

World 1121

Chapter 1121: Back to the Underworld

"Still, even if they are no longer the leader of the seven main countries, they are still a proud race," Alfredo said. "I'm afraid they won't just let this slide."

"I won't worry too much about them," John said.

The others turned to him.

John continued, "We all know Master had taken over Liguritutum. I'm sure he will be making his moves soon. When he does, it will be Hydrurond who regrets not making more allies."

As he was saying, he operated the monarch system to show the world map.

"Hydrurond Dominion was the only country that bordered everyone else. They are smacked right in the middle of everybody. In a peaceful period, this position is the most beneficial to have. They are the hub where everyone had to go through with trades and everything else. But during wartime, this position is a nightmare. They have too many fronts to defend. Without securing alliances, they will have to worry about all sides. And because this country is at the center, this will also be Master's main target for expansion. We are right on the opposite side of Liguritutum. Master has to go through Hydrurond before coming at us."

"Even if we have to worry about them, we still can't let them step on us like that!" Jack declared. "We have our pride. I want to ally with other countries to face Master, but that doesn't mean I will sacrifice our dignity!"

"Well said, Your Majesty!" Alfredo praised.

"You are taking this king role rather seriously," John said.

"This is not a role, man. I AM king. I have to act like it," Jack said.

"Well, a king usually just stays in his castle enjoying stuff."

"A king stays in his castle ruling, don't you mean?" Thaergood said.

"That's just what the stories say. Don't trust that bullshit," John returned.

"Uh... I'm not good with the staying part," Jack said. He then asked the others, "Is there anything else? If not, I will rest and take my leave tomorrow morning."

"If you want to leave, how about you go to Palgrost?" John proposed. "It's one of the two countries that are friendly to us. Different from Sangrod, we don't have a secret bad blood with them. They are our first choice for an alliance. You said you want to act like a king, right? Then act like one. Make a state visit to Palgrost and deepen our relationship, just like what you do when you went to Verremor. Sending gifts is well, but personal visits always leave a better impression. It's your job as a king to build relationships. Not just with your vassals, but with other countries as well."

"Damn it! I hate it when you act like a proper counselor. Where is the cynical John we all love?"

John shrugged. "This is me being cynical. I know you hate this forced socialization, that's why I ask you to do it."

"Damn you! Fine, I'll send a message requesting a state visit," Jack operated the monarch system again and used the Foreign Overview to send the message to Palgrost.

"I asked for the time of the visit to be after our monthly meeting," Jack said. "I will return then and if the president of Palgrost agreed to our requested state visit, we will head to Palgrost after our meeting."

"Don't go somewhere where you are completely uncontactable or where you can't come back when needed," John said. "I might need you several days from now."

"Oh? What is it about? Is there an emergency?"

"I can't be sure yet. If it turns out as I expected, I will call you," John said, and then warned Jack again, "Prepare to return at a moment's notice!"

"The hell, man? Then you shouldn't have proposed I make a state visit. What if whatever emergency you have coincides with the time of the state visit?"

"Then you just send a message telling them that we postpone our visit," John said nonchalantly.

Jack could only shake his head.

"You still didn't address His Majesty with his proper title," Thaergood admonished John.

John turned to Jack and asked, "Do you want me to call you Your Majesty?"

Jack thought for a bit before answering, "Nah. It's gonna be truly weird coming from your mouth."

John turned back to Thaergood and shrugged. Now it was Thaergood who shook his head.

That night, Jack sent a message to Four Winds, expressing his interest to buy the mithril ores from the mines they had captured. Four Winds said they needed those ores as well. He said, if they had collected a good number, he would consider parting with some.

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The next morning, Jack left. He didn't use the portal, though. Instead, he just left from inside his chamber, the same way he left when he was Verremor's guest in Mjiku Maba.

He crossed through the plane with Pandora and arrived back to the landscape of black and red that was characteristic of the underworld.

"You know, this makes me think," Jack said to Peniel. "When we are trapped inside Greed's sanctum, can I use Pandora to cross through the planes like this?"

"We don't know how strong the barrier of Greed's sanctum is. But considering that the Recall Plate managed to bring you out, it's safe to say that Pandora can do it too."

"Then why didn't you tell me that when we are trapped?" Jack scolded.

"Because crossing planes requires a lot of energy. You were not her permanent rider then. She won't do it for you just because you ask her to!" Peniel scolded back.

"It's not because you forget about it, is it?" Jack said, to which Peniel just harrumphed and looked away.

Jack didn't dwell on the topic. He changed the subject, "You said crossing planes required a lot of energy? Does this mean Pandora can't do this constantly?"

"Yeah. She needs one day of rest before she can take you back to the upworld," Peniel replied. Pandora made a nod confirming the fairy's word.

"This is even after she upgraded," Peniel added. "Before, she needed three days rest in between each crossing."

'I hope whatever John's emergency is, it isn't happening today,' Jack said in his mind.

Chapter 1122: Essence Hunting

Jack looked around the place. He wondered if Yvok and his people were okay. That old satyr had a connection with Pandora. If they needed help, Yvok would contact Pandora, just like he did in the incident with Luna.

Jack asked Peniel, "This is the same region as when we came to the underworld the first time, right?"

"Yes. But as I mentioned, Pandora cannot pinpoint the exact spot when she crossed the planes. It is the same region but a different place."

Jack opened his map. Around him was mostly grey. "Do you know which direction is the spot where we met the Amphipterelet?"

"You want to hunt that monster?" Peniel asked.

Jack nodded. "They are easy to kill for a draconic monster. Easier even than the drakeling. I can get lots of draconic essences if I hunt them en masse."

The only other place where he could farm draconic essences efficiently was inside one of the portals in Greed's sanctum. But he couldn't exactly go back to that place, could he? Greed might have installed a stronger barrier after his escape. Even Pandora might not be able to pierce the barrier now.

"They do come in packs, but the Amphipterelets don't just travel by themselves, you know. There can be other monsters accompanying them," Peniel explained.

"Are those monsters draconic as well?" Jack asked.

"Usually."

"Then what are we waiting for? Let's go!"

Jack finally found the coordinates he had input in the map when he first entered the underworld. Jack pointed and Pandora sprinted in that direction. Ever since Pandora upgraded, her fear aura had become

stronger. Nearby underworld monsters, which previously resisted her aura, were now running away once she came near.

With her improved speed, she arrived at the destination in a short time. Jack saw a pack of six Amphipterelets. These Amphipterelets, which were not afraid of Pandora before, now also ran in the opposite direction after seeing her.

Jack couldn't farm essences if these monsters ran away from him, so he unsummoned Pandora. He then rushed to the pack.

