goddess Serenity's judgment. Anyway, I ain't here to persuade you to recognize my legitimacy to the throne. I'm here to reaffirm your family's vow."

"What does Your Majesty mean?" Diana asked.

"Your vow to the fourth king. The task that was given to your ancestor by King Thebalder to safeguard the demonic portal beneath this city," Jack said.

Diana didn't say anything but her eyes were wide.

"Since you consider me an illegitimate king, you must not expect me to know about this," Jack said to her. "But know that I not only have the blessing of Goddess Serenity, I also have the blessing from past Themisphere kings."

Jack equipped the title of Rightful Themisphere King.

"That's...", Diana was seemingly taken aback by the title.

"From your reaction, I'm sure that you are aware that only someone recognized by the past Themisphere kings can have this title," Jack said.

Diana seemed to have conflicted emotions.

Jack took something out then. It was the Malva Crest bearing King Thebalder's name.

"This is the crest your ancestor, Robert Malva, had given to King Thebalder," Jack said while holding the crest. "The spirit of the fourth king bestowed me this crest so that I can carry on his duty. In his name, I demand the Malva house reaffirm their loyalty and report to me the ancient duty that has been given to your house!"