

World 1151

Chapter 1151: Brimstone Fruit

"Oh? Now you speak?" Darmos said with an irritated glance.

Jack grinned. "Hehe. Since you give me a request, that means there is a way."

"Did you forget the part where I said it is impossible? I'm just giving you this request so you give up on trying to persuade me."

"I refuse to believe in the word impossible!" Jack declared and asked, "What is this request?"

"Hehe, fetch me a thing. But you can spend your entire life searching for it, and you won't find it," Darmos gave them a sly smile.

"Damn it, old dude. Are you asking me to fetch something that doesn't exist?"

"No, it does exist. But scour the entire world, and you still won't find it."

"For f*ck's sake. Isn't that the definition of not existing?" Jack said with annoyance.

"I can assure you that it does exist," Darmos replied.

"What the hell is this thing you want me to fetch?"

"Brimstone fruit," Darmos answered. He still wore that sly smile on his face.

'What's a brimstone fruit?' Jack asked Peniel in his mind.

'Brimstone fruit is a rare ingredient for alchemy and cooking. He is right, you won't find it anywhere in this world, because that fruit only existed in the underworld.'

'Underworld? Is this fruit hard to find?' Jack asked.

'The trees were pretty common in one particular region of the underworld. Strong monsters roamed the area but if we only take one fruit, it shouldn't be a problem.'

Jack said to Darmos, "So if we bring you this brimstone fruit, you will agree to become my country guardian?"

"Hehe, you won't find the fruits," Darmos chuckled.

"Cut the crap. Are you going to honor your promise or not if I bring you your fruit?"

"Yes, yes. Goddamnit! I will be your blasted country guardian if you bring me a bloody brimstone fruit. But you won't! Because you won't find it anywhere. And if you can't find it, you have to stop pestering me about all this guardian shit!"

"It's a deal then. I will get that fruit and you will honor your promise!"

"Hahaha! I would like to see how you do that. Let me tell you something. You won't find the fruit because it only exists in the under—What the f*ckkk...!!!"

At that time, Pandora materialized with a burst of hellfire.

"That's... That's...", Damos was out of words.

"Hehe, that's my steed, Pandora," Jack said with a wide grin.

Damos was looking back and forth between Jack and Pandora. Jack never used his steed on his previous visit, so Damos was not aware of the nightmare.

"This... You... This is cheating...!!" Damos exclaimed.

"Hehe, you are not allowed to go back on your words," Jack said.

"Hmph!" Damos sat back on his chair and put on a grumpy face.

"Hey, come on. Don't be like that. I promise you are going to have a good time after becoming Themisphere's country guardian."

"Don't be cocky, kid. I still haven't seen the brimstone fruit yet," Damos said.

"You might as well have, old man. You might as well have," Jack climbed up to Pandora. "Be back in no time."

"Hey, kid!" Damos called.

Jack was giving Pandora instructions. He stopped after hearing Damos' call. "Yeah?"

"The trees that bore the brimstone fruits usually attracted strong monsters. You best be careful," Damos said.

Jack grinned upon hearing it. The mighty dragon did care after all. Jack winked at him before giving Pandora the signal. She opened the portal and they disappeared into a fiery well.

"The hell was that supposed to mean?" Damos muttered.

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Pandora, Jack, and Peniel appeared back into the familiar landscape of black and red.

Jack looked around. He could swear that everywhere in the underworld looked the same. He opened his map. It was completely greyed out except for the spot that he was on. This was a place he had never traveled past before.

"This is the region where brimstone trees are growing," Peniel said. She had informed Pandora of the region where they wanted to go to. "Unfortunately, we don't end up right at the place that has the trees. I don't have details of where the trees are, but I know they should exist within this region."

"Then we will just move around this place until we find one," Jack said. They had four days left. If the trees were not secluded, it should be more than enough time to scour one region with Pandora's speed.

"You can recognize the trees from afar, right?" Jack asked Peniel.

"The tree had whitish-yellow skin and its fire burned in a wide round shape," Peniel informed. "But its most distinguished feature was that it occasionally released yellow fumes that stayed for a long time. So, normally the tree was always surrounded by yellow fog."

"Burning tree with yellow fog. Shouldn't be hard to see," Jack said. "Okay, ma'am. We will rely on you. Let's take to the sky. We should be able to see more things from above."

Pandora flapped her fiery wings and they rose above. She didn't fly too high so Jack and Peniel could still easily see the things on the ground. She also didn't fly at high speed. It would be difficult to see anything if she did that.

They flew for some time. Flying monsters roamed the sky but mostly ran away due to Pandora's aura. Even level 80 monsters flee from her now. Peniel said even for a rare elite, only level 90 monsters were likely to be immune to Pandora's aura now that she upgraded to legendary. Even monsters resistant to psychic attack would now find it hard to resist her aura. So, they mostly fly in peace.

Since they were not rushing to one place, Jack took the time to kill new monsters if it was level 70 or below. This was because the new monsters he killed in the underworld were also recorded inside his monster books.

They wandered about for an entire day, but they didn't see any tree that fit Peniel's description.

"Hey, Peniel. Are you sure we are in the correct region?" Jack asked.

"I am! The brimstone trees grow in the Ashfall region. Unless Pandora brought us to the wrong region, the trees should be here."

Pandora neighed unpleasantly hearing that.

"She said she didn't bring us to the wrong region," Peniel translated.

"She didn't." Jack was opening his map. Now that a few areas had been cleared up, he could see the name of the region on his map. It was indeed the Ashfall region.

'Well, if we are not in the wrong region, then why haven't we stumbled upon even one tree?' He wondered.

Chapter 1152: Plantation

They found a seemingly safe place and landed there. Jack used his Camouflage Tent to rest for a few hours. The sky of the underworld remained the same whether day or night, but Jack estimated they had been roaming for a full day.

Before resting, Jack spent one hour practicing mana manipulation. When he was prostrating himself at Darnos' place, he didn't just train mana manipulation. He was also shadow-training in manipulating mana to enhance game skills.

Now that he tested it, he knew he was still far from reaching his grandfather's level, but he started to touch that realm already. At his stage, he found it difficult to adjust mana on different skills. So, he focused on training only one skill, Brave Slash.

Brave Slash was his strongest single-target attack with a short cooldown, which was only three minutes. It was also simple in execution, making it an ideal skill to practice on.

Every three minutes, Jack executed Brave Slash while manipulating the mana to enhance that skill.

Even though he had expected it, it was still harder than he thought. He needed to be fully focused to even have half a chance to successfully enhance the skill. He couldn't use this in real combat unless the enemy just stood there and let him hit it.

In the case where he was successful, the golden light that enveloped his weapon turned denser and longer. Jack could feel the power contained within the slash was stronger than when he executed the skill normally.