Same as before, it didn't take long for Jack to kill the six Amphipterelets. They ranged from level 50 to 55. All of them elite grades. He received 2 draconic essences from each of them.

He looked at his radar and saw many more red dots moving around. He could visually see the closest ones. They were Amphipterelets as well. He headed over without delay.

Jack summoned Therras so it could benefit from the exp as well. Together with Therras, Jack mowed down pack after pack.

As Peniel mentioned, there were other monsters around this place. Amphiptere, the adult version of Amphipterelet. They were larger and stronger. These draconic monsters were special elite grades and their levels ranged from 60 to 70.

They spat venom for a long-range attack. They could also coil around their targets and render them immobile. Since these Amphiptere always traveled with a pack of Amphipterelets, this binding technique turned their target into a punching bag for the Amphipterelets.

But considering Jack could contend with a mythical creature already, these monsters posed no challenge.

While farming, Jack also encountered Amphiptere which was a rare elite grade.

These rare elite Amphipteres had a special attack where their bodies stiffened as they shot forward at high speed. They became as if a bolt shot from a ballista, with their two wings turning into sharp blades that cut everything they passed through.

This special attack incurred high damage and also ignored a large portion of defense. Luckily, Therras took the first shot when one of these Amphipteres performed its special attack. Therras had high HP and high defense so it was not a problem. After seeing the attack, Jack paid attention to not getting hit by these special attacks.

As long as he didn't get skewered by the special attacks, he defeated this rare elite Amphiptere with ease.

The special elite Amphipteres gave Jack 10 draconic essences while the rare elite ones gave Jack 30 draconic essences.

He continued to farm the draconic monsters happily in the area.

Peniel warned him to not venture too far from the area. This area they were in could be considered one of the areas with the lowest level in the underworld. Thinking that this underworld was supposed to be post-game content for the original game, Jack did think the Amphipterelets here to be rather lacking.

On the second day, as his farming pace increased and he traveled further out to look for more draconic monsters, he found several large dark red dots on his radar. Out of curiosity, he approached carefully. With his enhanced vision, he saw one of the monsters these dark red dots represented.

It was a dragonet with black skin and crooked horns. Its wings seemed to be made of shadow. Its shadowy wings constantly emitted smoke that shrouded the dragonet. The dragonet also seemed to turn intangible at an interval.

Since Jack dared not approach to use his Inspect, he asked Peniel about the dragonet. Peniel informed him the monster was a shadow dragonet. The ones in this region were mostly rare elites and around level 80, but there could be some which were mythical grades.

Even the level 80 rare elite was probably too strong for him already, so he retreated after satisfying his curiosity. He chose to be patient and waited for the Amphipteres and Amphipterelets in the area to respawn.

One of the days, he also noticed from his radar a group of red dots crossing at high speed not far from his position. Seeing that, he hid and let his Cloak of Shadow turn him invisible. He then saw a squad of high demons fly past the sky.

Those high demons must be part of the underworld empire. He was glad he hid. Even if he could take on those demons, his presence here might get reported. If that happened, he could no longer farm draconic essences here.

Algerad and Xelvorath must have surely reported to Mammon about the human outworlder responsible for his son's death. He was for certain the only human outworlder to enter the underworld at this period. The news of a human outworlder around this place would surely draw Mammon here.

Hence, Jack continued farming while paying attention to his radar. Making sure that no demon squads caught him unaware.

Chapter 1123: Enemy's Movement

Jack spent twelve days farming the draconic essences. He collected 5000 draconic essences, allowing his bloodline which was level 5 when he started farming to shoot up to level 7.

Starting from level 6, he needed 3000 draconic essences to level up instead of 2,000. Peniel even told him that once he hit level 8, he would require 5,000 draconic essences to get to level 9. For the last stretch to become level 10, he needed a whopping 12,000 draconic essences.

Jack asked why a sudden steep increase for the last level. It was more than double the needed essences from the previous level. Peniel answered that was because the last skill he received after max-leveling this legendary bloodline was a special one. The trouble of collecting the draconic essences would be worth it.

Jack made a quick calculation. He still needed almost 20,000 draconic essences to get to that max level. He couldn't stay another forty-eight days here. He got lots of stuff to take care of.

At bloodline level 7, the increase he received for his attributes, HP, stamina, and mana was 44%. He also acquired a new skill.

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Gold Dragon Breath

Fires a cone of flame that deals 500% light damage each second.

Reduces targets' defense by 30% for 1 minute. Inflict major damage to equipment's durability.

50% chance to inflict Blind and Fatigue.

Duration: 6 seconds

Cooldown: 5 minutes

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It was not as powerful as his Supreme Dragon's Soul Breath, but this Gold Dragon Breath had a wider AOE and lasted longer. It also had a shorter cooldown, allowing him to use it more often. A more important aspect was its ability to deal major damage to equipment. If his opponents were not careful, they could lose their equipment. If the equipment's durability fell to zero, it was destroyed. It could no longer be repaired.

Jack's level also increased, but only one level to his Brave Swordsmaster. It was now level 68. Although he spent a lot of days grinding monsters, they didn't provide much exp. A large portion of the monsters he farmed was the Amphipterelets. They were all much lower level than him and thus provided a pitiful amount of exp.

The ones that gave decent exp were the Amphipteres, but these monsters didn't come in bulk. Thus, despite his fast pace of killing them, the exp he reaped was less than if he did normal exp farming.

He didn't fuss about the lack of exp. His purpose here was to farm draconic essences. The exp was just a bonus.

He didn't call any of his royal agents due to this low exp gain. He sent Alfredo, Jonathan, and Laurent to do quests together. With the three covering each other, they could handle a higher-level quest and thus gain more exp points. Lindsey, Amy, and Howard resumed joining Jeanny's power-leveling teams.

As for Therras who fought with Jack. It increased by two levels to level 65. Therras fared better not just because it didn't have to feed three classes like Jack, but also because Jack continued feeding it high-grade food that added exp points.

Jack had 12 free attribute points from his current and previous level-ups. He spent them all in his Endurance stat since it seemed to be the one lacking the most now.

Since most of the Amphipterelets were low-level, they didn't drop good loots. The mana cores were decent though. He collected 2,000 mana cores in the span of those ten days. He still had a long way to go before he could use the mana cores to summon an archdemon.

Some of the rare elite Amphipteres dropped a few good things. He got two level-down pills. Since Jeanny already had a spare, he could use these two pills. But he didn't, he planned to use them later after reaching level 71. He would get another skill after reaching level 70. Using the pill now would just delay him getting new skills.

Peniel informed him not to use the pill on level 70 as well. If he got a new skill at level 70 and then used the pill to return to level 69, the new skill was still there on his skill list, but he couldn't use it until he returned to level 70.

