

World 1161

Chapter 1161: Another Portal-closing Stone

"Let's celebrate with this!" Jack referred to the brimstone fruit in his hand. He had also gotten a recipe for this fruit, Hellish Spicy Steak. He wanted to try it out. He took out his cooking tool and the other ingredients. The other ingredients for the food were not that rare. They were available to buy from city shops.

"Aren't you going to give that to me?" Damos asked.

Jack threw the fruit at him. Damos caught it with the other hand that was not holding the fish. Jack took out another brimstone fruit from his inventory.

"How many brimstone fruits did you get down there?" Damos asked.

"A lot," Jack answered. "Sit down. I'll tell you what happened."

The two chatted while Jack prepared the meal. Afterward, they enjoyed the meals together. Jack couldn't finish his meal. It was indeed hellishly spicy. Damos, on the other hand, wolved down the food ravenously. Jack knew then the draconian preferred spicy food. He even ate the food that Jack couldn't finish.

Jack asked him if he wanted another dish. He was unwilling to say it but Jack could see the answer from his expression. So, Jack proceeded to cook another dish for him.

When Damos was finally full, he said, "Take out your King's badge."

Jack complied. Damos then tapped his fingertip on that badge. A flash occurred during the brief touch.

"Okay, it's done. I will move to Mount Thenias tomorrow morning," Damos said.

"That's it?" Jack asked, looking at his king's badge. Nothing seemed to change.

"It's done. You can summon him now," Peniel answered.

"For kingdom's matter!" Damos exclaimed. "Don't expect me to come for non-kingdom matters."

"That's right. You can only summon a country guardian in an official kingdom's conflict and only within Themisphere's territory," Peniel said. "You can summon a country guardian outside your country if the other side summons their country guardian. Additionally, unless it is in the capital for defensive purposes, there will be a one-week cooldown for summoning a country's guardian."

Hearing that, Jack said, "I see. No wonder the Grand Chief of Verremor didn't join the invasion war. Verremor should have a country guardian as well, right? If he did and he could summon their country guardian outside of Verremor, our army would be obliterated by that guardian."

"You are right. But normally, a native sovereign rarely joins the war unless necessary," Peniel said.

"Maybe they couldn't confirm Themos' real condition. They didn't know if Themos is truly unavailable or if he would appear at a critical time with Tiemezzys. The grand chief should be on standby to join the war when Verremor's army reached the capital. That's when their country's guardian was truly needed.

Because if they attacked the capital, Tiemezzys would surely interfere. They were saving their country's guardian so they didn't have to wait for the cooldown when they attacked the capital."

"Is there a time limit for how long a country guardian stays on the battlefield if summoned outside the capital?" Jack asked.

"Yes. One day," Peniel answered. "After one day, win or lose, the guardian will have to retreat."

"This put the defending side at an advantage," Jack said. "The defender's country guardian can defend the capital indefinitely, but the offensive side will have to wait one week if they fail to take down the capital in one day."

"That's why a country without a country guardian is much more vulnerable. It will be extremely difficult to take down a country with a country guardian guarding the capital."

"Which made Master's feats of defeating two countries that much more impressive," Jack muttered. He then added with a determined tone, "But I will still defeat him!"

"That's the spirit!" Peniel supported.

"I have no idea what you two are on about, just don't work my old bone too much," Darnos said. "I like my peace and quiet."

When Darnos saw Jack's awkward smile, he added, "Which I'm sure will be a thing of the past now."

He stood up and walked to his hut. "I'm going to pack and rest. Oh... Getting forced to move from my home. How unpleasant. The bastard who does this is truly heartless!"

"Old man, shut your door if you want to keep on complaining like that," Jack uttered.

After Darnos retired into his hut, Jack didn't sleep yet. He sent a message to John asking about the situation with Themelot.

John replied that the siege had been placed a few days ago. All the officials in Themelot were now aware of their intention. The city was completely riled up. The ambush option was out. John hoped that whatever Jack was planning could work. Otherwise, this would be a normal siege full of bloodbaths.

Jack said he would arrive there tomorrow.

After finishing with the messages, he took out the lockbox he had gotten from the underworld plantation and started working on lockpicking it. He spent several hours on the chore with the constant summoning of his Runestone of Probability to increase his success chance.

He sensed Darnos peeking at him from the hut's window. Probably wondering why Jack was still up. The draconian lost interest soon, though.

It was past midnight when Jack heard the successful click and quickly summoned his Runestone of Luck. Unfortunately, his lockpicking or runecrafting skill didn't level up despite the long usage.

When the box was opened, a familiar stone was seen inside.

"Didn't you say the chance of getting the same quest item from two lockboxes was very, very low?" Jack said to Peniel, who could only stay speechless as she stared at the stone inside the opened lockbox. The stone was another Portal-closing Stone.

Jack took out the stone and played with it in his hands while thinking.

"What are you going to do with this stone?" Peniel asked.

"I have a plan, but let's deal with Themelot's situation first," Jack answered. He then used his Camouflage Tent to spend the night.

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The next morning, Jack couldn't find Darnos anywhere after he woke up. He figured the dragon should have flown to Thereath as he promised.

Jack tried checking it using his king's badge. He could communicate with his royal agents using that badge. He figured he should be able to do so as well with the country guardian.

He was right, but the voice that replied to him was not the grumpy draconian. It was the deep voice of Broidrireg, who asked why Jack bothered him from enjoying the view of Themisphere from the clouds. He said he hadn't visited the country for at least a century.

Jack told him his plan, to which Broidrireg complained that Jack was already forcing him to work on his first day in the office.

Jack was amused the dragon understood the concept of office.

He ended the communication and summoned Pandora. Climbing onto the winged nightmare, Jack told her the direction to Themelot. It's time to deal with the rebellion.

Chapter 1162: Martyrs for Just Cause

Outside Themonium, large armies were stationed on the roads heading to the city as well as any traversable terrains, cutting the city from the rest of the world.

On the walls of this city, soldiers of the city adopted a ready position. They were ready in case this massive army circling them commenced an assault. They were also wary, though. They knew their number was much less than the opponents. Not to mention the siege weapons that started arriving yesterday. They were not optimistic about their chance of protecting the city.

The leaders of these soldiers were observing the situation. They grouped on the wall directly above the main gate. Among them was a tall and broad armored knight, Arther Pendrake. If there was anyone who could resolve the situation, it was this person.

Yet, in the opposite force, Duchess Isabelle stood ready. The roles between these two had switched from the time when Therribus sieged Fort Garadhor. The two wondered how fate could sometimes be so ironic.

"Do we know if Emris or Meryl is heading here?" Arther asked.

"My people whom I communicated using the communication device told me that the two lord marshalls remained in their forts as of two days ago. There was no sign of them mobilizing," An officer by Arther's side said. This officer's name was Castus.

"My source told me those two lord marshalls were still on the fence about supporting the outworlder king. Maybe that's why they didn't join this siege," Another official called Brussius added.

"I'm not sure... My people told me that they had a good opinion about the new king," Castus said.

"Then your people are wrong!" Another joined the conversation. It was Warren, the magistrate who had been fired by Jack. His son, Walter, was by his side. The boy was still missing an arm courtesy of Jack. Warren failed to get a service from the Church of Creation to regrow his boy's arm.

