

World 1231

Chapter 1231: The Lord of Dragons

"It's Eoranth! It's Eoranth!" The draconian soldiers on the wall cheered. Their cheering soon turned into chanting as they continued repeating the name.

The players didn't truly understand the hype. Why were these native draconians suddenly turned so optimistic after hearing the roar? The battlefield situation was extremely not encouraging at the moment.

Suddenly, a ray of light pierced through the clouds above and accurately struck the undead Kimat.

Kimat managed to erect a magic shield just before the ray hit, but the force pushed Kimat down and planted him into the ground. His touchdown point also resulted in an explosive shockwave that threw the army down there away.

Another roar was heard. The dark clouds swirled. The ones who saw it thought it looked like an upside-down cloud whirlpool.

A giant object then fell from that cloud whirlpool at high speed. At first glance, that object was an elliptical meteor, but then this meteor came to an abrupt stop mid-air right above the capital's main gate. This meteor opened its outer shell, which turned out to be a pair of gigantic leathery wings. What the opened wings revealed was a colossal dragon in a humanoid body.

Jeanny thought the dragon looked very much like Jack when he transformed into his supreme dragon form, except this one was covered in silvery white scales and had a long neck. Also, it was much, much, much bigger.

Eoranth looked at the scene below with a gaze that was equal parts disdain and disgust, "Puny insects. How dare you desecrate this place I look over! Suffer my wrath!!!"

His jaws opened and a beam of pure light was discharged. This beam swept past the zombie army and obliterated many of the weaker enemy soldiers. Only the ones with the highest HP remained, but even they had a few HP left after being blasted by the beam. As for the players, they stood no chance.

"That was soul breath," Jeanny uttered. Eoranth was right above her. She could sense the breath the dragon emitted. It felt very similar to Jack's soul breath. She also used Inspect on the huge dragon.

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Eoranth (Eternal Dragon, Draconic), level 98

HP: 5,900,000

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'It is even stronger than Themisphere's country guardian...,' Jeanny thought.

Eoranth's soul breath also damaged two of the arrow towers that had come close enough. Seeing those arrow towers still stand made Eoranth feel as if those towers were defying him. He flew forward and crashed into one of them before he started pummeling it into the ground with its claws.

The enemy soldiers around the tower tried their best to send their attacks but their attacks were like mosquito bites to the gargantuan dragon. His defense was too high.

Eoranth was still offended by those tiny attacks, though. After the first arrow tower was down, he stomped his clawed feet onto the ground. A gigantic runic symbol appeared on the ground and shone brightly. The entire space the symbol covered was then encased in a light pillar. Everyone within this pillar received continuous soul damage.

What Eoranth used was a skill called Souls of Heaven and Earth. When the light pillar dispersed, every enemy in Eoranth's vicinity was lifeless. This included the zombie soldiers.

"Holy... That country guardian is a serious badass!" Paytowin exclaimed.

Jeanny simply nodded. No wonder Frorryntiar was so confident when she talked about Eoranth.

When Eoranth headed to the second damaged arrow tower and started dishing out punishments, Kimat flew out of the collapsed ground. He still had more than half of his HP. As an undead, he had no fear. He flew directly toward Eoranth.

Kimat cast spells that only served to annoy the dragon. So, Eoranth turned his attention to Kimat.

Spell formation formed as Eoranth aimed his claw at Kimat. Kimat found himself losing control over his flight. His body was unwillingly pulled toward Eoranth.

Eoranth had used the Telekinesis spell to pull Kimat over. Once the draconian came into range, Eoranth grabbed him. The draconian was like a tiny doll in Eoranth's grip.

Kimat was then used by Eoranth to be mercilessly slammed into the arrow tower. The dragon was delivering damage to both his targets at the same time.

Before long, the arrow tower crumbled. Kimat still had a sliver of HP in him. Eoranth threw him to the ground and stomped his remaining HP out.

Eoranth then turned his head away from the capital. The spot he looked at, was where the enemy's field command base was. His dragon eyes saw things in the night as clearly as they were in the day. Over there, Master stood with the others. The war tables and the guild army summoning platforms were there.

Eoranth flapped his wings and flew high into the sky. "I'm ending this!" He bellowed.

He looked upward and opened his jaws wide. At the same time, a large amount of mana flowed into his opened jaws. They gathered and created a spectacular light display. It was like seeing several rivers made of light flowing into Eoranth's opened jaws. At the same time, multiple rune symbols seemed to float around his head, similar to when one was executing a rune technique.