He also got two uncommon rubies and one rare emerald. Peniel said the odds of gemstones dropping in the underworld were slightly increased compared to the upworld. So, this was a good place to grind if he was looking for gemstones.

He fed the rubies to his Runestone of Enhancement, and the emerald to his Runestone of Marching.

On the first few days when he started farming, he received reports from Jeanny about the five ongoing affairs. This time, he didn't get perfect results for all. He got perfect results from two affairs, which granted him 190,000 merit points and 10 ruling powers.

For the remaining three affairs, although he didn't get perfect scores, he still gave decent verdicts. This was reflected in the total of 220,000 merit points he received from the three affairs.

His sovereign level increased to level 7, earning another 10 ruling powers.

In the last few days before he left, several new affairs popped up. As before, he sent their details to Jeanny and let her investigative teams do the work.

Jack wondered if Master who was now also a sovereign performed as well as he did. Considering Wilted mentioned that the monarch system was not supposed to be in the system, Master shouldn't know about this system.

He hoped that was the case. If it was so, then he who had Peniel to guide him had a better advantage.

Jack wanted to continue farming, but since he was a king, he had an obligation. Tomorrow was one month since he first used the Monarch system. He would be able to use the Call to Arms and Mass Drill again, and he had to return to his throne to do that.

There was also the monthly meeting to discuss issues that he was sure Thaergood had compiled for him. There were probably also some nobles who wanted to meet him. He didn't like this portion of the king's life, but he supposed he had to accept both the good and the bad.

He didn't hear anything about the emergency John mentioned, that's probably a good thing. But he did hear from John concerning news regarding the enemy's movement. A few days ago, Liguritutum's massive army was said to have crossed the border into the Aurebor Dynasty.

Jack asked if the two planned to join their armies before attacking another country. Considering the two were allies before, such cooperation was not out of the question.

John answered it didn't seem like so. The Aurebor dynasty had mobilized their troops in an agitated manner and issued a war summon quest to face an invasion. These troops were now on their way to meet the Liguritutum's force.

Chapter 1124: A Gesture of Goodwill

Lorethion was the capital of Aurebor. Anyone who visited Aurebor Dynasty for the first time by teleporting to Lorethion's zone portal would think that they had arrived in the middle of a gigantic forest instead of a capital.

The buildings were giant living trees with cavities within their trunks that provided a space for the elves to live in.

The trees' branches were so thick and long that they intertwined with the other trees around them, forming a network of roads high up from the ground. Their foliage adjusted naturally, allowing sunlight into the city when the temperature was cold, and blocking the sunlight when it was too hot.

The trees were like caring parents who took care of the elves whom they considered their children.

In the center of the capital stood a gigantic tree. The outworlders who saw it were probably reminded of the legendary Yggdrasil from Norse mythology. Perhaps that tree of life was the reference the developers used when they designed this giant tree for the Second World game.

This giant tree was the palace where the elf queen lived.

Unlike Thereath's palace, the throne room of this giant tree was not in an enclosed space. Instead, the throne room rested on its canopy. This canopy had an extremely wide platform that could probably house a thousand people. This throne room had no walls except for one side, all other sides were open air. Those who stood in that throne room could see the entire capital from up high.

This throne room was accessed via large winding stairs that were carved out of the trunks of the giant tree. All around the outer side of its massive trunks were more winding stairs, bringing its occupants to the numerous cavities within the giant tree that served as palace halls.

On the only side that was enclosed by a wall of dense leaves, a wooden throne was there. The throne was as if part of the tree. It grew and was carved to shape into a large throne.

A beautiful elven woman wearing a crown made of golden vines sat on that throne. Next to her were two elven women whose beauty didn't seem to be any less.

By the edges of the wide platform that was the throne room stood several armored guards.

The elven queen on the throne was Ashala Lifebloom of the Lifebloom clan. Aurebor natives were formed of clans, similar to Verremor's tribes. But unlike Verremor whose governing system was via the cooperation of the ten strongest tribes, Aurebor used the monarchy system the same as Thereath.

One of the two beautiful women standing next to Ashala was Mylaerla Lifebloom, Ashala's sister and confidant. She was a level 65 special elite. The other woman was Shalia Swiftblade, Ashala's personal protector. She was level 80 rare elite.

Ashala herself was a level 70 rare elite.

Kneeling and bowing before Ashala was Mistress. Her hands were extending outward holding a small bottle that glowed a soft green light.

"Hmph! You wish to prove your innocence by bribing me?" Ashala harrumphed. Her eyes stared at Mistress with contempt. Those who didn't know the queen would think that she looked down on the outworlder, but the truth was that look was her natural expression.

"I'm truly innocent, Your Majesty," Mistress said. Her head remained bowed. "I don't know why Master brought his army into your land. I have tried contacting him a lot of times, but he is not returning my calls. Please rest assured that if Master truly wishes to invade Aurebor, I stand by your side. This Immortal Youth Potion is an expression of my loyalty."

Ashala didn't truly trust Mistress' words, but the Immortal Youth Potion in her hands was extremely tempting. This potion was the same reason why she had aided the Liguritutum prince, Igneos, in usurping his father's throne.

Engaging in the politics of other countries was never her desire. She wished nothing to do with the other countries, but Mistress had come to her offering this potion in exchange for her mobilizing her army to aid Igneos.

She valued one thing above all, her youth. Elves had a very long life. Not as extreme as vampires but compared to humans, their lives were very long, and she was a very old elf despite her beautiful look. She had been doing everything she could to cover the wrinkles that started to appear on her face, by natural, artificial, or magical means. But as time passed, the endeavor got harder and harder.

Other than the ability of the Time Sage from the legend who had mastered time, the only other thing that could help her reverse her aging was the Immortal Youth Potion in front of her. It was a legendary-grade consumable.

She had received one from Mistress after carrying out her deal to send her army to Liguritutum. She had experienced its miracle. Her wrinkles which she tried so very hard to cover, were gone. She gained a hundred years' worth of youth.

However, she knew time was a bitch. Sooner or later, the wrinkles would be back again. If she could get another bottle...

"You are very resourceful to possess two legendary-grade potions," Ashala remarked. "Even the full force of my entire dynasty was unable to find one even after hundreds of years of searching, but you actually have two?"

"We outworlders possessed secret knowledge that the natives don't," Mistress told the truth, which displeased all the natives there. Did this outworlder just tell them that outworlders knew more about this world than they who had lived here their entire lives?

Ashala didn't give any response. She looked at Mistress with her usual dismissing glance. She made a gesture to Mylaerla who then approached Mistress and took the potion in her hand.

Mylaerla used her Inspect and made sure it was indeed the Immortal Youth Potion before handing it to her sister.

Ashala played with the potion in her hand. She said, "I accept this gesture of goodwill, but I will still put your guild under close watch. If I find your members doing anything suspicious, I will make you regret it."