"How is it possible the mighty lord marshalls bow to that pretender of a king? They must have been waiting for the spark of rebellion. Once we announced our stance to all of Themisphere, I'm sure they and more others will come and join our cause. All we need to do now is endure this siege!"

Everyone here was people who believed that Jack had unlawfully claimed the throne, even when it was Goddess Serenity that decreed the ascension. They feared the Goddess, but their fear of the Goddess was trumped by their fear of being enslaved by the outworlders. They were also not among the devout type. Hence, their attempt at rebellion.

The most who got to lose was Warren. He was already kicked out of his position once Jack ascended. He had no chance to regain his power as long as Jack was king. Thus, he was the most passionate to kickstart this rebellion. He was the one who had been busy going around places connecting same-minded people and planting the seed.

They were supposed to make this city their secret headquarters. By placing their trusted army here, they could have full control and act more freely without the fear of someone reporting them to the capital.

Now, they were just about to make their first move, but this army just came out of nowhere and surrounded them. Warren was very angry and afraid. He couldn't let the others falter. Otherwise, all his efforts would be wasted.

However, even with his attempt to rouse the others' spirits, one look at the army surrounding them made it hard for anyone to be optimistic.

Castus let out a heavy sigh. "We thought we have been careful not to be found. It seemed that we still play into their hands."

"I still can't believe all of those soldiers are obeying that phony king's command. Can't they see they are dooming themselves?" Brussius asked.

"They are just lowly soldiers who can't think for themselves," Warren said. "They are a disgrace for Themisphere."

"Do we truly have to fight them here?" Brussius asked. He tried to act brave but the others could hear the fear in his voice.

"Of course, we have to! We fight them to the death if we have to!" Warren exclaimed.

"What good is it if we die?" Brussius returned.

"Then we die for a just cause!" Warren yelled.

"Don't make me laugh! I bet you will be the first one to run if they breach this city!"

"How dare you say that!"

"QUIEETTT...!!!"

The heated discourse was brought to a close by Arther's thundering voice.

"This is not the time to quarrel among ourselves! Our enemies are right there in front of us. You are lowering our troops' morale with your bickering. If you want to quarrel, go find a room and do it where no one can hear you!" Arther scolded.

Warren and Brussius lowered their heads in shame.

Castus came to Arther's side. "My lord, what do you think we should do then? Should we maintain our stance and fight them till the end?"

Arther's eyes remained on the enemies in front. Right next to where duchess Isabelle stood was a large group of outworlders.

Arther said to the others without turning to them, "If they attack, they will show all of Themisphere who they truly are, wolves in sheep's clothing who try to take over our kingdom by force. If we die, we will be martyrs that show Themisphere that there are still people who love this country and are willing to die for what's right. Our fight will not end with us. We will be the spark that gives the others the courage to fight off these outworlders!"

"Oorah...!!" The soldiers who heard Arther's speech exclaimed in unison.

Some of the officers were also roused by the speech, but most felt fear instead. Arther talked as if they were sure to die. They didn't want to die. They joined this rebellion because they were afraid of the outworlders. Afraid that sooner or later, the outworlder king would replace all of them with his kind.

Warren was one such person, but he was still glad that Arther showed a fighting spirit. Arther was right. Even if they lost here, this event could be used as something to incite the next rebellion. He, of course, didn't plan to be among those who died for the cause. He had prepared a secret escape route just in case. If everyone died here, he would be the one to carry their torches and spearhead the next rebellion.

Chapter 1163: A Challenge to Single Combat

John was standing with Lord Commander Armstrong and Duchess Isabelle near the command tent. In front of him was a war table. Above it was a 3D projection. It was similar to the guild army command platform. But instead of the guild army, this projection showed the kingdom's army.

He could give commands to the kingdom's army via this war table, but not as detailed as the case with the guild army. Kingdom's army was composed of natives who had better free wills compared to the guild army who mostly act like puppets that carried out every command unafraid of death.

Even so, he was very happy about this war table. The number of the kingdom's army in his command was not comparable to a guild army. He was like a child who had been presented with a better toy. Unfortunately, he was not allowed to play with this toy. At least for another two more days.

Jeanny was also there with him. She brought a large number of guild members to assist the siege. If a war broke, she could summon their guild army.

Only members from Everlasting Heavenly Legends were here. The kingdom didn't announce this as a formal war, so no war summon quest was issued. Everlasting Heavenly Legends received the summon via guild quest due to the guild's status as Themisphere's national guild.

"Jack is on his way," Jeanny said. She had been in contact with Jack.

John nodded. "I kinda wish he doesn't. Though I doubt he can do anything, the guy tends to defy expectations. If he truly creates a miracle here, then there will be no war. If there is no war, I don't get to use this war table."

"Is that so important to you? Preserving lives is more important," Jeanny reprimanded.

John shrugged. "The guild will also not receive any reward if the war is canceled," John said.

"If he can quell the rebels without inciting a war, I don't mind getting no reward," Jeanny said.

"You two are real do-gooders," John sighed. He then noticed something on the radar of his God-eye monocle. "Speaking of the devil."

He saw a green dot approaching at a high speed. He turned in that direction.

Not long after, he saw the red speck in the sky, which revealed itself as a fiery winged horse when it got near.

Paytowin, who was among the players, whistled after seeing the new nightmare. He had heard about it but hadn't witnessed it directly. The flight speed of Jack's nightmare was even faster than his Pegasus.

Jack landed in front of the command post. Lord Commander led by issuing a salute. The rest of the soldiers saluted in unison.

Jack looked at the city they were sieging before unsummoning Pandora. He then approached the war table.

"So, what are you going to do?" John asked.

"The army is ready to move at your command, Your Majesty," Armstrong uttered.

Jack nodded. He gave each of the people there a glance before saying, "I will need you all to back off at least one kilometer."

"What?" Armstrong was unable to understand the command.

"Are we doing tricks here? You know tricks are supposed to be my department, don't you?" John said.

"No. No tricks," Jack said. "I'm going to challenge Arther to a one-on-one battle."

"What? Are you insane?" John asked. "That's your plan? Defeating the enemy's commander in single combat?"

"Well, it's not exactly one-on-one," Jack corrected. "I will still summon Therras. It is considered one of my skills, so I guess it should be okay."

"Your Majesty, Arther is not someone who can be faced alone," Armstrong said.

"The lord commander is right. You do know Arther is ten levels higher than you," John said. He just checked Jack's level from the guild member page. He thought somehow Jack's level had gone so high that he dared to challenge the lord marshal. Turn out Jack was still ten levels lower.

"I know you can fight a mythical grade opponent already, but to fight one ten levels higher, that's a bit pushing it. You will be lucky to survive, much less win."

'Nine levels,' Jack thought. He was actually level 71 before using the level-down pill, but he was not going to fuss about that. Not like one level made much of a difference.

"Don't worry. I'll manage," Jack said.

"I don't see the benefit of you doing this," John continued. "Even let's say you somehow win, I don't think the army inside that city will just drop down and surrender."

Jack looked back at the city for a while before turning back to face John. "They just might," Jack said.

John saw the resolution in Jack's eyes. He knew then there was nothing he said that could change Jack's mind.

"Let's believe in him," Jeanny said to John.