The converged light intensified until even Eoranth's head was covered by the brightness.

Eoranth then turned his head down and discharged that accumulated energy. The force of the discharge caused a thunderous sound and the air around exploded with a ring-shaped shockwave. A thick beam of pure energy fired downward.

The beam was very large. It also brightened everything in the vicinity, allowing everyone to see the enemy's command base in this darkness. They briefly saw the enemy's leaders before they were completely engulfed by the thick beam.

The beam then abruptly expanded, covering even more area. Two flame catapults fell into this beam area. Everyone roughly made out the damage numbers that kept popping up above those siege weapons. The beam went on for some time as the HP bar from the catapults kept on decreasing.

The HP bar was finally depleted and the flame catapults crumbled. If even a siege structure that possessed tons of HP couldn't endure the energy beam, what more of everything else?

The beam produced a final pulse that created a massive explosion that blasted and damaged everything in the vicinity. Everyone that was nearby but outside the beam was sent flying a long distance away by this final explosion. Many weaker units couldn't survive this explosion.

As the beam and dust cloud settled, the area that had been hit directly by the beam was filled with dead bodies, except for the place where the enemy command base was.

Everyone, including Eoranth, saw in consternation that Master and his closest aides with the war table and the guild army command platforms were still standing at the center of the charred ground. It was as if nothing had happened to them.

Chapter 1232: The Immortal One

The defenders on the wall watched in disbelief. Eoranth who was up in the sky also couldn't make sense of what he was seeing. There was no way those outworlders survived his Annihilating Soul Beam.

Both out of disbelief and curiosity, Eoranth dove down to where his still surviving targets were. Once he touchdown on the ground, he understood.

"Illusion...?" He uttered. At this distance, his mana sense could sense that there was no one there. The outworlders standing on his feet were just mirages.

"Grrr...", Eoranth growled involuntarily. It was ages since someone dared fool him like this. He had wasted his strongest attack but failed to take out the enemy's head.

He turned his head around, trying to locate the audacious insects who had played him. His dragon eyes quickly located his prize in the far distance.

The enemy's ruler stood there with his aides and their platforms, exactly like the mirages on his feet. The image down here was a projection of that place.

Eoranth flapped his wings and lifted off. His marks won't escape him twice.

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Master saw the huge dragon coming his way in the distance. With that speed, it won't take long.

The spell Master used to trick Eoranth was cast from a rare magic scroll, Mirage Transmission. The spell created a projection of the area around the caster onto another place in the distance. The maximum range to place the projection was five kilometers. The duration of the projection was two hours.

After his army arrived, Master used this magic scroll to project his command base in a far-away position near Messephyria's main gate. Since it was at night, the defenders weren't aware there were two command bases. Master then headed to this fake command base and used the Necronomicon's Army of Darkness ability. The light created by the legendary book convinced everyone that the command base was there.

Afterward, Master returned to the real command base under cover of darkness. Arriving at the real command base, his mirage was also projected at the fake base, tricking the defenders that he never moved away from that spot.

Master sent a message to Spring Crown, "Have you found the weak points? I don't have all night here."

"Give me a break, will you? This capital is insanely huge. It will take me hours to completely circle its wall. Luckily, we only targeting half of this wall."

"If you can't find a weak point along this half of the wall, we will have to go and test the other half."

"I'm not looking forward to that. I've already identified several parts with weaker defense. Give me ten more minutes, I should complete my round by then."

"Five minutes," Master replied and ended the chat.

He looked back at Eoranth who was approaching. The guild guardian from World Ruler, the manticore, tried to block Eoranth's way. The Manticore was swiftly smacked to the ground.

Eoranth didn't even spare the manticore another glance after it was down. He continued his flight. He didn't want to waste time killing the manticore.

Master took out his Liguritutum ruler badge.

"Time to put you to work," Master uttered. The badge shone a bright red. As it did, a loud shrill cry was heard.

Eoranth slowed after hearing the cry. He recognized the cry. He stopped and looked up into the sky.

The dark sky slowly turned crimson before becoming bright red. It was as if a small sun suddenly appeared up there.

Those who could spare the time to stop fighting looked up into the sky as a giant ball of fire descended from the clouds. The clouds didn't part way when the fireball descended. They were burnt instead. The clouds were like pieces of paper that were slowly burnt outward.