"I'm grateful for Your Majesty's understanding. You are as wise as you are beautiful, my queen," Mistress replied. She was still bowing her head.

Ashala let Mistress stay that way. She knew this outworlder was a haughty one. She enjoyed seeing haughty ones kneel before her. This made her feel superior. As it should be. The only one who had the right to be haughty was her, the most beautiful elven queen in existence.

She glanced at the potion in her hand. The effect of the potion was cumulative. If she drank it now, she would become younger. There was no need to wait until the wrinkles start showing before drinking it. Keeping it would just give it a chance to get stolen.

The temptation was too great, she opened the lid and drank the potion.

As she closed her eyes and prepared to bask herself in the feeling of her body becoming younger, she felt a weird feeling instead. She felt as if she had been tainted.

She opened her eyes and was alarmed to see black vapor oozing from her body.

Chapter 1125: Another Coup

Ashala's surprise caused her to let go of the empty bottle in her hand and it fell to the floor.

"What...? What is this...?" Ashala called out in alarm.

Mylaerla, who stood beside Ashala, was a magic user. When she saw the black vapor on her sister's body, she turned to the bottle her sister had just drunk.

She cast Dispel and the bottle on the floor transformed into a different-looking bottle. When she used her Inspect again, she found that the description was completely different.

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Curse of Reverse Heal Potion (unique consumable)

Reverse the effects of healing. Receives damage instead of recovering HP from recovery spells and items.

Duration: 10 minutes

Status: Empty

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It was almost impossible to get two of the same legendary items. Master knew how to get the first Immortal Youth Potion, and he used it to entice Ashala into sending her troops during Liguritutum's

rebellion. As for the second potion, Master didn't have a certain way of getting it. So, Mistress never had another Immortal Youth Potion.

The second Immortal Youth Potion she presented to Ashala had been disguised by another consumable that masked an item's appearance. The real potion that Mistress presented to Ashala was the Curse of Reverse Heal Potion.

"I will cure you!" Mylaerla exclaimed.

She started casting a spell. It was not the Cure spell that removed status effects. Healer's basic spell was unable to cure a curse effect from a unique consumable. What she was casting was a more powerful spell, Advanced Cure.

However, before her spell formation was completed, a series of runic symbols swirl around her body. These runic symbols entwined her. The spell formation on her magic staff fizzled. She felt the mana in her body getting locked. She was even unable to speak.

She had been hit by the Silence spell, which Mistress had started casting after Ashala drank the disguised potion.

Everyone had been so shocked by the black vapor that came out of Ashala's body that they didn't notice Mistress, who was now looking at them with a wicked grin. Mistress was holding a scythe that was forming another spell formation and two glowing plates were floating in the air next to her.

"You, despicable turncoat!" Ashala cursed. "Seize her!!"

The guards around the throne room immediately sprang to action. Shalia, who was the closest, unsheathed the two blades on her waist and rushed to Mistress.

Before Shalia could land a blow, the two glowing plates near Mistress exploded. Two people appeared, an ethereal in the regal outfit and a draconian in a monk's garb. It was Master and Long.

"Guards...!!!" Ashala shouted. The ruler of the enemy army who was invading their land had shown himself. If they could capture him, they could end the invasion before it began.

Master used his companion token. Urxor, his mythical grade companion, appeared. Urxor was level 67 now. Master himself was level 64.

Mistress also used her companion token. An elven woman wielding a large bow appeared. Her name was Keya Sinshooter. She was a level 65 rare elite

Master was not done. He took out his Ruler Token and summoned three royal agents. All three were ethereals and rare elite grades. The first one was level 70, the second one level 68, and the third one level 65. The three rushed to the sides and engaged the guards who were enclosing them.

Urxor lunged forward with his glaive and confronted Shalia while Keya stayed back.

Keya pointed her bow up into the air and fired an arrow into the air. The arrow exploded and turned into countless arrows that fell on a very large area. Her rain of arrows covered the entire throne room. It was Arrow Storm skill, a more powerful version of Elite Marksman's level 35 skill, Shower of Arrow.

Ashala cast Magic Wall to block the arrows raining from above. "Don't you think you can beat me just because I am not able to be healed! You've forgotten where you are, my soldiers will soon swarm you!" She exclaimed.

"All the troublesome ones have left to face the Liguritutum army at the border, Your Majesty," Mistress replied with a wicked grin. "And you are the one who forgets where you are. We only need to wound you a little."

"What...", A terrifying realization dawned on Ashala.

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While Master and Mistress were dealing with the elf queen, Long ran to the large stairs that were the entrance to the throne room. Heavy footsteps were heard from those stairs. Many elven soldiers were soon seen coming up the stairs.

Long used his companion token and Abasi appeared beside him. Without needing a prompt, Abasi swung his giant axe forward. A giant flaming axe was conjured before pouncing the ground directly before the stairs. Half the soldiers who had come up were thrown away. Falling to their death far below.

While the remaining half of the soldiers were still staggering from the shockwave of Abasi's attack, Long rushed forward. His two palms multiplied. At the same time, the image of eighteen oriental dragons materialized following the movements of his palms.

Each of the dragons slammed into the elf soldiers. Each hit produced a powerful shockwave that caused high damage and sent the soldiers flying away, joining their comrades who had fallen earlier.

After clearing out the entrance, Long took out a magic scroll and activated it. A gigantic and ominous demonic wall appeared right at the entrance of the stairs, barring entry for the rest of the soldiers who were still coming up the stairs.

"Every time I see it, I still can't believe that is not a game skill," Abasi remarked of Long's move just now.

"It's not," Long answered.

"Can I learn it?"

"You have to master mana manipulation first. Focus on the mana sense that I've taught you. But even if you have mastered it, you are not proficient in the palm technique. I despise doing pointless things. I will teach you axe technique instead."

The two then went to the side and helped Master's royal agents deal with the guards inside the throne room.

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Near the throne, Ashala was still facing Master and Mistress. She wanted to retreat after realizing what Mistress meant, but she was unable to. Both Master and Mistress cast their AOE spells. Ashala tried to defend as best as possible. Mylaerla, was unable to do anything since she was still silenced. The Silence spell had a short duration, she hoped her sister could endure long enough until the duration was over. She could then cast her Advanced Cure.

But that prospect didn't seem likely. Master's spells were too many and unending. With Mistress supporting Master, Ashala kept on receiving damage.

When her HP dropped to ninety percent, the rune diagrams on the ground and the leaves wall behind her flared.

"NO!!!" She shouted with a terrified expression.