It was not perfect yet, but at least he had begun his first step into this realm. Peniel who observed was secretly astonished. It was not that long ago when Jack started learning mana manipulation. The speed he was improving was unheard of. He wondered if was Jack unique in this case or if other talented outworlders also had the same growth rate.

Jack slept inside his tent after the training.

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After they were rested, they resumed the search. Peniel said that they should have covered almost half of the entire region. By the end of the day, they should be able to find at least one brimstone tree.

"If it does exist," Jack added.

Peniel gave him an irritated glance.

"Oh, shit! Get down! Get down!" Jack suddenly said in a hurry. He had seen a big dark red dot coming their way on his radar. The speed was rather alarming.

Pandora didn't question Jack's instruction. He swooped down and arrived on the ground in a heartbeat. Jack then unsummoned her and hid behind a large rock.

He let his Cloak of Shadow turn him invisible and also used his mana concealment technique.

He didn't know if this big red dot traveled in the air or on land. But judging from its speed, Jack thought it was more likely in the air. Its speed rivaled Pandora, that's why Jack had chosen to hide instead of running away.

He heard the sound of thunderclaps. It was not weird since the sky here had regular thunders and lightning, but the intensity of these thunderclaps was abnormal, even for this place.

He had been looking up since he suspected whatever that was coming would be from the air. Hence, he didn't need to move his head and could stay invisible.

Soon, the biggest bird he ever saw came into view. The bird seemed to be made of pure energy. It was blue and it continuously emitted electricity. Every dark cloud it passed by was charged by its electricity and caused those loud thunderclaps. The clouds then unleashed several chaotic lightning strikes.

The thunderbird passed almost directly above Jack, giving Jack a close enough distance to use his Inspect.

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Infernal Stormbird (Mythical monster, Avian), level 80

HP: 2,100,000

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'Mythical and level 80,' Jack thought.

'Infernal Stormbird has very strong psychic resistance. With that level and grade, it has no problem ignoring Pandora's fear aura,' Peniel informed Jack via their thoughts.

The Infernal Stormbird flew in circles for some time, as if searching for something. Perhaps it sensed Pandora's high-level energy and came to check.

The stormbird couldn't find what it was looking for so it left. When Jack looked in the direction it was flying to, he said, "Are those the yellow fogs you mentioned?"

"What yellow fogs? I don't see anything," Peniel responded.

Jack's dragon eye could see further. He saw a long line of what appeared to be yellow smoke on the horizon. If those fogs were what they were looking for, there would be a whole lot of brimstone trees there.

Jack looked at the stormbird who had turned into a speck. The bird went in that direction as well. It would be too risky to summon Pandora. He decided to go on foot.

He used his radar to avoid the monsters around the field, even the weak ones. He wanted to hurriedly find out if the place he saw had the things they came here for.

When he was close enough, he saw the strangest things. The infernal stormbird from before was battering at empty air. Runic symbols flashed every time the stormbird's claws struck a seemingly invisible wall.

Multiple Lightning strikes were produced from the impacts and the lightning continued jumping in the air as runic symbols flared. From the outlines of these runic symbols, Jack saw the shape of a partial sphere.

"It is a force field," Jack uttered.

And within this seemingly invisible shell, yellow fogs blanketed the ground. They saw the light of blazing flames within this fog and the shadow of a trunk under those flames.

"Those should be the brimstone trees, shouldn't they?" Jack asked Peniel.

"They should be...," Peniel answered but her tone was not convincing.

"Strange," she added. "Brimstone trees usually grow far apart from each other. They don't group up in one place like this."

"My thought is that they do not originally grow in that place. They were moved here," Jack said.

"Why do you say that?" Peniel asked.

"That force field. It is artificial. That's why we didn't find any brimstone trees on our way. They have been collected in one place for easier handling. That place is a plantation."

"If it is so, then we are dealing with the underworld empire. They are the only ones who can pull this off. Are you sure you want to mess with them?"

"I've already pissed off one of the kings of hell, haven't I?" Jack said with a shrug.

"The devil who is in charge in this region is not someone you want to mess with. He is only second to Emperor Lucifer."

"Who is he? Is the city he stays in close by?" Jack asked.

"The city he stays in is far away. I doubt he will bother with this plantation. The brimstone fruits produced by these trees are valuable but not that valuable to take the attention of a king of hell," Peniel answered. "His name is Satan. He is a level 99 Eternal devil."

Chapter 1153: Breaching the Force Field

'Lucifer, Satan, Mammon... I guess Wilted's people took inspiration from the real world's devil when they designed this underworld's hierarchy, eh?' Jack thought. He then asked Peniel, "What're the names of the other kings of Hell?"

"Leviathan, Beelzebub, Asmodeus, and Belphegor," Peniel answered.

"I see... the big names from the seven sins. By the way, if Satan is a level 99 Eternal grade, how strong is Lucifer? Satan should already be the strongest, shouldn't he?"

"Lucifer has crossed the boundary of levels. He is at the same power as the Gods and Goddesses," Peniel answered.

"Oh... I guess I should be glad that these brimstone trees are not inside his region then," Jack said.

"I wouldn't have told you about the trees if they are," Peniel returned. "I know you will still risk it even if they are inside Lucifer's region. But even if you want to get the fruits here, how are you going to get past that force field?"

"There should be an entrance somewhere. We can try to find it, wait, and sneak in when the demons use that entrance, but I don't have the time for that."

"So?"

"We wait for that stormbird to leave first. Then I will see if I can unravel the rune diagrams maintaining that force field," Jack said.

The infernal stormbird continued banging the force field non-stop. Jack admired the stormbird's persistence. Darnos did mention the brimstone fruits attract monsters, so maybe the stormbird wanted those fruits very much.

Jack was also astonished by the force field. It could resist the power of a level 80 mythical monster. The rune diagram that powered it should be one that needed a Greater Dispel to undo, or a lot of time if unraveling it manually.

Luckily, Jack didn't see any demons guarding the perimeter, nor any demon patrols. The one in charge of this plantation must be extremely confident of the force field. This meant that he could work on unraveling the rune diagram without the worry of getting noticed.

After a good three hours, the stormbird finally gave up and flew away.

Jack made sure it was out of sight before coming out of hiding. He approached the edge of the force field. It was invisible but Jack's mana sense could detect it once he came near.

He checked one more time on his radar to make sure that no one was nearby. It was hard to see through all the yellow fog. Peniel mentioned that normally the yellow fog from the brimstone trees was not this thick. But considering the trees had been packed close to each other, the fume they emitted must be overlapping one another and created such dense fog.

This dense yellow fog served to his advantage. Even if there was a demon patrol coming from inside the force field, the demons won't spot Jack because of all this fog. He would see them first on his radar.

But he still preferred no such thing to happen. If he was to unravel the rune diagram manually, he couldn't stop midway.