John shook his head. "Whatever. He is the king, anyway."

He then used the war table to give the army Jack's instructions. They started retreating slowly. The enemies who watched them from Themelot's wall were confused about their intention.

After issuing the command, John signaled for the soldiers to move the war table. The war table wasn't something that could be shrunk down like the guild army command platform. It gave the army a tactical advantage due to the fast relay of commands but it had to be moved manually or by carriage.

Only the king or the Royal Advisor could issue the usage of this war table in the field. Hence, it was not present during the previous wars. One country could only have one such war table. If it was destroyed, it could be reforged but will take at least one month.

"Are Your Majesty sure about this?" Duchess Isabelle asked. She didn't feel comfortable leaving the king to fight such a high-level enemy.

"Trust me," Jack said.

Isabelle could also see the determination in Jack's eyes. She let out a long sigh and said, "If I see Your Majesty in danger. I will rush over."

"Um... I think I will be in danger, but I prefer it if you don't interfere. Don't worry, I will be fine," Jack smiled.

Isabelle couldn't bring herself to believe Jack's words, but she somehow felt assured by that smile. There was a certain confidence in the king that made her want to believe the impossible.

Isabelle nodded reluctantly. She then floated back following the army.

"You bring the thing, don't you?" Jack asked Jeanny.

"For a consumable, this potion takes a lot of mana cores to copy. Don't expect another bottle anytime soon. I need the mana cores for many other things," Jeanny said as she handed the item Jack asked for.

It was the Divine Might Potion Jack had gotten from Thelgrun. Jack proceeded to drink the potion.

"I see. That's why you dare to challenge him," John said after seeing the potion. "But I think it will still be a difficult fight."

"If it's easy, everyone can do it," Jack replied after finishing drinking the potion.

"In that case, I hope this will help as well," Jeanny said and gave Jack the gold seed he had copied. "I still have other things planned for you, but I don't have enough mana cores yet."

"It's okay. This will help as well," Jack said and received the gold seed.

He used the gold seed on his Call Wolf Pack skill, evolving it into Call Golden Wolf Pack. Peniel mentioned that this seed generally gave light or earth elements if used on offensive skills and gave defensive properties when used on other types of skills.

Jack's wolves were good at intercepting due to their speed, but they died too easily. This should increase their survivability.

"Good luck!" Jeanny said to Jack and followed the others.

John just gave Jack a stare without saying anything. He then walked away.

Jack let the army retreat until the distance he requested. He then faced the city and walked toward it. Everyone on the city wall was flabbergasted seeing Jack come to them alone.

"ARTHEEERRR...!!!" Jack shouted. He incorporated mana manipulation in his voice. His voice traveled to a large distance without losing intensity.

"Your rebellion all comes down to your challenge of my sovereignty. I'll give you the chance now. Challenge me directly! If you win, I'll quit my post as the king of Themisphere. If you lose, you'll bow to me!"

Chapter 1164: King Vs Lord Marshall

"How dare he challenge our lord marshal?"

"He truly forgot his place. Did he forget he is just a weak outworlder?"

"The army has retreated. That phony king is vulnerable. Let's seize this chance!"

"Hold it, you fool! The lord marshall hasn't issued an order!"

Murmurs from the soldiers on the wall were getting louder by the second.

Warren was snickering at the sight. 'That stupid outworlder truly tries to eat more than he can chew,' he said in his mind.

"How should we respond, lord marshall?" Castus asked Arther, who remained silent at Jack's provocation.

"We should just rush out and capture him," Brussius uttered. "With him in our hands, his army won't dare do anything."

"I agree to that," Warren said. He very much looked forward to Jack bound before him so he could gloat to Jack's face.

Arther didn't respond. He continued to stare at Jack, trying to see what this outworlder king was up to.

"What is it, lord marshall? Are you so afraid that you don't dare to accept my challenge?" Jack's words were heard again. "I won't call my companion or my royal agents. It will only be me, my skills, and my spells. You can't be afraid of me, can you?"

"How dare you?!"

"Our lord marshall? Afraid of you? You are nothing compared to our great lord marshall Arther!"

The soldiers on the wall were again riled up from Jack's second provocation. They were even louder than before.

Arther frowned. He finally broke his silence, "What are you up to, outworlder? Your kind is always full of ploys. That's how you defeated His Highness Prince Therribus. Do you think I will fall for your tricks?"

Jack spread his arms. "Do you see my army? They are further to me than yours to my position. If we fight here, do you think they can come to my aid faster than yours come to you? I have no ploy! This is a bet between us, man to man. King to Lord Marshall. Fight me! If you win, I will concede my crown to you. But if you lose..."

"There is no way I will lose," Arther cut Jack's words.

"Then you have nothing to worry about," Jack said.

The lord marshall remained on the wall. He was uncertain. He was sure there was a ploy to Jack's act.

Jack chuckled with a disdainful expression. "I heard the great lord marshal Arther Pendrake is a courageous war hero. Turns out he is nothing but a coward. If that's the case, then forget about it!"

"You watch your filthy mouth, outworlder!" Arther boomed. A pair of silvery transparent wings spread from his back. He then shot up before crashing down a few meters before Jack. His landing was so hard that it cracked the ground and caused a shockwave.

The shockwave hit Jack but Jack's feet remained steady. Yet, he could feel from the force how powerful Arther was. He only saw Arther's fight from afar during the civil war. Only now could he feel the true pressure from this lord marshal, but he was not backing away.

Storm Breaker and Mana Leech Staff appeared in his hands. He cast Magic Weapon and the staff turned into a longsword.

The soldiers on the wall were clamoring. They were all shouting and cheering, believing that Arther would put Jack down in no time.

"Hey, are you really going to be all right?" Jack received John's message. John was watching from afar using his binoculars.

"Don't worry, and stop disturbing me," Jack replied.

Arther was still surveying his surroundings. He couldn't believe it. Did this outworlder truly intend on fighting him one on one? Without any tricks?

"Are you ready to fight? Or should I wait?" Jack asked.

"You are overestimating yourself, outworlder," Arther said. He decided that even if there were ploys, he would just smash them with his strength. He unsheathed the silver greatsword on his back. "You will regret challenging me."

With those words, Arther dashed forward.

His greatsword came slashing down with a might that could split mountains. Yet, when it collided with Jack's two swords, its advance stopped.

Arther stared at Jack in disbelief. How could this weak outworlder stop his slash?

Jack was grinning. He had activated Life Burning Art and Strength of the Wild. From this clash, he knew that his power was not too far off from his opponent.

These buff skills strengthened him. But mostly it was the Divine Might Potion he drank before the fight that magnified his base power, allowing him to stand against an opponent much higher level than him.

However, Arther was still stronger even with those buffs. Arther was furious that his slash was stopped. He stomped his foot and pushed Jack with all his might. Jack was unable to resist it this time. Jack was forced back several meters.

But a victory wasn't solely decided by who was stronger. Jack's feet regained balance in an instant and he dashed back.

Arther was executing his second slash then, intending to hit Jack when Jack was still unbalanced by his push. Never did he think Jack was so agile that Jack was already zooming past him by the time he slashed. It was Jack's sword that sliced him instead.