Chapter 1126: Stalling a Guardian

There was nothing Ashala could do. The healing mechanism of the rune diagrams inside the palace was automated. They would heal her even if she didn't want them to. This was to make sure that the monarch stayed alive even if the monarch was somehow incapacitated by a spell that render her unable to give a command to the rune diagrams.

The healing light fell on Ashala. But instead of healing her, the black vapor around her body modified the light and it now devoured her HP. As her life continued to fall, more healing light was conjured to increase the healing speed. This instead caused her HP to plummet even faster.

No one could do anything about it. Mylaerla and Shalia watched in horror as their queen's life was depleted by her own palace's protection.

Ashala's body slumped next to the throne. At that time, a thundering roar was heard from afar.

"The country's guardian, Eurdrasill," Mistress informed.

The guardian had rushed over once he sensed Ashala getting attacked. He never expected the queen to get defeated so swiftly. He sensed it when Ashala's HP was depleted. He roared in fury to announce his impending arrival, telling the perpetrators to quickly scatter before he arrived. There might still be a chance to revive Ashala.

For that reason, Master now stood before Ashala's body that was next to the throne. He then unleashed Wing God Rage. A sphere of intense wind energies erupted, damaging the throne and cutting everything in its scope to pieces.

Ashala's body was completely reduced to atoms, stamping out any chance to revive her.

Without Ashala to activate the rune diagrams of the palace, Master was free to use his summons. He called out most of his minions. The lesser angel, the demon, his avatar, flame salamander, dirt golems, fae, winged feral tiger, and three skeleton warriors.

The three skeleton warriors were from the summon skeletons spell, which was the first spell of Necromancer Lord, another first-class special class Master had obtained.

Some of his summons pounced at Mylaerla while the rest assaulted the throne.

"Destroy the throne! I will stall the guardian," Master said to Mistress. He then cast Fly and flew up.

If anyone else uttered what Master had said just now, Mistress would have treated them as dog farts. If any player at this stage could stall a country guardian, she knew that Master was the only one qualified for it.

Without wasting any moment, Mistress cast spells to damage the throne. Although she had a first-class special class, her base class was healer-type. Her damage output wasn't that great. Lucky for her, she had Master's minions to compensate for that.

Master saw the large dark red dot coming their way from his radar, he headed in that direction.

Soon, the country guardian came into view. It was another dragon. A dragon that seemed to be made entirely out of wood. Its seemingly rigid wooden wings flapped and caused windstorms with each flap. Master used his Inspect.

*

Eurdrasill (Eternal Dragon, Draconic), level 90

HP: 4,800,000

*

Eurdrasill didn't put the tiny Master who stood in his path any mind. He planned to have the windstorm that followed his flight smack Master aside.

But when he came near the outworlder, he sensed a divine energy forming. Pillars of earth materialized out of thin air and then combined into a gigantic earth wyrm that came his way.

Eurdrasill uttered a thundering roar, creating a shockwave that radiated out. The space directly in front of him shattered. The earth wyrm that was flying toward him, shattered with the space, turning into debris that fell to the ground far below.

At Master's level, the earth prison wyrm from the Earth God Blessing was not enough to threaten Eurdrasill, but it still caused Eurdrasill's flight to stop.

"Who are you?!" Eurdrasill was displeased by the interruption but he was impressed enough that an outworlder could make him stop that he honored the outworlder with a question.

"Great Eurdrasill, I am Master, the ruler of Liguritutum," Master answered. "There is no need for your great self to come to Ashala's aid anymore because her body was no more. She can't be resurrected."

Eurdrasill frowned upon hearing it. "What do you mean...?"

"Her reign on Aurebor has ended. Aurebor will have a new queen. Join us and be part of this new dynasty," Master replied.

"I ask you, what do you mean by Ashala's body being no more?!" Eurdrasill growled. His growl caused the air around him to reverberate.

"I've destroyed her body using Wing God Rage, she can no longer be saved."

"I will destroy you!!!" Eurdrasill exclaimed.

At the same time, a rush of powerful wind burst from his opened jaws. The wind was followed by an outburst of thick green energy, creating a hurricane that completely engulfed Master.

Eurdrasill's divine wind breath could have destroyed Master many times over. But even after a few seconds of being bombarded by the destructive wind, Eurdrasill's mana sense told him that the outworlder was still alive.

Eurdrasill stopped his breath. The hurricane dispersed and revealed an earth giant a few hundred meters from where Master used to be.

Master activated the second skill of his Earth God Blessing, Earth Titan, and donned the protective suit of an earth titan. Eurdrasill's divine wind breath still knocked him flying a distance away. Cracks were seen all over the earth titan's body, it wasn't able to completely resist Eurdrasill's breath.

Even so, Master was extremely happy inside the titan suit. During the destruction of the Council of Virtus, he had been hit by a being of similar power, and his earth titan suit crumbled in one hit. This time, it was still intact albeit barely.

"Second level Earth God Blessing..." Eurdrasill uttered. "I admit I am shocked you managed to survive my attack, but don't think that you can stop me from reaching the palace."

"I'm not stopping you, great dragon. I'm merely stalling you," Master replied.

At that time, a system notification sounded in the minds of all who dwelled in Aurebor's, that the current government under queen Ashala had been defeated. An outworlder named Mistress was now the new queen of the Aurebor Dynasty.

Chapter 1127: Spending Ruling Powers

"Damn you...!!" Eurdrasill cursed.

He flapped his wooden wings and a powerful explosion shot him forward. This time, Master no longer barred Eurdrasill's path. Master flew back to the palace as well.

Arriving above the open-air throne room, Eurdrasill landed on one of the palace tree's mighty branches. He looked at the throne. An outworlder sat on that throne. Ashala was nowhere to be seen. He could sense her aura lingering around the ground near the throne, though. He knew then that what Master said was the truth.

Master was floating not far away from Eurdrasill. He said to the dragon, "You are Aurebor's country guardian. The position is still open to you. Be one and protect your new queen."

"I will do no such thing! I will destroy you to avenge Ashala...!!" Eurdrasill exclaimed. He lunged in Master's direction. His huge claw came at high speed.

Master was casting a spell as the dragon approached. But a quick interrupt spell from Eurdrasill caused Master's spell formation to fizzle. Master was slapped by the massive claw and was brought slamming down onto the throne's floor. His earth titan's suit crumbled then.

Eurdrasill was flying down with his jaws opened wide. He was about to chomp Master to pieces when black fog enveloped Master. Eurdrasill continued chomping the black fog but he didn't feel that he had bitten anything.

He turned and saw Master in another place. Next to him was a dark-robed person with a skeletal face carrying a long black scythe.

"Vekja, why is a demigod like you protecting an outworlder?" Eudrasill asked this skeletal person.

When Vekja spoke, those who heard the voice felt the hairs on their bodies stand on end. They couldn't tell from the voice if Vekja was a he or a she.