He called Therras and his royal agents to watch his six. He didn't summon Nerd, though. Nerd's level was the lowest. That recruit won't provide much help and Jack preferred him to focus on leveling up for now.

Duke Alfredo, Laurent, and Jonathan had increased by one level to 73, 71, and 63 respectively. Lindsey was level 55 and Amy was level 52. Howard remained at level 60 since it was not that long ago when Jack was power-leveling him.

Out of the six, only Laurent had not yet been to the underworld. He was visibly anxious due to the unfamiliar environment. Duke Alfredo assured him not to worry.

Jack gave them a short explanation about what he wanted to do. With Therras, they formed a protective circle in case a monster approached.

Jack then focused his attention on the force field. He closed his eyes and let his mana sense work. Within seconds, he could perceive in his mind the shapes of the rune diagrams under the edge of the force field.

It was a series of overlapping rune diagrams that produced interconnecting force field that covered the entire plantation. In his mind's eye, the force field looked like honeycomb cells linked with each other to form a half-sphere.

Jack was relieved after learning this. It meant that he didn't need to deal with the entire rune diagrams. He just needed to focus on the area where he was. Taking out one or two of these honeycomb cells and created a hole large enough for him to pass through.

Even though he only needed to deal with one part, he admitted the rune diagrams applied here were top-tiered. Not only in terms of complexity but the energy injected into the rune diagrams was also very powerful. No wonder the force field could easily block the violent assault of that infernal stormbird.

Fortunately, his mana manipulation ability had increased greatly. Otherwise, it would be extremely difficult to unravel this rune diagram. It would be like trying to pull a lever that was locked. But with his current mana manipulation, he had enough power to slowly force that lever to move.

The unraveling was not a challenge. His mana sense was advanced enough to know what he should do. He only needed time.

He spent around one hour unraveling enough rune diagrams that a hole appeared in the force field right in front of him. To his relief, no monsters came near. Now that he thought about it, no monsters came near the force field except for the infernal stormbird. Maybe aside from the forcefield, other means were in place to keep weaker monsters away. Whatever it was, Jack was thankful for it.

Bringing a large group was counter-productive in a sneaking attempt, so Jack unsummoned everyone. Furthermore, he only needed to go in and take one fruit from a tree. He didn't need that many helpers for that.

Jack then entered through the hole he had created.

Chapter 1154: Turning Misfortune into an Advantage

Now that Jack entered the yellow fog, his view was completely blocked. He couldn't see shit. But with his mana sense guiding him, he soon arrived at the first tree.

The fog in the area directly around the tree was not so dense, so he could see the tree. The trunk had rough white bark with lots of cracking. The inside of these cracks was a yellowish substance. Its branches spread out and were all burning. The flames were strangely burning toward the outside instead of burning upward.

Jack sensed a rune diagram under the tree. After probing the diagram for while, he understood the diagram didn't contain any offensive trap. It only monitored the well-being of the tree. He also saw the traces that the ground was dug. This confirmed this tree didn't originally grow here.

"I don't see anything that looked like a fruit," Jack said. "Do the fruits grow on the tree's roots? Are they underground?"

"No, it should be hanging from its branches," Peniel answered. "Look!"

She was pointing at something that looked like a dangling vine hanging from the branch.

"There is a cut mark at its end. That's where the fruit should be," Peniel said.

Jack looked around. There were more of those dangling vines on the other branches.

"The fruits must have been harvested," Jack surmised.

He decided to go look at the other trees. Using his mana sense, he cut across the fog-filled field. Yet, the next tree was the same. Its fruits had been taken. He went to the next tree, and the next, and the next.

Every single tree was the same.

"Bloody hell...! Does a simple picking up of a fruit need to be this troublesome?" Jack cursed. He then asked Peniel, "How long will these trees bear their fruits again?"

"Their fruiting cycle is one month," Peniel answered. "From the look of it, these fruits were just harvested recently. You will need to wait another month for them to grow again."

"Recently? That means it's probable the harvested fruits are still nearby?" Jack said. His hope was reignited. "If there is a collection station. It should be at the center of this force field."

"Such a place should also have someone looking after them," Peniel warned.

"Hope no one too strong then," Jack said.

He made an estimate of which direction the center of the force field was and headed there. He passed by many trees on the way. They were all similarly devoid of fruits.

Soon, he saw red dots on his radar. They were grouped close to each other. That should be where the barn was, or whatever it was at this place that store the brimstone fruits.

As he studied his radar, he stopped. Among the grouped red dots. One was bigger and redder than the others.

Peniel also saw the large red dot on the radar.

"Guess we should approach carefully then," Jack whispered.

"They are still far away. Why do you whisper?" Peniel scolded.

"You can never be too careful. Let's go nearer," Jack didn't advance as fast as before. Even though the yellow fog still obscured his presence, he focused his mana sense aside from observing his radar. The demons might possess other surveillance methods he was not aware of, or maybe even traps.

Getting near where the red dots were, the yellow fog became thinner. He saw an outline of some buildings. He lay low on the ground and crept forward until the structures were more visible.

There were four buildings. All had weird architecture and looked to be made of hard materials of a dark reddish color. One of the structures was a tall tower. that must be a watch tower. One red dot on his radar was roughly in the location of that tower. Jack had no doubt a demon was at the top of that tower.

The group of red dots on his radar were mostly inside the biggest building. The medium-sized one had two red dots inside while the smallest one was empty according to his radar.

Jack crept to the small building before getting up and sneaking to its entrance. Its door was not locked. Inside, he found multiple assortments of gardening and digging tools. All were registered as junk items in his monocle.

"This is just a place to store common tools," Jack said. He peeked out from that small building. "The harvested fruits should be at that largest or the medium building. Both were guarded."

He then looked at the tower. "We need to take out that lookout first."

A loud banging sound surprised him. He quickly ducked back into the building. He studied his radar, worried that the sound was someone attacking him. He then noticed another large red dot at the edge of his radar.

He peeked out again and saw in the distant sky the infernal stormbird was back and again attacking the force field.

The other red dots on his radar moved. Still in hiding, he turned in the direction of the largest building. Several demons came out from that building. One of them was a winged high demon with two large bent horns. His two lower arms were extremely large, completely disproportionate to his body size.

That demon was within the range of Jack's Inspect.

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Ramaun (mythical demon), level 84

HP: 1,950,000

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"That bird again. Does it never learn?" One of the regular demons remarked.

"It's just a monster. It is behaving by instinct. It must be attracted by the scent of our brimstone trees," another said.

"Luckily, the force field is strong enough."

"It seems the chief's worry is unnecessary. He has called big brother Ramaun over for nothing," a demon said while looking at the high demon with reverence.