Arther stared in disbelief at the side that was hit. The ones on the wall who had been cheering for Arther to finish Jack in a flash were now as silent as a graveyard. They also couldn't believe what they had seen.

"Hehe. Are you going to be serious now?" Jack asked.

Seeing Jack's grin cause Arther to be unable to curb his anger.

"You want a fight?! I will give you a fight!" Arther roared. He used Holy Incarnation. His body enlarged and it was also covered by silver flame.

'Time to get real!' Jack uttered in his mind. He transformed into a supreme dragon and activated Gold Scale Armor.

His claws clashed with Arther again. They exchanged slashes many times. No skills. Just normal hits.

Arther's bafflement increased with each clash. The last intel he got was this outworlder king was still below level 70. He didn't believe that in such a short time, Jack could have leveled up to match his. That was just not possible, even for outworlder's insane leveling speed.

Yet, he couldn't deny that Jack was trading blows with him with equal power.

The fact that Jack could match Arther's power was not just because of the Divine Might Potion, but also because Jack's every slash was powered by strong mana manipulation. Arther could also manipulate mana, but his degree of mastery was not comparable to expert martial artists. He couldn't use mana manipulation often, while Jack could already enhance his every slash with mana manipulation as easily as he was breathing.

As the clashes continued, Arther's mana sense finally detected Jack's mana manipulation. This caused him even more shock.

Chapter 1165: Sphere of Aegis

The exchanges of blows continued for some time. They were still only using normal attacks. Arther couldn't believe this outworlder whom he considered weak could trade blows with him even after he used Holy Incarnation.

Arther's Holy Incarnation did not just boost his power. The silver flame on his body also delivered light-element damage to all opponents within melee range. But Jack's Gold Scale Armor reduced much of the damage. The Divine Might Potion also reduced all the damage he received by half and boosted his HP recovery. Thus, the silver flame damage was not a problem.

Although Arther was still stronger, Jack's swordplay was much better. His claws deflected Arther's huge greatsword and stole hits with uncanny dexterity. He also added some mana manipulation-powered kicks in between.

The soldiers on the wall couldn't believe the spectacle. Their venerated lord marshall couldn't land a hit on the outworlder, but the outworlder instead kept on landing hits.

Arther finally couldn't stand the shame. His greatsword delivered a powerful radial swing. Jack's mana sense detected the wide attack. He backflipped to dodge the swing. When he dashed back, a second radial swing came. It was Double Whirlwind Slash. Jack couldn't dodge this unexpected second whirlwind slash, he used Magic Shield to block.

His Magic Shield was shattered and he was knocked away.

Arther didn't stop. He lifted his greatsword high and brought it down with Silver Wings Slash. The image of a gigantic silver greatsword came down at Jack.

Jack cast Magic Wall. The collision between the two skills produced blinding light. The magic wall was destroyed but it managed to stop Arther's skill.

When the light dissipated, ten golden wolves rushed to Arther. It was Jack's newly evolved skill, Call Golden Wolf Pack. After the skill was evolved, the wolves now sported bright golden furs. Their defenses were greatly increased. They also had high resistance to light and earth elements.

"You dare call helpers?" Arther bellowed.

"They are my skill. Are you saying I'm not allowed to use summon skill?" Jack quipped back.

"Hmph! No matter," Arther uttered.

Arther used Ki Outburst. The incoming wolves were knocked back by the force.

Jack, who was firing ranged attacks to aid his wolves, sensed danger from above. He jumped to the side just as a giant fist made of light struck the ground he was standing. He recognized that fist as Crusader's Heaven Fist.

Before Jack could stand back up, Arther was already above him using Jump Assault.

Jack's body burst into twenty shadows when Arther's greatsword came cleaving. The shadows came at Arther from different angles.

But before the shadows hit, Arther's body turned into light. It then zipped around at high speed, striking all of Jack's shadow and also the golden wolves that came running.

Jack's Hundred Shadow Strikes was nullified without delivering damage. He noticed Arther's skill was similar to Arlcard's Shadow Flash Strikes except Arther's was of the light-element version.

When Arther's skill stopped a distance away, Jack sensed danger from behind. He ducked just in time from a slash. Another Arther was behind him.

"Assassin's Combat Clone?" Jack uttered.

"You were the one who said that skill is okay, weren't you?" Arther said. He continued smacking the golden wolves that came at him. Luckily, these wolves' defense had been strengthened by the gold seed. Otherwise, they would have been easily killed by Arther's slashes.

"I'm not complaining," Jack returned.

Therras suddenly burst out from the ground where the combat clone was. Jack used Ultimate Beast, turning Therras into its sovereign mode. Therras was not buffed by the Divine Might Potion, so it was much weaker than Arther's combat clone. Fortunately, a combat clone couldn't use skills, so Therras in sovereign mode should be able to handle it.

Jack also summoned his spirit weapon and sent it to aid Therras.

Jack then cast Time Domain and Acceleration on himself, Therras, his spirit weapon, and two of his wolves. He followed with Asura and Dances of the Braves. Two pairs of arms sprout from his back and ten golden swords came swirling around him.

Arther, who was suddenly slowed and his opponents significantly sped up, was unable to react. Jack's six claws and ten swords came slashing with Formless Flowing Sword Style.

Within the thirty seconds of Acceleration's duration, Arther suffered countless slashes. Even the golden wolves stole some bites. The combo multiplier stacked up and caused huge damage to the lord marshal.

Out of humiliation and unexpected fear, Arther's body exploded with pure energy. A white fiery sphere surrounded his body. It was his Sphere of Aegis skill.

'This is it!' Jack thought.

This Sphere of Aegis was the skill Arther used when he clashed with the water serpent during the civil war. It not only protected him but also enhanced his offensive capabilities. Jack had read the report about this skill.

The wolves that tried to bite Arther couldn't get past the protective sphere. They even received high light damage when they touched the sphere. Jack's ten golden swords similarly couldn't break through.

Within the sphere, Arther's greatsword was enveloped by energy.

"Ki Weapon," Jack recognized the skill.

Arther then made a wide slash. The Ki Weapon increased his greatsword's already long reach, hitting the wolves outside his sphere. Several of the already injured wolves died from that slash.

He then performed the double whirlwind slash again, killing the remaining golden wolves, and knocking all ten golden swords aside.

Jack retreated. But Arther chased after him with Charge. The Sphere of Aegis boosted his speed, allowing him to catch up to Jack.

Jack jumped and flew upward to dodge. Arther spread his transparent silver wings and chased after Jack in the air.

Jack shot his ranged skills and spells at the incoming Arther, but the white fiery sphere blocked them all. Arther's flying speed when his Sphere of Aegis was active was frightening. Jack could finally not run anymore.

Jack used Devouring Cross when Arther came swinging, but his two claws were knocked aside by Arther's enhanced greatsword. He activated Lightning God Suit just as the greatsword struck his body.

The Lightning God Suit and the effect of Divine Might Potion greatly reduced the damage he received, but Jack still felt the pain. His body shot down uncontrollably and slammed into the ground. He sensed another attack coming from above.

He quickly used roll and escaped the danger zone, just as Arther slammed into the ground he was at before.

Arther came charging again. In that critical moment, Jack's mind cleared up. He focused his thought on his right claw and channeled the mana as he performed Brave Slash.