The ball of fire then radiated a light so bright that everyone had to look down or shut their eyes, including those in the middle of the fighting.

The bright light then dimmed to a reasonable level before everyone could have a good look again.

The ball of fire had turned into a bird with extremely large wings and long tails. A bird that seemed to be made of flame.

"Suzaki, I never thought I will see the day when you agree to be a country guardian," Eoranth said to the flaming bird.

"The offer is just too tempting to reject," The bird, whom Eoranth called Suzaki, replied. The flaming bird slowly descended and put herself in Eoranth's path.

"Haha," Eoranth laughed. "Immortal one, do you think you can win against me?"

The players underneath the two colossi started running away. They were afraid they would get caught up if the two started getting physical. But some still took the time to use their Inspect as they ran.

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Suzaki (Eternal Phoenix, Elemental), level 95

HP: 5,300,000

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"I don't need to win against you," Suzaki uttered softly. "All I need is simply to keep you occupied."

"Hah! Let's see you try! Maybe I will put your title to test. See if you are truly immortal!"

Eoranth dashed forward. Suzaki didn't back away. The flame on her body intensified again. She turned into a fireball that charged forward.

When the two collided, the space nearby trembled. The vibration through the air could even be felt by those on the city wall.

Suzaki lost this contest of strength. She bounced away after the collision, but she quickly flew back again. Like a giant flaming ball that had a will of its own, it continued to fly back and forth as it slammed itself onto Eoranth.

The speed of the flaming ball continued to increase until Eoranth had trouble following its movements. He had no choice but used his wings as a protective shield.

Eoranth was furious to be forced into a defensive state like this. Behind the cover of his wings, his dragon eyes paid attention to the speeding fireball. His eyes activated the ability to slow down time in his vision. As the fireball came again, he opened his wings and used his chest to catch the fireball, like a soccer goalkeeper catching a striker's shot. His two arms clamped down on the fireball, locking it in place.

He received damage when the fireball slammed into his chest, but the damage was not something that worried him. With Suzaki locked in his arm, the firebird won't escape.

Eoranth then opened his mouth. It shone with soul energy. His soul breath had gone off cooldown.

At the same time, the flame from the fireball in his arms also intensified. When his soul breath was unleashed, the fireball also discharged tremendous fire energy. The two different energies collided at close range and exploded with incredible power that forced the two apart.

Both suffered damage from the exchange but they came to one another again without hesitation. The two clashed without holding back. Each impact caused a tidal wave of energy. When they happened to hit the ground, an earthquake was produced. Those who had put a distance found that it was still not enough, so they ran further away.

While the two titans duked it out against one another, Master received a message from Spring Crown, "Okay I've determined the weakest point along this defensive wall. I'm sending you the coordinates."

Chapter 1233: Breaching the Wall

Eoranth and Suzaki were still busy with one another when Master arrived at Spring Crown's location.

"Took you long enough," Spring Crown said to Master when he arrived.

"Cut the crap. You know I don't like chit-chat. Just lay it out," Master said curtly.

"Aye, aye, boss!" Spring Crown said exaggeratedly. He then pointed to the distant wall. "The defensive rune diagram here is weaker. They probably don't have enough time to inspect the entire wall of this capital."

Coincidentally, a fireball from one of the flame catapults hit the part of the wall Spring Crown was pointing at.

"See? The vibration on the rune diagram here is stronger when it receives an impact. The glow the rune diagram emitted created a wave that traveled outward faster than the other spots."

Another fireball hit the wall on a different part some distance away.

"See? The one that was hit over there, the vibration is not as strong as the one here," Spring Crown said.

Master saw no such difference, but he would have to admit in this department, Spring Crown was more of a pro. So, he sent a message to Motherboard, who controlled their guild army.

The three nearby catapults readjusted their positions so they all targeted the spot Spring Crown said was weaker. She also had the nearby heavy-ranged units and players send their attacks to the same spot.

After a few minutes, visible cracks could be seen on the wall.

Master glanced at Spring Crown who gave him a gaze that said, 'Told you.'

Master then took something out from his inventory. Now that they had ascertained a weak spot on the wall, he should expedite it. A sudden drop in durability on this part of the wall should draw the enemy's attention. They would be sending their manpower here soon.

The thing that Master took out was an ordinary-looking stone. It was a summoning crystal for a specific monster.