"This outworlder is under the protection of our God. We don't mind if he is defeated by his peers, that will be his own foolishness. But if an eternal-grade being such as you attempted him harm, we will have to interfere."

Eudrasill growled at the words. He looked around him. There was nothing left to save. Ashala was gone. The throne was taken. He slammed one foot on the floor, causing a huge hole in the throne room's floor. He then flew up.

He stared at Master and said, "Outworlder, you've better watched out. I will come and take my vengeance when you least expect it."

With that threat, Eudrasill flew away.

Master watched the huge dragon that was getting smaller in the sky. He muttered, "You are the one who should watch out. I will be the one who comes for you when I'm strong enough."

When Jack returned to the upworld and then teleported to Thereath palace, it was nighttime. He slept in the palace and went to the throne room the next morning.

At that moment, Mistress was still on her way to meet Ashala. So, no one knew yet that the monarchy in Aurebor Dynasty was about to change hands.

What Jack knew was the Aurebor Dynasty was mobilizing their troops to engage the Liguritutum army at their border. War summon quest had been announced. Many Aurebor players joined the army and were on their way, including Wicked Witches players.

Even Jeanny took a large portion of Everlasting Heavenly Legends members and joined Aurebor's side. She couldn't summon their guild army but she could support Aurebor by fighting directly with the members.

Jack was tempted to join and help Aurebor as well. But he was no longer a common player who could join any battle he wished. He was the sovereign of a country. If he showed up there, he might become the main target instead.

John was in the throne room. He didn't join Jeanny in Aurebor, which puzzled Jack. Usually, this dude was the first to go if there was a war involved.

When Jack asked why, John answered that he was not interested since they couldn't summon their guild army, and the Aurebor's army sure won't listen to his strategy. He would just be a common player there.

John also said that he thought it was strange for Liguritutum to show sudden aggression against Aurebor considering they were allies not long ago. The wiser strategy would be to join forces and attack another country first, limiting the loss of their troops.

Jack was pondering if the war went on for long, he might send a message to the elf queen of Aurebor, offering to send the Themisphere army to help the war effort.

Aurebor was far, though. His army would have to go through a large portion of the Dorwin region to arrive there. It was not an ideal trek. If he could cut through the territory owned by Hydrurond Dominion, that would've been better. But considering what had happened between him and Hydrurond's diplomat several days earlier, he doubted they would let his army pass.

Jack didn't ponder too long about the matter. He would adjust his plan depending on how the war in Aurebor transpired. He sat on his throne and used the monarch system. It was one month now, and he received 70 ruling powers from his level 7 sovereign. Two weeks had also passed since he reclaimed the Boundless Cache, earning another 10 ruling powers. His ruling powers totaled 158.

He spent 80 ruling powers and used Call to Arms and Mass Drill. He also spent 486,000 gold coins for manual drafts and training at each settlement. 364,000 new troops joined their army from those combined efforts. Their total troops now numbered a bit over three million. They almost replenished the number of troops they lost during the invasion war.

The draft and call to arms reduced some of the population in Thereath. Since John wanted Thereath to become the first Megalopolis, Jack aided by spending 10 ruling powers and used Increase Population on Thereath.

100,000 new natives were summoned into Thereath. Thaergood immediately arranged for his officers to organize this new population into the prepared residential houses.

John also asked Jack to use his ruling powers to hasten the construction of more residential houses and some population-supporting building, so Thereath could reach ten million population faster.

Jack complied, spending 36 ruling powers on multiple buildings. This cut down a total of 360 days which was almost one year's worth of construction time. His ruling powers were down to 42 afterward. He hoped the Megalopolis was worth it.

He saved these remaining ruling powers. He might need them to boost their troops in case a war broke out.

Chapter 1128: State Visit to the Republic of Palgrost

After the mass drafts, Jack checked the recruits. Unfortunately, there was no mythical grade this time. Probably the first time was beginner's luck. He wasn't too fussed about it. This showed how difficult it was to get a mythical-grade soldier. Even with the boost from World Peace Garden and his absurd luck stat, it was still not a guarantee to get a mythical grade for each draft.

They got plenty of rare elites, though. Even though most were still low-level, the mass drill should quickly bring these soldiers up to acceptable levels.

Jack proceeded to do another mass pay to increase his officers' loyalties.

It didn't take a whole day to operate the monarch system this time, so Jack proceeded to attend the meeting arranged by Thaergood. They discussed various matters for the remainder of the day.

The next day, Jack socialized with guests and dignitaries who came to meet him. Some had stayed several days waiting for his presence. Jack tried to be as good a host as possible. Even though he disliked this socialization, he knew it was necessary to help boost his standing. Additionally, some of these guests were also his kingdom officers. This socialization helped increase their loyalties.

All in all, Jack tried to be as best a king as possible with his limited capacity.

By then, the news of the Aurebor Dynasty getting usurped by the World Ruler made a headline around players' circles. With their instant messaging system, they quickly learn of the change of regime.

John praised the way the enemies conquered another country without wasting soldiers, to which Jack responded by rolling his eyes. Now, the enemies had armies of two countries. It was not something to be taken lightly.

One comforting news they heard was that Aurebor had the same situation as Liguritutum. Many of the native officers quit their posts after the regime change. So many that Master and Mistress had to insert players to fill the posts.

Peniel informed that aside from not getting any benefits, there was another drawback to having players fill the posts instead of natives. The morale of the army would drop during a war campaign.

Now that Jack was a sovereign, he would be able to perceive the morale of the troops during a campaign. Troops with maximum morale at 100 points possessed buffs that allowed them to fight more efficiently.

Several things could be done to boost morale. For example, an encouraging speech before a battle. Jack had done it in previous wars without even realizing that he added a system buff to the troops when he delivered the speech.

On the opposite side, lower morale could cause the army to perform badly. Peniel said the standard morale was 60 to 70. Going up from 70, a buff was added. It got stronger as the morale went up. Going below 60, debuff was given. Debuff also got stronger the lower the morale was.

Additionally, once morale hit 30, there was a chance for the soldiers to desert or even defect. Hitting the lowest zero morale gave the soldiers a 100% chance of desertion rate.

By putting so many players in the official military positions instead of natives, Peniel said that it would be lucky if the army morale reached 70.

Jack asked what about the time when he was appointed the general of the third army during the invasion war. Peniel said that Jack's general position was not an official post registered in the monarch system. It was a temporary authority given only for that war campaign. Hence, it didn't affect the morale governed by the world system.

Jack was glad to hear this. Anything that helped his army to be better than the enemies was welcomed. This also reinforced his belief that Master wasn't familiar with the monarch system.

*

One day after Jack socialized with the guests, he left for Balgudur, the capital of the Republic of Palgrost.