"Hmph! It is indeed a waste of my precious time to come here," Ramaun said in response. "Let's ignore that stupid bird. If it comes again, perhaps I will just go out and teach it some lessons."

"That will be a spectacle," the low demon said.

Those demons went back into the building while continued chatting.

"Damn it to hell! So that high demon is never supposed to be here? What luck. I just have to need the fruit at the same time when he is here." Jack turned to the stormbird that was still banging the force field up there and cursed, "Stupid bird. It's all your fault."

But then he thought of something.

"What are you thinking?" Peniel asked. She sensed a sudden excitement in Jack's mind but she didn't know what it was since Jack didn't project the thought in words.

"Hehe. I think we can turn this misfortune into an advantage," Jack grinned.

Chapter 1155: Stealing while the Host is Busy

Jack sneaked back into the yellow fog. He then ran back to the edge of the plantation.

The infernal stormbird was still banging the force field relentlessly up there despite not yielding any result. As the demons said, it was simply acting based on instinct.

The last time it continued like that for three hours. Jack hoped it was the same this time.

Arriving where the force field touched the ground, he interacted with the rune diagrams again. He didn't summon anyone to guard him. He was on the inside of the force field so he didn't worry about wandering monsters.

He first linked his consciousness with the rune diagrams that erected the force field, then he tried locating the diagram that was in charge of the cell where the stormbird was assaulting.

The force field formed an extremely large sphere, hence the formation of the interlinked rune diagrams was very complex. Even with his advanced mana sense, it still took him almost half an hour to locate the cell and the position of the rune diagram that was in charge of that cell.

"It is over there," Jack said. He ran along the edge of the force field until he arrived at where the rune diagram was. He interfaced with it without delay.

Since he had done it before, he took less time than before.

Up there, the force field right under the stormbird suddenly vanished. One of its claws went right through what was an invisible solid wall a second ago. It was confused but also ecstatic.

He tried to go through that hole, but couldn't. It was too big and the hole was too small. Only his one claw could go through. But this one hole ignited its passion. It thought it was due to its relentless effort that the hole was created. So, it resumed battering, determined to break more of this invisible wall.

Because there was one hole in the force field, the cells directly next to it weren't as sturdy as before. It was as if blocks that lost their foundation. Before, the force field didn't budge from the stormbird's assaults. This time, the cells trembled with each impact.

However, the force field seemed to be able to resist for a significant amount of time.

"Hm... Let's take out one more cell," Jack said after looking at the situation.

While he was working on the rune diagram, the stormbird continued its ferocious assault. Each of its hits produced lightning strikes that jumped randomly. Because there was a hole right under it, some of this random lightning jumped through and struck the ground down there. One of them even hit a brimstone tree. HP bar and Damage number appeared above the tree.

Each of the trees was marked with a rune diagram. This diagram warned the demons inside the building when it suffered damage.

They immediately came out. They saw the lightning strike from the stormbird breaching the force field.

"What? How did that bird break the force field?" A demon asked.

"It still cannot go in, though? The force field should hold, shouldn't it?" Another demon asked.

"Its haphazard lightning damages the trees. We can't let it continue," Another added.

Yet, they all knew that only one demon here who could do something about the situation. All the demons were looking at Ramaun.

"Hmph, useless lots. Out of my way," He said disdainfully.

The other demons gave him some space. Ramaun squatted before he burst upward with an air explosion. Even though the other demons had put some distance, they were still blown away by the force.

Ramaun shot up at high speed toward the stormbird. After getting closer, his mana sense told him that the cells around the hole in the force field were breaking up. Sooner or later, the hole would become bigger if the stormbird was left unchecked.

He made a punch with his oversized fist. A Ki Bullet shot out, passed through the hole, and smashed into the stormbird. The bird reeled back due to the punch.

The stormbird screeched angrily. The air in front of it exploded with a cacophony of thunder. Untold lightning strikes ensued. But because the hole was small, the lightning strike that passed through the force field formed a column, which Ramaun easily evaded by hiding behind the force field.

The stormbird was angry when it failed to get back at the demon. It smashed the force field directly in front of the demon. The demon just stared at the bird with a grin as it frantically hit the force field.

When the stormbird was unaware, Ramaun again sneaked a ranged attack through the hole.

Ramaun was smaller than the stormbird. He was also smarter. It was easier for him to utilize the hole. While the stormbird's large body made it difficult to counterattack.

Ramaun used the same tactic repeatedly, wearing the Stormbird down while he was completely untouched. When he was about to steal an attack again, his mana sense informed him the cell directly in front of him suddenly vanished.

He was taken aback by this abrupt change. At the same time, the stormbird's claw was incidentally smashing the disappeared cell. Since there was no more obstacle, the massive claw went through and hit Ramaun instead.

Ramaun was thrown away while being assaulted by a series of lightning energies following the hit.

The stormbird, who saw its attack hit the accursed demon, was immediately invigorated. The missing two cells made the hole in the force field larger, but it was still not enough for the massive bird. But with these two missing cells combined with the bird's previous abuse, the force field could finally withstand no longer. The next hit from the stormbird's claws shattered another cell from the force field, and then another, and another.

By the time Ramaun regained his balance, the hole was already large enough for the storm bird. The stormbird used another skill as it passed through the hole. Its two eyes flared with dazzling lightning which then formed a thick lightning pillar.

Ramaun crossed his arm and formed a Ki Shield. The lightning pillar smashed into the shield. The pillar was unable to break the shield but the shield was also unable to stop the pillar's momentum. Ramaun was being pushed down until he crashed into the ground. The impact caused a lightning explosion that destroyed the Ki Shield and cause damage to Ramaun.

The stormbird screeched triumphantly. Multiple lightning snakes shot from its body in every direction, hitting the ground below as well as damaging several of the brimstone trees.

Jack, who was running back to the complex at the center of the plantation, was almost struck by one of this rampant lightning.

Jack was the one responsible for eliminating the second cell near the stormbird. Once he saw the force field could no longer block the stormbird, he left the rune diagram and proceeded to the next phase of his ploy. It was time to go steal the brimstone fruits while the mythical demon was occupied.

Chapter 1156: Checking out the Buildings

Jack cast Barrier while running to the building complex at the center of the force field. The barrier was just in case he was hit by stray lightning. The high demon and the infernal stormbird were still battling one another up there in the sky. Loud sounds were heard whenever the two clashed.

Through his radar, he could see that he was close to the barn from the positions of the other demons. All the demons had gathered outside the buildings to watch the battle.

He didn't know how long the battle between the two in the sky would last, so he couldn't waste any time. He let go of stealth. He summoned Therras and his royal agents once he rushed out of the yellow fog.

The demons, whose attention was still on the sky, didn't see the group of intruders until they were too close. Everyone took advantage of the situation and landed the first strikes except for Jack, who ran into the medium-sized building.