Master used the stone and a monster that was almost as large as Eoranth and Suzaki appeared. It had stony scales all over its body, with huge sharp spines atop its head and all over its back. It was a level 70 mythical-grade Land Behemoth.

The Man and Fierce Flame who were on the wall recognized this monster. It was similar to the titanic monster they first witnessed in the past when they ventured into the wilderness with Jack after they got their advanced classes, except this one was much bigger.

They remembered Peniel said that the one they saw was a young land behemoth. This one here was no doubt the adult version.

The Land Behemoth could be said as the largest monster among the mythical-grade monsters. In terms of physical strength and endurance, it was at the top of the list. It was slow, though. It also lacked powerful skills. It was not exactly an ideal combat monster to be summoned. What it was ideal for was a mobile tank.

Master didn't call it for combatting the defenders. Nor was it as a tank to provide cover for his soldiers. He wanted this monster to serve a different function, a bulldozer.

Master sent a mental instruction to the land behemoth. It then started to move towards the wall. Its movement was slow but unstoppable. It just barged through everything in its path. Even if allies were the ones on its path, it cared not. Nothing stopped its advance.

Without slowing down, it rammed itself onto the wall. The wall shook heavily. The defenders above the wall fell to the floor due to the sudden shaking. More cracks appeared on the wall.

It took a few steps back and then slammed itself back into the wall. It continued to repeat this. All the while the flame catapults continued to target the same spot. The fireballs hit next to where the land behemoth was, damaging the wall and the behemoth as well, but the behemoth paid it no mind. Its rocky scales were extremely tough. It also had a very high resistance to fire. The damage it received was meaningless to its unusually high HP.

Just as Master had predicted, the defenders on the wall started realizing what the invaders were trying to do. They started to flock toward this vulnerable spot.

Queen Frorryntiar in the war room also noticed this when she saw the warning alarm from the 3D projection. The HP of the wall on the part Master was targeting was decreasing extremely fast. She immediately sent commands to the army to deal with this emergency. Bowler also sent a message about the situation to Jeanny, who then relayed orders for those nearby to send help.

However, there was little they could do. Their little attacks only served to irritate the land behemoth. Most of the high-level natives were preoccupied. Many parts had the zombie soldiers successfully climbing the wall and were now engaging the defending soldiers. The ranged attacks from the arrow towers also prevented the defenders from moving freely. To top it off, werebats from World Maker flew to the wall carrying paralyzing bombs. They dropped the bombs on the defenders, further incapacitating the defenders and allowing the zombie soldiers to climb up the wall.

Frorryntiar saw the precariousness of the situation and sent her thoughts to Eoranth. There was no one here that she thought could change the situation other than the lord of dragons.

Eoranth, who was still in fierce combat with Suzaki, turned to where the Land Behemoth was assaulting the wall. He disliked leaving an opponent before making said opponent know that he was the victor, but he knew that the capital he was protecting would be in deep trouble if that wall fell.

"Away with you!" Eoranth roared and gave Suzaki a forceful smack. This sent the firebird reeling.

Suzaki knew she was not Eoranth's equal. She was just buying time as Master asked her to.

Eoranth added another soul breath that sent Suzaki stumbling to the ground. He then snorted and flew toward the land behemoth.

The land behemoth was still slamming its massive body into the wall with clockwork precision. The cracks on the wall were getting larger and the rune diagram was turning dimmer.

Eoranth slammed himself into the land behemoth when it was about to hit the wall again. The momentum dragged the land behemoth a few distances away from the wall. With his incredible strength, Eoranth lifted the land behemoth and threw it some more distance away.

The heavy body of the land behemoth fell on its back and created a large earthquake.

With its softer belly exposed, Eoranth used his claws to repeatedly pummel the land behemoth. He was intent on finishing this monster fast.

But as he was busy murdering the land behemoth, he heard a commotion from behind. He looked back and saw Suzaki breathing fire onto the wall that the land behemoth was previously assaulting.

"You! Stay away from that wall...!!" Eoranth shouted. He dashed toward Suzaki.

But before he arrived, Suzaki's body glowed with intense brightness. It then burst with a spectacular explosion. Dense fire energy assailed everything within the explosion range.

Eoranth's sharp eyes could see through the brightness. He saw the rune diagram on the wall melted as they expended their last energy. As soon as the rune diagram vanished, the wall was unable to resist the fire and it crumbled.