He had practiced using mana manipulation on this skill many times. He was still not at the stage where he could use it at will. But at this moment, he felt his connection with mana was very clear. He even sensed as if they were actively communicating with him.

He guided the mana in a way he had practiced. The mana followed his guidance as if it was the natural thing to do. The golden light that was the signature of Brave Slash suddenly intensified. The light also extended longer than normal.

Jack's Brave Slash collided with Arther's Ki-enhanced greatsword.

To everyone's surprise, it was Arther's greatsword that was smashed aside. Jack's Brave Slash continued and collided with the Sphere of Aegis.

After a wild explosion of energy, the sphere shattered into particles of light.

Chapter 1166: Defeating the Lord Marshall

Arther staggered back with wide eyes. He couldn't believe someone could shatter his Sphere of Aegis. Normally, opponents would have to wait until the skill ran out of its duration.

Jack was honestly also surprised, but he didn't waste time wondering about it. Once the protective sphere around Arther was gone, he shouted, "Now!"

Jack didn't truly need to shout the signal, he just did it out of instinct. He used his mind to synchronize with his spirit weapon and Terras.

Terras used its Imperious Pressure to slow Arther's combat clone down as earth mana accumulated in his mouth. Jack used Mirage Beast to create a copy of Terras and have it keep the combat clone busy. The spirit weapon meanwhile rushed to Arther and activated its finishing mode.

Jack used Gold Dragon Breath when Arther was still shocked about Jack breaking his Sphere of Aegis. The breath triggered Blind as well as reduced the durability of Arther's armor.

Jack was also casting a spell when he used the breath. Fifteen venomous vipers burst out of the ground and entangled Arther while he was still blinded. Using his mana sense, Arther slashed left and right to free himself from the vipers.

Jack also cast his new spell, Orb of Storm, near Arther when he was busy with the vipers.

The vipers were easily cut as they couldn't resist Arther's greatsword, but their interference served its purpose. It was too late by the time the blind effect was over and Arther saw twenty large lightning balls come at him while Jack's spirit weapon sneaked from behind. The nearby Orb of Storm shot lightning snakes at the twenty lightning balls, seemingly empowering them.

Jack activated his Storm Breaker's Overlimit and fired his Soul Breath at the same time Terras fired his earth core bomb.

Jack briefly saw Arther's armor glow just before the combination attack hit. The explosion created a huge dust cloud. Jack recognized Arther's skill just now as Paladin's Divine Armor.

"Damn it! He still has a defensive skill," Jack cursed.

Jack had been waiting for Arther to use up his Sphere of Aegis before he delivered his strongest attack. The sphere had been able to nullify the water serpent's attack easily, so Jack didn't want to waste his combination attacks from getting blocked by the sphere, but it turned out Arther still had more skills.

Jack decided he should just continue. Divine Armor lasted three minutes. He didn't want to waste the time when his Overlimit was active. He executed Wind Slash while casting Perpetual Lightning Judgement into the dust cloud, pinpointing Arther's position using his mana sense.

"I will slay you, you pretender king...!!" Arther roared as he burst out of the dust cloud.

Jack used Flame Strike. Claw and greatsword clashed again. The knockback force from Flame Strike stopped Arther's advance while Jack flew back to create a distance.

"Then meet your past kings!" Jack bellowed and used Judgement of Past Kings.

The sight of Thenodeep caused Arther to pause. He believed he was still a loyal servant to Themisphere and that what he did now was for the sake of his kingdom. So, the sight of one of Themisphere's rightful kings assaulting him demoralized his spirit.

After enduring the great flood from Thenodeep, Arther was ready to pursue Jack again. However, he found Jack rushing at him just as the tenth king, Thewolden, appeared.

Thewolden split into countless shadows striking Arther from every angle. Jack joined in the attack. He then retreated again when it was the ninth king's turn.

Some of the attacks from Judgement of Past Kings dealt AOE attacks that hit both foes and allies, while some dealt more pinpoint assaults that spared allies. Jack was already familiar with all the attacks from the eleven kings. He swooped in and joined the attack when it was the latter, and retreated when it was the former. Arther was confused by these constant changes and was forced into a passive state where he could only defend himself.

When the last attack from Themisphere kings ended, Arther was shocked to see the familiar Orb of Storm and the twenty lightning balls again.

"What...?!" Arther knew about Jack possessing Lightning God Blessing. It was public knowledge by now. But he was certain this divine skill had a very long cooldown.

Jack had used Reset when Arther was getting blasted by Themisphere's kings. He resummoned his spirit weapon which again sneaked to Arther's back when Arther was occupied. The spirit weapon activated its finishing mode while Jack unleashed Lightning God Barrage and Soul Breath which cooldown had been reset.

The reset only affected Jack's skills, so Therras' earth core bomb was not reset. As for the spirit weapon's finishing mode, the previous spirit weapon that self-destructed was considered a different entity. Thus, the newly summoned one could use its finishing mode.

The combined elemental attacks again exploded on Arther's body. Jack repeated all these high-powered attacks while his Overlimit was still active. Thus, dealing massive damage.

Even though Arther was protected by divine armor, his HP still fell rapidly. The soldiers on the wall watched the scene in disbelief.

By the time Jack's combination attacks ended, Arther's HP had fallen to less than thirty percent.

Jack again used Gold Dragon Breath. Arther was not blinded this time, but two times of the breath caused his armor's durability to plunge. He even lost his shoulder piece. The armor crumbled and turned to dust after its durability hit zero.

Arther's combat clone lost after getting ganged up on by Therras and its copies. Jack had used Mirage Beast again after using Reset. Using another mirage beast didn't cause the previous copy to disappear. Thus, there were now three Therras.

After the combat clone was gone, Therras and its two copies joined Jack and they ganged up on Arther.

Castus could finally stand no longer. He shouted, "Save our lord marshall...!"

Several soldiers jumped down from the wall and ran over to rescue Arther.

Jack saw them. He called his wolf pack again since the skill was also reset. Ten golden wolves rushed at the incoming soldiers.

John, who was watching through his binoculars, sent Jack a message, "Hey, the soldiers are attacking. Want us to move?"

"No. Stay back!" Jack replied.

The gate to the city started opening, more soldiers poured out. Jack sent the three Therras to go slow them, while he used Dances of the Brave and Asura again. He repeated his assault using his sword art.

Fighting till this state, Arther had exhausted most of his skills. His Holy Incarnation and Ki Weapon had also long ended. He was unable to defend himself against Jack with just raw power.

During an opportunity, Jack again used Brave Slash powered by mana manipulation. After the last execution, he felt the mana flowed naturally during this skill. He could now use mana manipulation on Brave Slash freely.

The intensified golden light sliced through Arther's unprotected shoulder. That right arm was sliced clean off. That arm was also Arther's main arm. His greatsword fell following his arm.

The lord marshall fell to his knees, weaponless. His HP was less than ten percent.

Chapter 1167: Powerful Intimidation

Jack put his sword on Arther's neck, his beast form had ended. He shouted using mana manipulation, causing his voice to reverberate everywhere, "Everyone, stop...!!!"

The charging soldiers stopped. Mostly because of seeing Arther's condition rather than hearing Jack's voice.

"Let... Let our lord marshall go...!" One of the soldiers exclaimed.