Jack didn't go into the largest building because he deduced that the building should be the demons' living quarters, which made the medium-sized building a more likely storeroom for the fruits. The two demons who were originally inside that building were also outside joining the others, so the building was empty.

Therras and the royal agents knew Jack's intention, so they kept the demons outside from going back into the building.

After entering the building, Jack saw the inside looked like a stable. Large strange animals were inside some stalls lining the two sides of the building. The animals didn't appear hostile and they also didn't appear on Jack's radar. Jack assumed these animals must be some kind of a steed to carry the demons or to transport something.

He looked around but didn't see anything valuable except for the animals. When he was feeling disappointed and was about to leave to check out the largest building, he noticed that this stable was smaller than the building size seen from the outside.

He then noticed a door at the far wall. He was not aware of this door at first because its material was the same as the wall. Hence, it was slightly camouflaged.

He came to the door and tried opening it. It was locked, which Jack considered a good sign. Locked doors meant there was something valuable in the room behind it.

He didn't have the time to lockpick the door, so he started hitting it. An HP bar and damage number appeared following his hit. He was glad this door was not considered too tough for his strength.

He looked at his radar when doing it, the number of red dots outside was decreasing. The demons were no match for his minions. As for the large red dots, they were still glued to one another a distance away.

After a few minutes, the door finally succumbed. It broke to pieces and revealed a room filled with strange yellow balls that sometimes exuded yellow fumes. He used Inspect on one of these strange yellow balls.

*

Brimstone Fruit (Super rare ingredient)

An ingredient for alchemy and cooking.

*

"Yes!" He exclaimed loudly.

He then started collecting the fruits and storing them in his inventory. Darmos only asked for one. But considering this was a super rare ingredient that could only be found in the underworld, he supposed he should take as many as possible.

The only valuables inside the room were the fruits. There were almost a thousand of them, so it took Jack a while to collect them.

After he was done, the regular red dots outside had decreased to only two. When Jack came out of the building, the remaining two demons were down. He looked up at the two battling creatures up in the air, the two were still in a heated battle.

Jack then turned his attention to the larger building. He told his royal agents to keep a lookout before he ran into that building.

*

Ramaun, who was high up in the air, wasn't oblivious about what was happening on the ground. He had seen the intruders coming out of the yellow fog and assaulting the guards down there. He also saw one of the intruders entering the storehouse. That same intruder was now entering the main building.

He had tried disengaging the battle to engage those intruders, but the stormbird didn't let him.

The stormbird was angry at Ramaun for his abuse by utilizing the force field a while ago. Even the unprotected brimstone trees on the ground were less tempting to the stormbird compared to exacting its vengeance upon this demon. The stormbird attacked frenziedly every time Ramaun turned his attention away.

This led to Ramaun suffering damage every time he tried to disengage. The stormbird's every attack also had a chance to cause paralyzation.

Ramaun was extremely vexed. He had a higher level than the stormbird, but this situation where he was unable to focus caused him to lose most of the clashes.

*

Inside the main building, Jack saw a lobby followed by a spacious living room with sofas and lounges for the demons to hang out. Jack was amused imagining the demons hanging out like normal people.

His God-eye monocle didn't register anything worthwhile in those rooms, so he proceeded to the corridor beyond the living room.

The left and right of the corridor had doors that led to small bedrooms. Jack entered every room but still found nothing. At the back was something that looked like a kitchen and stairs to the upper floor.

He ran up the stairs and continued going room after room, without much luck. Until finally, he encountered a locked door. He proceeded to assault the door with abandon.

After several minutes of intense battle with the motionless door, Jack was granted entry. The room inside looked like an office to whoever was in charge of this plantation.

A few markings on his monocle immediately attracted his attention. One of them was purple. It was another legendary-grade lockbox! The box just sat there on the desk.

"Yes!" Jack threw his hands up in celebration.

"What do you think the chance of me getting another portal-closing stone?" Jack asked as he picked up the lockbox.

"The same quest item from two lockboxes? I'll say, very, very low," Peniel answered.

Chapter 1157: Attempt to Reap Exp Points

The lockbox was not the only item highlighted by his monocles. There were two more. These two were not purple, though.

They were two papers among many other papers stacked on the desk. Jack couldn't believe that demons had this much paperwork.

After storing the lockbox, Jack shifted through the papers and separated the two marked papers. He then inspected them.

*

Exploding Bottle (Alchemy recipe, for guild purposes only)

Allow the creation of a guild war tool: Exploding Bottle

Ingredients: 1 empty bottle, 1 fire-element fruit, 1 flash water, 1 dry cloth

*

Hellish Spicy Steak (Cooking recipe)

Cook Hellish Spicy Steak

Ingredients: 1 giant meat, 1 black pepper, 1 fire-element fruit, 1 flame tongue leaf

*

"Another war tool!" Jack exclaimed.

From its name, Jack deduced this war tool was an offensive type. Peniel confirmed it. She said it was a throwable consumable that dealt fire damage in a large area and had a 100% chance of causing Burn status.

'A Molotov cocktail weapon,' Jack thought. Throwable weapons created from alchemy were not a rare thing. Some players carried them as extra weapons, especially melee players who didn't possess ranged capabilities. However, the damage they caused was pitiful. It was only useful when players had low levels. One of these was the Disruptive Bombs Jack used in the past. The bombs were now useless at Jack's level so he didn't use them anymore.

This exploding bottle, on the other hand, was still useful for current mid-level players. Peniel informed that if they used a higher-grade fruit, the resulting exploding bottle could even be effective against high-level players.

"This fire-element fruit, I assume it is the brimstone fruit?" Jack asked.

"Brimstone fruit is a fruit that contains fire and dark elements," Peniel answered. "Some recipes contain interchangeable ingredients. The grade of the resulting product will base on the ingredients used. Sometimes, a new effect can even be added if you use a particular ingredient. For example, if you use brimstone fruit for this exploding bottle, the exploding bottle will be a super rare grade, dealing higher damage. Additionally, it will also deal additional dark damage and had a chance to cause the Curse effect."

"It's better this way," Jack remarked. Otherwise, he would have to keep on coming back to the underworld to harvest more brimstone fruits.

For the Hellish Spicy Steak, Peniel explained that outworlders who ate the food had added fire damage to their attacks. They also received increased fire resistance.

Similar to the Exploding Bottle, the higher the grade of the meat and fruit used, the higher the added damage and resistance. If brimstone fruit was used, the food would also add dark damage and dark resistance.

Since the effect of the recipe was very offense-oriented, Jack decided to give the recipe to the guild instead of Ellie. This recipe would be useful if guild members ate the food before going to war.

Jack didn't find any more useful things. He supposed those three were the only valuable ones.

He didn't bother going back down the stairs. He broke the windows and jumped down from the upper floor.