Chapter 1234: Entering the Capital

"Curse you, you damn bird...!!" Eoranth bellowed. The fury in his voice was unmistakable. His silvery white scale glowed. His presence seemed to further enlarge. His strength and speed increased.

The fiery explosion caused by Suzaki was still raging. Eoranth barged into the fire without care. With one claw he grabbed Suzaki's neck. His other claw clenched a part of Suzaki's right wing. With a wrathful roar, Eoranth pulled to opposite sides.

Suzaki's screeched in pain. The flame from her body intensified following her suffering. Everything in the vicinity was burnt.

Despite his high defense and resistance, Eoranth also suffered from the heat. Damage numbers continued to pop up above his head, but he didn't let go. If anything, he increased the pressure of his pulling.

Damage numbers also appeared non-stop above Suzaki's head while she was in Eoranth's grab. Her wing finally couldn't resist the pressure any further and half of her right wing was torn apart.

A huge damage number accompanied that savage rip. Suzaki screamed from the pain. The flame that was raging as a self-defense mechanism died down abruptly. The huge gap in the capital wall was now plain for everyone to see.

Eoranth didn't show any mercy. His one claw was still grabbing Suzaki's neck. He lifted Suzaki before slamming her hard into the ground like a ragged doll. He then used his feet and repeatedly stomp on the bird, delivering huge damage with each stomp.

Eoranth was so in a rage that he ignored everything, even the land behemoth who had repositioned itself and was now charging at him. The land behemoth's heavy frame crashed into Eoranth and pushed him back.

At the same time, the closest enemy soldiers started pouring into the large gap in the wall. Reserve Hydrurond soldiers that were not on the wall immediately rushed to that side to block the enemy from entering.

"Get away from me!" Eoranth roared and smacked the land behemoth's head. His body was still glowing. Under that buff effect, he was even stronger than when he first threw the land behemoth away. The land behemoth reeled back upon every impact.

Using the force from the impact, the land behemoth swiveled its body and hit Eoranth with a tail swing, but the tail swing was as if hitting a solid mountain. Eoranth didn't even budge. Instead, Eoranth caught the tail and then pulled the land behemoth's entire body. He spun a few times while holding the land behemoth and then threw the giant monster a very far distance away.

As the land behemoth flew away, Eoranth noticed the flood of enemies entering via the crumbled wall. He flew to the gap and unleashed his soul breath onto that flood of enemies breaching the wall.

In a short time, the soul breath cleared the gap of any enemies. Eoranth then placed himself before the gap. Anyone who wished to enter would have to go past him.

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"Hey, your country guardian lost," Spring Crown said to Master. Suzaki was on the ground, writhing in pain. Her HP bar was critical. She couldn't fly anymore with one of her wings torn in half. "Aren't you going to help her?"

"I'm not that dragon's opponent... yet," Master said. "But there is a reason why I chose that phoenix as my country guardian instead of the others."

"Yeah, I'm sure there is a large selection of these eternal beings for you to choose from," Spring Crown remarked.

Master ignored the sarcasm. "This phoenix has another title, the immortal one. It can't die. Just like us, it will come back to life again after dying. And she has one ability that is available to her when her life is critical. A skill that can be used at the expense of her life..."

Master made a wide smile with his mouthless face. "... Which she should be using soon."

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No one dared to enter the gap in the wall with Eoranth guarding it, except for the dead soldiers who knew no fear. Eoranth stomped on these undead and reduced them to paste.

Some higher-level undead soldiers tried to use their speed to sneak past Eoranth. Eoranth's wings beat and created a gale that caused those soldiers difficulty in moving. They were then either snatched or slapped away.

Eoranth saw the land behemoth was coming back again. His eyes shone and then fired a straight beam at the monster. This beam was the same one that hit Kimat from behind the clouds. The beam dealt light damage and had a strong knockback force. Even a monster as heavy as the land behemoth was knocked back, sending it away again.

Eoranth then noticed Suzaki who was crawling to his feet. She was close to the destroyed wall from the start, so it only took her a few crawling attempts to approach.

Eoranth didn't finish her because he didn't want to leave the gap in the wall. Also, he knew that killing Suzaki would just send her to her rebirth cycle, recovering her body. He wanted her to suffer the pain for a while longer before that happened.