Jack looked at Arther who was still kneeling.

"It is over. Kill me!" Arther exclaimed. "I'll never serve you."

Storm Breaker's blade remained on Arther for a few seconds before it was lowered. Seeing that act, Arther uttered with discontent, "What is the meaning of this? Kill me! I don't need your pity."

"Why do you rebel?" Jack asked. "I don't mind if you don't serve me, but why do you rebel? You know this will just cause bloodshed among Themisphere's people."

"Hmph! Why? You ask? It's because you are not the rightful Themisphere king!"

"Why do you say that? Because I am an outworlder?"

Arther didn't answer the question. He put on a defiant expression.

"The world and the people of this country acknowledged me as the king!" Jack exclaimed.

"Just because the Goddess said it, doesn't make it true!" Arther shouted back.

"The Goddess is not the only one who acknowledges me," Jack said and equipped his title, Rightful Themisphere King. He had been using the Hero of Themisphere title during the battle because that title boosted his battle capabilities.

Arther was visibly distraught after seeing the title. He knew what this title meant. It meant Jack had been acknowledged by the past kings of Themisphere.

"This... How can this be...?" He didn't want to believe that Themisphere's past kings willingly handed the crown to someone who was not of their blood. Moreover, someone who was an outworlder.

"I know you are unwilling to trust me. But know that I challenge you to a duel so that no innocent Themisphere civilian loses their life. Do you see my army? We can easily siege this town and take you all down, but the ones who suffer will be the civilians inside the city. I don't want that to happen!"

"Big talk! You just don't want to show your true color!" A familiar voice was heard. Jack turned and saw Warren among the soldiers that had come out of the city gate. The soldiers didn't dare to approach because Jack could still kill Arther easily under the situation.

"You..." Jack's eyes narrowed after seeing Warren. He also spotted Walter beside the ex-magistrate.

Warren didn't stop. "You just don't want to lose your army! You know you won't be able to take us down easily. All this talk about sparing the civilians is just an excuse."

"If I want to take down this city. I can do it on my own. I don't need an army," Jack uttered.

"Hahaha! I don't even know how to respond to such bullshit," Warren mocked.

Jack lifted his king badge. It shone a bright blue. All of a sudden, everyone heard the loudest roar they ever heard in their lives. The roar was not only loud, but it also pierced into the depth of their hearts and made them tremble. They all felt a great urge to fall to their knees and capitulated to whatever uttered that roar.

They all instinctively looked up. They saw a shadow behind the clouds that filled the sky. A shadow of something extremely big. The clouds parted and a layer of blue light descended. With it, the largest dragon they had ever seen flew down through the clouds.

The dragon had an elongated body covered by dazzling blue scales, with two large wings spanning hundreds of meters. It roared again as it descended. Shockwave radiated from his roar. This time, many did drop to their knees.

The dragon flew above the city and made several turns. Everyone in the city had a good look at it. They were all terrified about what this fearsome creature intended to do.

It then flew back outside the city gate and hovered right above Jack. Its massive head bent down and stared at the army that stand before Jack.

"This... A level 95 eternal grade ancient dragon...," Arther uttered. His voice was shaking.

The nearby soldiers and officers who heard Arther's words couldn't help but tremble.

"This... Is this...?" Arther couldn't finish his words. He couldn't bring himself to believe what he wanted to ask. He didn't need to.

"This is our new country guardian, Broidrireg!" Jack announced. His voice was again enhanced by mana manipulation. Everyone heard it clearly, even many of the citizens who were near the main city gate.

"Coun... Country guardian...," Arther was full of disbelief. This dragon was even more powerful than their previous country guardian, Tiemezzys.

Arther had previously met Tiemezzys. He could sense from the pressure, the difference between Broidrireg and Tiemezzys was not just their levels. Broidrireg was much more ancient. Its power was deeper. If he dared to compare, Tiemezzys could be described as just a child in the presence of Broidrireg.

"Ho... How...?" Arther asked.

Arther was asking Jack, but it was Broidrireg who answered him. "It is because I believe he is the one who can bring Themisphere and this world to prosper."

Arther could hardly believe his ears. Such a declaration from a being as powerful as Broidrireg. He needed no more persuasion.

"I yield," he said.

Everyone heard Arther's words. Warren panicked after hearing it. "No... Lord Marshall, you cannot give up! We cannot let Themisphere fall to the hands of the outworlders. We must fight for what's right! We mustâ€œ"

"I said, I YIELD...!!" Arther bellowed. "Everyone! Lay down your weapons!"

The soldiers looked at each other. One by one, they dropped their weapons to the ground.

"No... No! Everyone, we mustn't give up! We must..."

"Oh, shut up, Warren!" Castus scolded. "It is over."

"No..." Warren's face was pale.

Seeing that the soldiers were surrendering, Jack send John a message. The surrounding army started advancing again. The surrendered soldiers gazed at the incoming army with wariness.

Jack waited until those soldiers came near before announcing, "Everyone who has joined this attempted rebellion! Those below the rank of Knight Lieutenant are pardoned from any punishment. I believe you are just following commands. As for all court officers and Military officers with the rank of Minister and Knight Lieutenant or above, you will be demoted by one rank. Any of you who don't accept this punishment can go ahead and resign. I won't give you any trouble."

Chapter 1168: Arther Accepts Punishment

The officials looked at each other. They knew to be let go with just a demotion was a very light punishment. They were planning a revolt, after all. Although no war broke out and no loss of life, it was still an intended revolt.

"As for the two of you!" Jack's voice turned stern. He was pointing at Warren and Walter who were trying to sneak away. After seeing that everyone had given up, the two knew staying around was a bad idea.

The nearby guards immediately grabbed the two and brought them to Jack.

"What... What are you going to do?!" Warren asked. He tried to sound defiance but the fear in his voice was unmistakable. Walter also stared at Jack with frightened eyes. Never in his wildest imagination that the outworlder he looked down on in the past was now the king who could decide their fates.

Jack made a motion to ask the soldiers holding the two to move away. He then said to the two, "I'm a merciful king. I proved that by letting the two of you go when I became the king. I proved it again by letting go of these people who had intended a rebellion with just a simple demotion."

"You... You are indeed a merciful king, Your Majesty," Warren saw a way out once he heard Jack's words. He would play along. Whatever punishment Jack gave, he would play along. He would keep his resentment hidden. As long as he was alive, he could coax another rebellion again in the future.

"However," Jack continued. "I only hand out mercy once!"

Finishing his words, Jack's Storm Breaker reappeared in his hand. He slashed with mana manipulation-fueled Brave Slash. The slash hit both Warren and Walter who were standing together.

Warren was only a level 30 elite. Walter was even weaker. None of them could survive the slash. The two's bodies slumped to the ground. Their eyes were wide. They thought they still had a chance in that last brief second of their lives.

Jack sheathed his sword and looked at the officials who had attempted the rebellion. All of them lowered their heads. This was a warning to them. The mercy Jack had generously shown them won't happen twice.

Jack then turned to his army, "Armstrong, take the record of all these people. Then go into the city and take command. We will reshuffle all the personnel."

Although he had issued that all lower rank troops are forgiven, he couldn't let them stay together. The same rebellious idea might return to their minds and if the people around them were same-minded, they might try to act out the idea again. Isolating them would discourage them from such action. Of course, he would also put them under watch.