"Did Your Majesty find what Your Majesty is looking for?" Duke Alfredo asked.

"Yes," Jack answered. He already found what he was looking for in the first building he entered. The one just now was a bonus.

"So, shall we leave now?" Alfredo asked. He was not eager to stay in the underworld for long. The corrupted mana made him uncomfortable.

Jack didn't answer, he was looking up at Ramaun who was still in heated combat with the infernal stormbird. Both of them were wounded.

The stormbird fought in a fury so it went full offense without a care for its safety. As for Ramaun, he lost many clashes in the first few rounds after the stormbird breached the force field due to being unable to focus. But after suffering damage, he was also angry at the stormbird. So, he ignored the intruders down on the ground and fully focused on the stormbird. He also went full offense. As a result, the two's HP went down rapidly.

At this moment, Ramaun had around 40% HP while the stormbird had around 30%.

"Everyone, we can get lots of exp if we kill those two," Jack said.

"Are you serious? Those two are mythical grades and around ten levels above the four of you!" Jonathan protested.

"It's too risky," Alfredo agreed with Jonathan.

"I have another helper," Jack said and summoned Arlcard. If it came to exp, Arlcard wouldn't mind tagging along.

When Arlcard appeared, he frowned because he saw both Jack and Therras who used to be lower level than him were now at the same level as him, at level 70.

"I still don't think we have a good odd," Jonathan said.

"Wait, I call one more person," Jack said and summoned Nerd Bungie. That recruit needed exp points more than the others.

Nerd appeared. The guy was true to his name. He had that look that spelled social awkwardness. To top it off, he wore nerdy glasses. He was short and fully garbed in a classic mage robe of black color complete with the pointy mage hat.

Despite his nerdy appearance, he looked around with eyes that belittled everyone. When his eyes landed on Howard, a brief expression of surprise appeared on his face.

"Hey," Howard greeted him with a smile.

Nerd, however, didn't reply to the greeting. He turned away with a face that unmistakably expressed displeasure. His eyes stopped for a moment on Jack then turned away without saying anything.

"Hey! Aren't you going to salute His Majesty?" Lindsey scolded.

"... Your Majesty," Nerd saluted, but everyone could see that he did it half-heartedly.

"It's okay, we are all friends here. There is no need to be so formal," Jack said.

Nerd didn't give any response. He continued to look away with a sullen expression.

'Hm... I wonder what is wrong with him,' Jack asked in his mind.

Peniel could read Jack's thoughts. She slapped his head and said via their minds. 'You, insensitive brute. That kid is like an open book. Remember that he and Howard were recruited at the same time? Because both are mythical grades, they are sure to know one another. He probably thought of Howard as a rival. But then you recruited Howard as your royal agent. He must have considered that you value Howard more than him. Now that he sees Howard is many levels higher than him, he is obviously unhappy.'

'Oh, now that you mention it... No wonder he was not so enthusiastic when I invited him to be my royal agent,' Jack thought.

Jonathan came to Nerd. "Kid, I don't like your attitude. Just because you are a mythical grade, don't you think the position of a royal agent is something you can look down on!"

"It's okay, Jonathan," Jack said and approached Nerd as well. He then put a hand on Nerd's shoulder.

"Nerd. I'm sorry. I didn't consider your feeling when I recruited Howard, but please rest assured I didn't consider you any less than him. Don't worry about your level. I promise you that I will help you catch up."

Nerd looked at Jack with a surprised expression. He didn't expect the king to be so straightforward.

"It's... It's me that should be sorry, Your Majesty. Please forgive me," Nerd said.

"Hehe. You are an honest person who can't hide your feeling. I like that. As I've said, don't worry about it." Jack then addressed everyone, "Okay. Jonathan, Lindsey, Amy, Howard, and Nerd. Your levels are still too low. You all stay on the ground, but don't be too far away so you can still get the exp points when we kill those two up there. Laurent, can you cast a protection spell on them?"

"Yes. I've Group Barrier spell," Laurent answered.

"Good. Cast the spell before we took off. If you five have any protective skill or spell. Don't hesitate to use them. Your job here is to protect yourself. As for the rest of us," Jack was now looking at Arlcard, Alfredo, Laurent, and Therras. "Here is the plan..."

Chapter 1158: Pitting the Enemies

Up there, Ramaun was fighting the infernal stormbird ferociously. His unnaturally large fists were coated with dark red energy. It was a modified Ki-infused Fist that contained the chaos element. Each of his punches also caused a strong whirlwind that staggered his opponent. But the stormbird was also a master of wind, so it could still counterattack despite the severe wind.

After Ramaun focused his attention on the stormbird, the stormbird's HP reduced at a faster rate. Ramaun was four levels higher than it, after all.

The infernal stormbird might be a monster that acted on instinct, but it still had limited intelligence. It had been blinded by its rage, but now after its HP was lowered to below twenty percent, it finally felt the danger. Ramaun, on the other hand, still had a bit over 30% of HP.

The stormbird made some attempts to disengage. But this time, it was Ramaun now that didn't let it go. The demon was pissed at this stormbird. Ramaun had forgotten about the intruders. All he wanted was to tear this stormbird to pieces.

Suddenly, a healing light fell on the stormbird.

The incident confused both combatants. They turned to where the spell came from and saw two humans floating not far away from them. One of the humans wore a priest's robe. This priest was preparing another healing spell. The spell hit the stormbird again, bringing its HP up.

An AOE spell won't heal a hostile, but a single target healing spell with a manual targeting system could still be cast on a hostile.

The human priest was Laurent. The other human beside him was Duke Alfredo. Jack had instructed Laurent to keep the Stormbird's HP at the same percentage as Ramaun.

Although the stormbird was confused about why the human healed it, it didn't let go of this opportunity. It flapped its wings and caused a chaotic electric storm right where Ramaun was.

Being assaulted by the electric storm, Ramaun received continuous damage. Despite all the lightning, he wasn't paralyzed. This was because his body was protected by a defensive skill, Obsidian Skin, which turned his skin black. The skill reduced the damage he received and protected him from all negative physical status effects.

The battle continued with the two of them losing HP steadily. Laurent continued healing the stormbird to keep it from losing to Ramaun.

"You, stupid bird! Can't you see that the human is just using you?!" Ramaun yelled in frustration.

The stormbird, however, didn't think that far. It just saw it as he got an ally to fight its current opponent.

Seeing that he couldn't reason with the stormbird, Ramaun turned to Laurent instead. He endured an assault from the stormbird to send a Ki Bullet at Laurent.

The ki bullet was from a level 80 mythical, Laurent wouldn't be unscathed if he was hit directly. But Duke Alfredo who was beside him was prepared. He put himself before Laurent and performed dual casting. One of his spells was Phantasm Fist which punched into the incoming Ki Bullet. The other spell was Magic Wall.