The formal message he sent requesting a state visit had been approved by Palgrost. President Thelgrun Stoneking made himself available for Jack for one week, starting today.

The last time, Jack went to that city with Grace. This made Jack think of the girl. Jack had not only asked his guild members to search for her, but also Isabelle's information network. But even now, no one had found her yet.

He didn't want this to be true, but he had to admit now that the only place left searching was Greed's sanctum. If he was still his old self, he would have barged right in there to make sure. But he was a king now. He had obligations. He couldn't do as he pleased like he used to.

If he got trapped inside Greed's sanctum without a clear idea of when he could escape, there would be much chaos in the country. He would have betrayed everyone's trust, including the late Prince Alonzo's. Even though Pandora and a recall plate might break him out, he wasn't sure if Greed hadn't reinforced his sanctum's barrier to prevent the same breach from happening again.

He also couldn't send someone else to go there and check and risked that person getting trapped indefinitely.

Only after he settled the threats that Liguritutum and Aurebor posed that he could let go of Themisphere and risk himself to reenter Greed's Sanctum.

He was worried about Grace, but unfortunately, the situation forced him to have to choose one over the other. The country and the world took priority.

With this thought, he figured he wasn't exactly a romantic person. He wondered if Grace would still think the same of him if she learned about his decision.

He put all that into the back of his mind as he came out of Balgadur's zone portal. He was astounded to see a platoon of dwarven soldiers surrounding the portal.

"Your Majesty," A native human called him and bowed. Jack used Inspect and found that she was named Diane. She was part of Themisphere's officials. She was one of his ministers.

Thaergood did mention he had sent one of the ministers here to liaison with the dwarven officials. Two human soldiers accompanied Diane.

"King Storm Wind, welcome to Balgadur," A dwarf stepped out from the surrounding dwarven platoon. His name was Broban Deepminer. "Please, follow me. President Thelgrun is waiting in the palace."

Jack nodded. "I will trouble you to lead the way," Jack said. He and Diane followed Broban. They marched under the protection of the dwarven soldiers.

Jack was alarmed at first seeing so many dwarven soldiers surrounding him. But thinking about it now, this was a state visit. There were supposed to be security details protecting him. He again missed the time when he could just go around cities freely without all these people crowding him.

Chapter 1129: Meeting the President

Outside the entrance to the zone portal facility, a huge steam-powered carriage was parked there. Jack was ushered to that carriage. It was improper if the sovereign of another country was made to walk all the way throughout the city.

When he walked toward the carriage, a commotion happened near the gate of the zone portal facility. He also heard someone calling his real name.

He looked over and saw The Man and Bowler trying to break through the barricade made by the dwarven soldiers.

Jack immediately went over to the two, which startled Broban because the person he was in charge of suddenly just went off course without any warning.

"Hey! What are the two of you doing here? Oh... Three of you," Jack corrected after seeing Jet was with them. His short stature made him invisible until Jack came near.

"We heard you are visiting Palgrost's palace. We are here to accompany you," Bowler answered.

"Damnit! This is not sightseeing, you know. I am on an official matter," Jack chided.

"Come on, Jack boy. Bring us. Say we are your bodyguards," Jet persuaded.

"Yeah, we are certainly better than those two lame human soldiers you bring," The Man added.

"Stop saying things like that! Are you trying to cause trouble between us and the natives!" Jack berated.

Luckily, the human soldiers The Man ridiculed were out of earshot. The two soldiers who were with Diane were only level 50 special elites. So, The Man was not wrong. They were now stronger than these soldiers.

"Please, Jack. Take us with you," Bowler pleaded.

"You, people...", Jack shook his head. He then turned to Broban who had come over and asked, "Can you let these three come with me? They are my friends."

Broban used Inspect on the three. After confirming the three were in the same outworlder guild as Jack, he told the dwarven soldiers who guarded the perimeter to let the three through.

The three were jumping and cheering as they passed through the perimeter.

"Can you three please stop acting like children? You are embarrassing me!" Jack rebuked them.

The three straightened themselves after the rebuke. They tried their best to put on serious faces, with little success, and they started walking as if they were marching in a military parade.

Jack felt the urge to kick the three of them.

Broban was back to ushering them to the carriage. He opened the door and let Jack and Diane enter. When Bowler and the others wanted to climb up as well, Broban stopped them.

"Only the king and the minister are allowed. You will have to follow on foot," Broban told them. Jack chuckled at their disappointed faces.

Broban gave some instructions to the platoon and then entered the carriage as well. The carriage started moving at a slow pace with the platoon marching alongside it. Bowler and the others marched with the platoon.

Inside the carriage, the space was rather large. They won't feel cramped even if Bowler and the others were let in, but Jack respected the host's decision. Broban served Jack and Diane some refreshments that had been prepared inside the carriage. The carriage also had a screen that let them see the outside. Broban introduced them to some of the more notable landscapes they passed through. Some of which Jack had visited on his previous visit.

After almost three hours, Broban finally told them they were nearing the palace. Even though the carriage moved at a walking pace, Jack had a feeling they were taking a scenic route to the palace.

When they came out of the carriage, Jack saw a huge wall before them covered with gold plating. A colossal sparkling gate was at the wall's center. This gate was reached by a series of massive silver stairs. At each end of the massive stairs stood a dwarven soldier in ceremonial armor.

'This was quite theatric,' Jack thought to himself.

"Please follow me, King Storm Wind," Broban said and went up the stairs.

Jack and the others followed. When they arrived at the colossal gate, they noticed that the reason it sparkled was because it was made of diamond.

The gate split in the middle and it started opening to the inside. It didn't even open halfway but it was enough for them to walk in. Since the whole capital was built in a massive cave system inside a mountain, they simply went into another section of the cave when they walked through the gate.

The hall behind the gate was even more spacious. It was a huge plaza. Thousands of dwarven soldiers lined up at the left and right, forming a path toward the large building in the distance, which was no doubt the palace.

Jack thought they had walked into the palace when they went through the gate, turned out there was an entire complex behind the gate. As Jack walked through the prepared path, they saw beautiful gardens and pools around the palace. Their beauties didn't lose to gardens in the outside world. How those trees and plants survived inside this place without sunlight was something he didn't understand. Perhaps the artificial lights up on the cave ceilings provided the plants with the same benefit as sunlight.

The palace was very architecturally impressive. The buildings of Palgrost had the most modern look compared to other countries. The palace also possessed the same style. It was composed of metallic materials and glass. The glass was not the see-through kind. It was stained glass with patterns on it.

When they entered the palace, the inside was not any less impressive. Every hall was extremely spacious. Jack had no idea why dwarves who were smaller than the other races needed spaces that were generally larger than the other races.