He let Armstrong and Isabelle worked out the details. The officials who were in charge of Themelot would also be reshuffled. He would appoint a new governor later after asking for a suitable candidate from Thaergood.

While the army went to work, Jack called Jeanny and they came to Arther, who was still kneeling on the ground. Broidrireg continued to hover up there. His presence made sure the rebels down there didn't change their minds.

"I'll accept any punishment, Your Majesty," Arther uttered when he saw Jack come before him.

Jack nodded and said loudly, "Good! Then hear your punishment, Arther Pendrake. Your punishment is to give your lives and serve Themisphere as its Lord Marshall. You will be its protector for life! You will only earn your freedom when you die. If you find me becoming a king that treats natives unfairly, I permit you to protect this kingdom from me. Do you accept this punishment?"

Arther couldn't believe his ears. He was ready to be publicly executed for the crime of spearheading an attempted rebellion, much less being offered his old position. But what touched him the most, was Jack's promise that Jack won't become the king that he feared Jack would be. One that put outworlders as a priority and treated the natives as slaves, and that he was given the blessing to act if Jack ever broke that promise.

"I... I accept this punishment," Arther answered.

"Very good!" Jack put a hand on Arther's shoulder. "Rise, lord marshall."

Jack then turned to Jeanny, who took out a bottle from her inventory. She offered that bottle to Arther.

"Reconstruct potion!" Arther exclaimed after seeing the bottle.

"You will better serve Themisphere with both arms," Jack said.

Arther accepted the potion with gratitude.

The reconstruct potion was something one of their members got from a quest. That member didn't know what to do with it since the potion was practically useless for a player, so he donated it to the

guild. Jeanny had one copied and kept it with her just in case. Jack knew about this potion so he asked for it.

With Arther back to being a kingdom official, his previous followers were even more eager to rejoin the team despite the demotion. They were, after all, following Arther's lead. If Arther was willing to bow his head to the new outworlder king, then why did they choose otherwise?

Arther even went into the city and helped to make sure everyone followed Armstrong's instructions. With his help, everything went along smoothly.

Jack heard the system notification congratulating him for completing the kingdom faction quest, Deal with the Rebellion. He received exp points, coins, mana cores, and merit points.

The rewards weren't much except for the merit points. Considering this was a kingdom faction quest, he didn't find it strange that merit points were put as a priority.

He received 200,000 merit points, which pushed his sovereign level to level 9, receiving 10 ruling powers.

"I have to say. I don't usually enjoy it when someone proves me wrong, but I guess I can take this one," John said to Jack.

"You should get used to it," Jack chuckled.

"Nah, I won't," John replied.

"I'm glad there is no bloodshed," Jeanny said.

"Me too," Jack agreed.

Jeanny then noticed the two bodies on the ground and added, "Well, except those two."

Warren and Walter didn't drop many valuables since they were low levels. Jack let Jeanny take all their loot for the guild.

Jack instructed some soldiers to bring the bodies to be given a proper burial. Although the two were assholes, they used to be part of the kingdom.

Chapter 1169: Hero Crystal

"What will you do now?" Jeanny asked Jack.

"I'm going to stay in the capital for a few days, finishing some matters. Like giving our guild a new hero," Jack answered and showed her the legendary-grade infernal hero token.

"Legendary hero token!" Jeanny exclaimed.

"Legendary?" John also took an interest after hearing it.

"If only you brought this a few days earlier," Jeanny sighed.

"Why does it matter if I'm a few days earlier?" Jack asked.

Jeanny gave her an irritated glance. "You didn't check your guild page often, did you? We already appointed our third guild hero."

"Already?" Jack opened his guild page.

"You should know one of the ways our members can contribute is by clearing bandit outposts or gang hideouts, right?" Jeanny said. "We regularly captured the bosses alive, which we delivered to the kingdom for bounty coins."

"And Jeanny challenged one of the captured bosses who was a level 62 rare elite two days ago," John added.

"Only level 62?" Jack said with disappointment.

"What do you expect? I'm only level 63," Jeanny uttered. "Don't lump me in with a freak like you who can challenge a mythical being ten levels higher!"

Jack glanced to make sure Arther was out of earshot before he whispered to Jeanny and John. "It is because of the unique-grade potion I drank before the fight."

Hearing that, John said, "I can assure you. Even if we drink the same potion, we still can't do the crazy shit you do."

Jack finally found the guild hero description on the guild page. The third hero's name was Breun. The data showed that he was level 67. No doubt Jeanny used mana cores to increase his level by five.

"Can we kick him out to give space for another candidate?" Jack asked Peniel.

"You can."

Jeanny made a sad face hearing that.

"His level is the lowest amongst our guild heroes," Jack explained after seeing her expression. "Uruk is level 70, Nilrem is level 68. Not to mention, Nilrem is a mythical grade. If I use the hero token, we will get a hero that follows my level."

Thinking about this, Jack regretted he had used the level-down pill. He should have used it after using the hero token.

He didn't dwell on the thought. He continued, "After using mana cores, we can even increase the new hero's level to 75. Aren't you thrilled imagining our guild having a level 75 eternal-grade hero?"

"What is the probability of getting an eternal-grade hero from a legendary-grade hero token?" John asked Peniel.

"Five percent," Peniel answered.

"Then why is he so certain we get one?" John asked again.

Peniel shrugged. "That's what I keep telling him," she said.

"You of little faith. Trust in the God of Luck!" Jack announced while slapping his chest.

"I am conflicted. I want an eternal grade hero for our guild but I also kinda hope we don't get it so I can laugh at his face," John said.

Jeanny sighed. "Okay. Let's kick Breun out," she said weakly. Breun was the hero he had subjugated. It was sad that her effort to defeat him had been pointless.

"If you feel it's a waste to kick him out, you can spend mana cores to turn him into a hero crystal," Peniel said to Jeanny.

"Hero crystal? What does it do?" The three of them asked.

"A hero crystal is so you can store the excess hero for future use when your guild levels up further and have more slots," Peniel explained.

"Like people frozen in cryogenic tanks in science fiction stories?" Jack asked. Peniel had no idea what Jack meant.

"What's the point?" John asked. "By the time the guild levels up, we can capture a higher-level boss. That hero crystal serves no purpose except for a sentimental one!"

"Can the crystal only be used by the original guild?" Jeanny asked. "If another guild uses the hero crystal we made, can they get that hero?"

"Well... I suppose you can. I'm not aware of a restriction," Peniel answered.

"Do you mean..." John gave Jeanny a meaningful look.

"Yeah. Let's sell that hero to another guild," Jeanny said. "I bet there are not many players who can defeat a rare elite boss in single combat yet. At least we get something rather than just kicking Breun out."

"How many mana cores are needed to cryo-freeze Breun?" Jack asked.

"What cryo-freeze? Stop using weird terms!" Peniel scolded. "To turn a guild hero into a hero crystal costs twenty mana cores for each of the hero's levels."

"1,300 mana cores," John said. He looked at Jeanny. "You think you can make a profit from that?"