The phantasm fist was obliterated by the Ki Bullet. The bullet continued onward and shattered the magic wall, before slamming into Alfredo's magic shield. Alfredo was also protected by the barrier spell. His magic shield was destroyed but his barrier was still intact. Ki Bullet was not a very powerful skill, so Alfredo could still defend from it despite it being from an opponent much higher level than him.

While Alfredo defended Laurent, Laurent again cast heal on the Stormbird. Ramaun was extremely vexed.

"You, pests! I will destroy you all!!!" Ramaun roared and his body transformed. He grew larger and became more grotesque.

Jack and his royal agents recognized the skill as demonization, the same as the one used by the archdemon they defeated in the past.

Ramaun's stats shot up after the demonization. He swung his fist. As he did, a gigantic black fist materialized out of thin air. This gigantic fist crashed into the stormbird and sent it reeling.

The stormbird screeched angrily from the assault. The electricity around it intensified until its body seemingly turned into pure lightning. It then slammed itself onto Ramaun, creating a huge explosion. Laurent and Alfredo had to retreat so that they weren't caught in the explosion.

"They are going all out!" Jack, who was in hiding, uttered. He told everyone to get ready.

In their enhanced forms, the two continued to duke it out. Shaving each other's HP until their HP bars fell to nearly ten percent.

"It is time!" Jack yelled and sent his signal.

Laurent stopped healing the stormbird. He exchanged roles with Alfredo. He was now at the front protecting Alfredo while Alfredo cast a mega spell.

The protection was unneeded. Ramaun and the stormbird were too into each other that they weren't aware of what the humans were doing. The mega spell was completed and the two battling beings were locked inside Prism Prison.

The two were extremely shocked once they sensed the change in the mana around them, but it was too late. Right at that time, Jack, Arlcard, and Therras appeared out of thin air not far away.

They had been invisible due to Arlcard's new spell, Invisibility Cloak. It turned the user and the people in his vicinity invisible. Jack also made sure that they were out of mana sense range so that Ramaun was not aware of them.

They attacked immediately once they appeared. Jack was in supreme dragon form and activated Overlimit. He was holding his spirit weapon which had started its finishing mode. He threw his spirit weapon as he executed Lightning God Barrage and Soul Breath.

Arlcard cast his gigantic Dark Lord's Sword and Therras in its ultimate form was firing Earth Core Bomb.

The five explosive elemental assaults merged inside Alfredo's Prism Prison and created a huge explosion. Since the prism prison stopped damaging force from coming out, all the explosion was locked inside. The turbulent energy turned even more chaotic as all the destructive forces had nowhere to go but circled inside the prison.

The prison trembled greatly trying to hold the energy but it finally succumbed and broke. Jack was surprised that even the mega spell was unable to hold the combination attack. He had summoned his runestone of luck which was now hovering beside him.

From the dissipating ashes, they saw Ramaun's body fall to the ground far below. As for the stormbird, it was not seen anymore. Instead, several small items fell next to Ramaun's falling body.

Chapter 1159: Infernal Hero Token

Ramaun's body and the infernal stormbird's loot hit the ground not far from where Lindsey and the others were standing. They stayed within range so that they got the exp points for killing the two mythical beings.

Everyone received lots of exp points. Both Ramaun and the infernal stormbird's levels were very high, after all.

After the exp points were divided between the ten of them, each of Jack's three classes leveled up once. His Brave Swordsman was level 71. Both his Time Sage and Beast Monarch were level 70.

Arlcard and Terras leveled up twice to level 72. Laurent also leveled up twice to level 73. Being the highest in level, Alfredo leveled up only one time. He was level 74 now.

Jonathan and Howard leveled up four times. Jonathan was level 67 and Howard was level 64.

Aided by her fast-growth talent, Lindsey leveled up six times. She was now level 61. Amy leveled up five times, to level 57.

The one who leveled up the most times was of course the one with the lowest level, Nerd. His level 44 shot up like a rocket to level 51.

"Stick with His Majesty, and you will see this kind of stuff happening often," Jonathan said to Nerd, whose eyes had widened so they were almost as round as his glasses.

"That's true," Howard came and clapped Nerd's shoulders. "You will catch up to me in no time. But our levels are not important, what's important is that we are of use to His Majesty."

"Well said, rookie!" Lindsey exclaimed.

Jonathan gave Lindsey a weird look. 'Aren't you a rookie as well?'

Jack landed on the ground with the others. He proceeded to collect the loot with haste. He thanked everyone before unsummoning them. He then called Pandora. With her, they fled through the bigger hole in the sky and went a distance away from the plantation.

He didn't know if there was any alarm system on the plantation. There was no teleportation device inside the plantation's buildings, but for all he knew, an army of demons might be on their way to the plantation. That's why he didn't stay for long after killing Ramaun and the infernal stormbird.

Only after he thought he was far enough and was hiding among a rock formation on a mountain's side, that he allowed himself to check the loot.

There were coins and mana cores as usual. The number of mana cores dropped was generous. As Peniel informed, the increase of mana cores dropped by higher-level monsters was more than the increase of coins. From the two mythical, Jack gained almost 5,000 mana cores. He was now only lacking around 15,000 mana cores to be able to summon the archdemon lord.

But even if he had collected enough, he won't use the summon unless absolutely necessary. Considering it took him such a long effort just to gather enough mana cores for one time summon, it would be unwise to waste it.

Among the loot were materials and ingredients which he would give to the guild. Several pieces of equipment, with the most notable one being a pair of unique-grade fist weapons dropped by Ramaun.

To Jack's knowledge, Leavemealone's fist weapons were still super rare grades. He would give these fist weapons to that guy.

Jack also got another level-down pill and three gemstones. The gemstones were one super rare ruby, one super rare emerald, and one unique diamond.

He used the ruby on his Runestone of Enhancement, the emerald on his Runestone of Marching, and the diamond on his Runestone of Luck.

The runestone of Enhancement upgraded from rare to super rare grade after consuming the ruby. The other two runestones still had a long way to go, especially the unique-grade runestone of luck.

The infernal stormbird dropped two unique-grade items. An armor orb and a technique book.

*

Orb of Taranis (Unique-grade Armor orb)

Increase armor's base defense by 15%.

Lightning resistance +50.

10% of lightning damage received is converted into HP instead.

5% chance to retaliate attacks with a lightning strike that dealt 80% lightning damage.

*

Jack had etched his previous armor, Sword Fiend's Gear Set, but not his current regal outfit. So, he couldn't install this armor orb.

He turned to Peniel and asked, "Can I etch a slot into legacy equipment?"

"You can," Peniel replied.

"Great. We will do that later then," Jack said and stored the armor orb.

The unique-grade technique book contained a spell called Orb of Storm. It was a spell for Elementalists. But since the spell contained lightning elements, Jack could learn it.