Every floor, wall, and ceiling inside the palace had reflective surfaces that made the space appear even more spacious. Bowler and the others kept on uttering 'wow' every time they crossed a hall, to the point that Jack had to turn back and glared at them to make them stop acting like kids.

Broban finally stopped in front of another sparkling door made of diamonds. Not as huge as the gate from before, but this door was still large compared to a normal door.

"Only the king may enter. The others please wait," Broban said. "The president wished to meet with King Storm Wind alone."

Jack nodded his agreement. Broban opened the door and stepped to the side to let Jack enter. He then closed the door afterward.

Inside the room, Jack came face to face with a dwarf in a regal outfit. He figured this dwarf was president Thelgrun Stoneking. Jack was face to face with the president because Thelgrun was standing on a wooden stand.

"So, what gift do you bring me, human king?" Thelgrun said with an intense stare. "Let me warn you. If I'm not satisfied with your gift, don't expect to leave this place in one piece."

Chapter 1130: Exchanging Gifts

"Uh... Um...," Jack never thought of bringing any gift.

"Bwahaha...! Look at your face! I got you good, didn't I?!" Thelgrun burst into laughter. His beard rocked back and forth as his body shook.

"Oh...? Oh! You are joking, hahaha... Good one, mister president! Haha," Jack joined the laughter.

The laughter slowly died down. As it ended, Thelgrun said, "Hah... that was a good laugh. Okay, seriously now, what did you bring for our first meeting?"

"Oh...?" 'Shit! He was not kidding about the gift,' Jack cursed within.

"You are... You didn't come here empty-handed, did you?" Thelgrun asked.

Jack paused for a beat before saying, "Of course not! I'm not that bad-mannered!"

Peniel, who was sitting on one of Jack's shoulders rolled her eyes. She knew Jack never thought about bringing any gift. He was indeed a bad-mannered person when it came to socializing.

"These are my gift!" Jack said and took out one hundred adamantite ores from his inventory. He thought that considering dwarves lived inside caves, they should like rocks, and by extensions, ores. He figured giving unique-grade ores should be a decent enough gift.

He was observing the president's expression, though. He was not sure if one hundred was a large enough number. If it was not enough, he would add the quantity.

When Jack saw Thelgrun's brows turned into a frown. He quickly fished out another one hundred adamantite ores and said at the same time, "I'm kidding, mister president! My gift is actually two hundred adamantite ores!"

Thelgrun's brows now lifted and his eyes were rather wide. Jack was still observing the dwarf. He was not sure what to make of Thelgrun's current expression. He was ready to go all out and give the dwarf his entire stock of adamantite ores if needed.

"This... King Storm Wind, you are... a very generous friend!" Thelgrun exclaimed.

"Oh... hahaha, you are welcome. It is only fitting that I give such gifts to a president such as you," Jack uttered.

Peniel sent Jack a thought, 'He would have been happy even if you just give him fifty of those ores.'

'Then why didn't you say that earlier?!' Jack chided.

'I like seeing your panicky expression,' Peniel replied with a silent chuckle.

Thelgrun was still watching the large piles of ores on the floor. He then looked at Jack with a bright smile. "Oh, come here, you. Come here! Come here!"

"Oh... Okay," Jack was not sure why Thelgrun asked him to approach but he complied.

Thelgrun jumped and hugged him when he came into range, which took Jack by surprise.

"A good friend, you are. A good friend. Themoss didn't even bother to visit me despite our countries' friendly relationship. Hah!" Thelgrun said as he patted Jack's back while they were still hugging.

Jack was not sure what to make of this. If anyone saw them, he was pretty certain they looked like a father carrying his child in his arm rather than the first meeting between two sovereigns of different countries.

"All right, you can put me down now," Thelgrun said.

"O... Okay," Jack said and placed him back on the wooden stand.

Thelgrun jumped down from that stand, ran to a nearby table, and picked up a dwarf statue made of stone. He then gave it to Jack. Jack observed the statue. It was a sculpture depicting Thelgrun himself.

"Impressive craftsmanship," Jack praised.

"I'm glad you like it. That's my gift to you," Thelgrun said.

Jack almost let go of the statue. He quickly used Inspect on the statue. Thinking that this thing might have a secret benefit.

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Miniature Thelgrun Statue (Junk item)

For ornamental purpose

*

'Ju... Junk item..., ' Jack could hardly believe the item's description. He gave the dwarf two hundred unique-grade ores to be exchanged with a f*cking junk item.

Jack tried his best to give a sincere smile. He didn't know if he succeeded, though.

"Thank you very much for your gift, mister president. I'm very glad. I'm sure I can find a good use for this statue," Jack said. In his mind, he added, 'Like throwing it into your face, you f*cker!'

"I know you will like it. Put it beside your bed so you can look at it every time you wake up and know that you have a friend in me!" Thelgrun said cheerfully. "Come, let us head to the throne room. I've prepared a festival to celebrate your visit."

"My pleasure," Jack replied. His socializing face wore a wide grin despite he was still cursing inside.

Thelgrun walked out the door merrily and asked Broban to arrange for someone to move the pile of adamantite ores to the vault. He saw some humans out there and gave them a friendly wave. Jack gestured for these humans to follow as well.

They came into a brightly lit spacious hall. Many seats had been arranged. Some dwarves were already sitting on them. Most probably dwarven nobles and the republic's officials.

Tables filled with food and refreshments were by the sides. At the end of the hall was a large throne, larger than the one in Thereath. Again, he wondered why the dwarf needed such a size. The throne could fit Thelgrun and four other dwarves on it.

Thelgrun sat on the throne, looking like a child on a giant's chair due to the proportion, and acted very naturally about it. He gestured for Jack to sit on a prepared chair right next to his throne. A chair that was very elegant but also very small. When Jack sat on it, he felt the armrests pressing his sides.

Jack cursed again within. They used such large furniture for themselves but they gave tiny sizes to the guests.

"The chair fits you perfectly! As if it was tailored especially for you. Don't you say so, King Storm Wind?" Thelgrun asked.

"Yes, it fits my size very well," Jack replied with a forced smile.

Diane and the others were also given seats by the side. Their chairs were also small sizes but less extravagant than Jack's. The Man was visibly uncomfortable due to him having the largest body compared to the others.

When the native dwarves saw Jet among the human guests. They stopped him before he sat on the prepared seat. Jet was confused when they took that seat away. Another chair was brought to replace the one they took. It was one with a larger size.

Jet then sat on it and fidgetted around to show how spacious his seat was, which annoyed The Man who sat next to him.

"Yo, dude. Do you mind if we change seats?" The Man asked.

Jet looked at the native dwarves before replying, "I don't want to offend our hosts, man. I'm sorry."