"I think I can. We will only accept payment in mana cores. I will put 3,000 mana cores as our base offer. I will start contacting the leaders of our allied guilds and invite them to our headquarters to check Breun out. I will then create an auction for them," Jeanny said. She turned to Jack and added, "Give me two days before using your hero token. If nobody is interested, then we just kick Breun out rather than waste our mana cores."

"Okay," Jack nodded. "I will go do other stuff first then. Contact me if you need anything."

Jack went and thanked Broidrireg for his help. All the rebels showed obedience so there was no need for the dragon to remain. Broidrireg harrumphed and said Jack owed him a good meal before flying away into the clouds. Jack noticed the one-week cooldown on his king badge for summoning the country guardian had begun counting.

Jack then went and talked with Armstrong and Isabelle before leaving everything to them and teleported back to Thereath's palace.

Back in the palace, Jack sat on the throne and used the monarch system to check the officer overview. All three portraits of the Lord Marshall positions were filled now.

As Peniel mentioned, natives received benefits when being assigned to the formal posts within this Monarch system. The benefits received by Lord Marshall were +30% to their attributes, +10% to their damage and defense, and the troops within a 100-meter radius received +10% to their attributes.

This meant the current Arther was slightly stronger than the one he had faced.

Jack checked Arther's data. He was shocked to find Arther's loyalty was at 91 points. Only the ones he was close to had loyalty points above 90. That was even after a few times using the Mass Pay functions.

Emris' current loyalty was at 84, while Meryl's was at 81. This meant that among the three lord marshalls, Arther was now the most loyal to him. He found it funny how life sometimes turned out.

Chapter 1170: Dealing with Tasks

Jack continued to check the officer overview. Peniel once mentioned officers with loyalty points above level 80 could be considered loyal subjects already. With the three highest leaders of the army loyal to him, he no longer worried about insubordination from the army.

He also checked the officers who had joined the rebellion. Armstrong had given him a written record of the list before he left Themelot. Half of these officers were still below 70 loyalty points, with some even below 60. But the other half was the same as Arther. Their loyalty points shot up to more than what they were before, with many nearing 80 loyalty points.

He used the Mass Pay function then. Afterward, he checked the half that had low loyalty points. Before, some officers increased very few loyalty points or even none at all after the mass pay. These officers were also the ones who joined the rebellion. Now, all these low loyalty officers increased their loyalty stat by around 3 to 4 points after the mass pay. This showed that they were now ready to accept Jack's rule.

Jack heaved a relieved breath. 'Let's hope this rebel issue is now behind us,' he thought. But he knew that to truly maintain these officers' loyalty was to show his fairness to the native population.

John's lawmaker players continued drafting regulations that help in that department. He called Thaergood to take a look at the ones that had been drafted. Together, they reviewed these laws to make sure that everything was in order.

Jack spent the day doing that as well as any issues Thaergood needed his involvement in. Thaergood was happy about this. Normally, Jack just pushed everything to the monthly schedule.

Thaergood also informed Jack that a representative from Palgrost came bearing a gift when Jack was out, accompanied by a message, "This is your agreed share." The gift was 360,000 gold coins which had been deposited to the kingdom coffer.

Jack was stunned. The agreement with Thelgrun was fifteen percent. This meant all the gold bull bosses Jack had killed in the Daedalus labyrinth had given Palgrost more than two million gold coins!

That labyrinth wonder building indeed provided wonders. But then again, the wonder only happened if he was the one entering it. He wondered if he should go to Palgrost and strike a better deal with Thelgrun. Maybe when he had free time, he still had lots of tasks to carry out at the moment.

He had also dealt with five affairs during the time he was at Darmos' hut until now. Out of five completed affairs, he got one perfect result. The perfect result gave him 95,000 merit points and 5 ruling powers. For the remaining four affairs, he got 230,000 merit points.

These merit points were not enough to level up his sovereign level. He needed around 27,000 more merit points. He could only be patient as he sent Jeanny the details on the new affairs.

John came back in the afternoon. Jack reminded him to not screw Themelot anymore from now. Jack wanted that city's stats to get to a prosperous state as soon as possible. John assured Jack that this was also his intention.

*

The next day, Darmos just appeared inside the palace out of nowhere. Because no one knew him, he was considered an intruder. Two soldiers tried to drag him out.

Luckily, Jack was nearby. He hurriedly interfered before those two soldiers were hurt.

He then summoned Thaergood and Isabelle to announce to every soldier and officer in this capital that Darmos was to be allowed free reign. The old draconian was free to go wherever he wanted and everyone had to give Darmos proper respect.

The two advisors were confused about such privileged treatment of this unknown draconian, but they followed Jack's instructions.

In disguise, Jack took Darmos touring around the capital, which didn't impress Darmos much, until they entered Ellie's restaurant.

"Lad! The food here is better than your cooking!" Darmos exclaimed.

"Right? Let me introduce you to the cook. This is Ellie," Jack said. He was using a VIP room and called Ellie to join them.

Ellie introduced herself with a big smile. She was always happy when a customer was satisfied with her food.

Jack told her that if Darmos came by, she was to take Darmos' order and just put the tab at Jack's expense. Jack told her to just deduct the expense from Jack's weekly profit share. Ellie was also confused about such special treatment, but since Jack was willing to cover the cost, she had no problem with the arrangement.

Darmos assured Ellie that he would come often. After seeing how much the draconian had just eaten, Ellie couldn't help but felt anxious hearing that.

Jack asked if Darmos needed accompanying back to the palace. Darmos said he wanted to continue touring the capital by himself. For a hermit who had avoided civilization, Jack didn't know if this was encouraging or worrying. Jack told him to stay out of trouble.

Jack left him and went to the blacksmith workshop. He rent a special room and used the facility inside to etch all his regal outfits.

Afterward, he installed the Orb of Taranis onto his Themisphere King's Scale Mail.

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Themisphere King's Scale Mail, level: 70 (unique set medium armor: Themisphere Royal Battle Armor), embedded: Orb of Taranis (Unique-grade Armor orb)

Physical Defense: 518

Magical Defense: 450

Indestructible. Restriction: Human race, King of Themisphere

Endurance +25

Strength +22

Dark Resistance +30

When receiving a fatal blow, HP will remain at 1. Cooldown: 3 hours

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.

*

After installing the orb, the chest armor's defenses increased. It also got a bunch of extra abilities.

Coming out of the blacksmith workshop, Jack went in the direction of the Order of Magi's hut. There, Jack challenged stage 79 and succeeded. He then entered stage 80. In stage 80 was one level 65 mythical, ten level 70 rare elites, and twenty-four level 75 special elites.

Unfortunately, he couldn't beat the stage. Though the mythical-grade enemy was five levels lower than him, he could only use his spells. He was unable to defeat that one mythical enemy.

He challenged stage 79 another nine times and collected 790 knowledge points. Combined with his stock, he had 2,214 knowledge points. It was still not enough to exchange for either the two spells, Lightning Mine or Fly, which cost 3,700 and 4,000 knowledge points respectively.

Peniel told him if he could level up his bloodline to level 9, he no longer needed the Fly spell. Jack asked her why. She answered that level 9 of the Divine Gold Dragon bloodline gave the skill, Gold Dragon Wings.

These wings had no cooldown. Jack could use it any time he wanted. The flight speed of these wings was even faster than the Fly spell. So, there was no sense to exchange the knowledge points the for Fly spell.