*

Orb of Storm, level 1/20 (Active skill, ranged, requires magic weapon)

Conjures an orb that moved forward slowly until its duration ends. All hostiles within 20 meters of the orb receive 200% lightning damage every second.

5% chance to inflict Paralyze.

If a hostile's offensive lightning element spell is cast within the orb's range, the orb will absorb the attack. If an ally's offensive lightning element spell is cast within the orb's range, the orb will enhance the attack by 50%.

Duration: 10 seconds

Cooldown: 1 hour

MP: 300

*

"Great! Many of my attacks are lightning-based. This spell will increase their damage output," Jack remarked.

He then turned to the one remaining item from the loot, which was also the most valuable one. This item had a purple marking, the color of legendary grade. It was something that he had laid eyes on before. A hero token. Yet, this hero token was completely black.

*

Infernal Hero Token (Legendary consumable)

Summon a random hero of the demon race

Restriction: Usable only with Hero Altar

*

"Peniel, this legendary hero token has the highest chance of getting an eternal-grade hero, doesn't it?" Jack asked.

"Yes. A 5% chance," Peniel answered.

"Yeah! We are sure to secure one eternal-grade hero!" Jack exclaimed.

Peniel felt like slapping him. Which part of the 5% chance that he didn't understand? But then again, he did pull a mythical-grade hero with the same percentage. Maybe he could repeat that?

Chapter 1160: New Country Guardian

Jack received two new skills from his Time Sage and Beast Monarch after the two increased to level 70.

The new skill from the Time Sage class was Reset.

*

Reset, level 1/20 (Active spell, range, requires magic weapons)

Complete the ongoing cooldown of all skills.

Cooldown: 6 hours

Mana: 500

*

This skill reminded him of the reset potion he used in the past. He had never seen that potion anymore when he visited the Magic Association shop. Either the shop stopped selling the potion, or the stock was very limited and it kept on being bought by others. Now that more players got access to the shop, the latter seemed more probable.

"Does this skill reset the skills from my other classes? Or just my Time Sage class?" Jack asked Peniel.

"I don't know. Your multi-class is an anomaly," Peniel answered.

Jack decided to try it. He needed to know the full extent of the skill so he could use it properly.

He first used Brave Slash. He then used Reset. The Brave Slash skill was available to use again afterward. Not only that, the Lightning God Barrage which was supposed to be still on cooldown was also available. He uttered an excited yell. This meant he could use the divine skills twice in a row with Reset.

He also checked his Storm Breaker. Unfortunately, the Reset didn't affect the equipment's skill. The Overlimit was still on cooldown.

For the Beast Monarch, level 70 gave him Iron Mammoth Stampede.

*

Iron Mammoth Stampede, level 1/20 (Active skill)

Summons 20 rampaging iron mammoths that charge randomly at nearest hostiles.

Deals 500% physical damage, causes knockback, and has a 5% chance to inflict Dizzy, Disoriented, and Confused on every impact.

Duration: 1 minute

Cooldown: 3 hours

Stamina: 300

*

Jack thought the skill was similar to Druid's Wild Stampede spell. Peniel explained that the iron mammoths conjured by this skill were many times more destructive than the wildebeests from druid's Wild Stampede. Not to mention these iron mammoths would actively search for hostile targets during its one-minute duration, while the wildebeest from Wild Stampede rampaged on a fixed path and only last a short five seconds.

Jack then checked his available free skill points. He had 3 for each class from his recent level-up.

His containers of souls also received plenty of souls from Ramaun and the infernal Stormbird. Both of them combined gave him 900,000 souls.

He used 3 free skill points and all the 900,000 souls to level up Reset. Each level-up reduced the spell's cooldown by 3 minutes. At level 13, Reset's cooldown was 5 hours and 24 minutes.

He also used 3 free skill points for the Iron Mammoth Stampede. Each level-up increased the skill's duration by 3 seconds, allowing the mammoths to rampage a while longer.

After dealing with his skills, he used one level-down pill for his Brave Swordsmaster class. This might cost him a bit longer time to get the next skill at level 80, but using this pill on early levels also meant he needed fewer exp points for the extra level-up.

Additionally, he was rather far ahead compared to the average players, so he figured it was okay to drop a few levels.

With his Brave Swordsmaster dropping one level, all his three classes were now at level 70.

He was ready to return to the upworld now. He called Pandora. One day had passed since Pandora brought him to the underworld, so her energy to travel through planes had been recharged.

With a burst of flames, Pandora created a tunnel that brought them back to the upworld. When the flames dispersed, Jack saw that the sky was still dark but it was not the underworld's dark sky. It was simply nighttime.

Jack opened his map. As before, the crossing put them in a random place, but it was still a region where Mount Draygetos was located. After getting a bearing, Jack had Pandora fly over to the mountain.

In a short time, they arrived above Darnos' hut. Jack didn't see any white dots on his radar. He looked up. Did that playful dragon hide in the clouds again? Jack's radar couldn't detect Broidrireg when he was in his eternal form.

He observed the clouds trying to catch the shadow of Broidrireg's huge body. But since it was nighttime, it was difficult to even for his dragon eye. While he was still deciding if he should fly up there, a white dot just popped up nearby.

He looked down and saw a half-naked Darnos come out of the small lake next to his hut. A fish was fluttering in his mouth.

"The hell, did he catch that fish using his mouth?" Jack landed and unsummoned Pandora.

Darnos removed the fluttering fish from his mouth and asked. "That is surprisingly quick. Did you give up already? I was praying that you don't find any brimstone fruit down there."

Jack answered by taking out the fruit and showing it to him.

"Oh...," Darnos gave a depressed expression.

"Dude, did you truly that unwilling to be a country guardian?" Jack asked. "If so, then just help me for a year. Or half a year! If you want to leave by then, I won't stop you."

Darnos sighed. "A deal is a deal," he said and looked back to the lake he just came out of. "I'm going to miss this lake, and this mountain."

"You will love Mount Thenias," Jack persuaded. "If you like lakes, you can go to the lake next to my guild headquarters. It is not far from the capital. You can go there in no time with your speed. That lake is much larger than this one. You can swim there to your heart's content."

"I remember you mentioned the fish there are not as good as here, aren't they?" Damos said.

Jack nodded.

"It is indeed difficult to find a lake with rare-grade fishes like this one," Peniel remarked.

Jack scolded Peniel in his mind. He said they are trying to persuade this old dude to leave, not stay.

Damos gave a long sigh again. "As I said, a deal is a deal. I'm going to make you make up to me, lad. You are going to cook for me regularly!"

"Don't worry about it! I assure you will get many tasty foods, even if not from me," Jack announced with excitement. He had finally succeeded in persuading this old dragon to be Themisphere's new country guardian.