He grunted at her, "It seems that you are in a hurry to get into your rebirth cycle. Fine, I will show you mercy and give you the death you seek."

"Hehehe."

Eoranth stopped when he heard Suzaki's laugh. "What is so funny?" He asked.

"It seems that you have lived so long that you forget about what I can do when I am dying," Suzaki said, smiling.

Eoranth's eyes turned wide upon realizing what Suzaki meant. His leg came up in a hurry. He attempted to stomp Suzaki to death before she could react, but Suzaki was a second faster.

Raging flame again burst from her body. A flame that was even fiercer than any she had released before. That flame burnt even herself, turning her into ash. This flame didn't disappear with her, though. The flame grew even larger and stronger, so large that it enveloped Eoranth in a flaming sphere.

"You, despicable bird! Release me...!!" Eoranth roared.

The flame sphere lifted Eoranth into the air. The fire continued to grow and turned denser. Eoranth fired his soul breath. The fiery cage was blasted at first, but the fire quickly reformed and covered the part that was broken. The Soul Breath that was still ongoing was slowly reduced to a small beam as the hole was patched. The hole was then completely covered and all that was seen was a large fireball floating in the sky.

Spring Crown, who was watching from the ground, uttered, "Holy... So, that is your plan?"

"That fiery cage is Suzaki's Immortal Prison," Master answered. "Not even a being such as Eoranth can break free from it easily."

Master turned his attention to the gap in the wall. "Now, no one will be able to stop us from entering the capital."

Chapter 1235: Heading to the Palace

Master took the lead himself as the army marched through the gap. He cast his strongest spell, Meteor Fall, at the defending army amassing by the mouth of the gap. The meteor broke the defender's formation, then the land behemoth spearheaded the charge. After such an assault, the defenders were unable to stop the enemy's tide from pouring through the gap.

Among the horde of dead soldiers pouring through the gap, there were also live Ligiritudum soldiers. And among these live ones, the most eye-catching was a regiment of ethereals in heavy black armor carrying huge black greatswords. Black lights swirled around them, giving them a dreadful aura.

These were Dread Knights, special units available to be trained after one built a Dread Tower, which was a Wonder Building available to Ligiritudum after the country received Fear's Blessing.

Aside from giving access to the training of these special units, the Dread Tower also lowered the threshold for a rebellion to appear in the country. That's how Master was able to keep the Ligiritudum public in obedience even when he didn't focus much attention on improving the settlements' stats.

The Dread Knights' fear aura caused any nearby enemy difficulty in concentrating their thoughts, similar to Pandora's aura but weaker. This made them ideal units to break through barricades.

Spring Crown walked beside Master as they enter the capital. He looked up at the huge fireball in the sky.

"Um... How long will that immortal prison last?" He asked.

"For a being as powerful as Eoranth, probably four hours," Master answered.

"Four hours? Are you confident we can take down the palace in four hours?"

"We won't if you keep on running your mouth instead of your feet," Master said curtly.

"Ouch! And here I thought you are already comfy with my loquacious personality."

Master didn't respond. He continued walking forward, firing a spell or two at the enemies who came into sight. His soldiers spread out and engaged the enemies to make sure that the path was clear for him.

"Forgive my curiosity, I just can't help it," Spring Crown said. "Is there any drawback to Suzaki for using her immortal prison?"

It took Master a few seconds before answering. He was probably deciding if he should just ignore Spring Crown. "If she dies normally, she will come back to life after one day. If she uses that Immortal Prison, it will be five days before she undergoes her rebirth."

"I see... Which has no impact on us, considering we can only summon her once a week. Well, except if we are back in our capital, of course."

"Enough blabber. Go and clear the way for me!" Master commanded.

"Aye, aye, boss!" Spring Crown replied and rushed forward.

The other heavenly enforcer, Ronald, was already at the front, merrily shooting his way. He enjoyed this war very much. Spring Crown greeted him when he went to the front. Ronald returned the greeting with a shot to his head, which Spring Crown blocked using a shield.

"Hey! You are still holding the grudge from before?" Spring Crown asked.

"Stay away from me!" Ronald warned.

"Suit yourself! I'm going the other side." Before that, Spring Crown looked back at Master and called, "Where is Wong?"

Master ignored the question. Spring Crown went away grumbling. He joined the soldiers on the right side fighting the draconian soldiers while continuing to keep close to Master.

Master himself was sending a message while walking, "Where are you? Wong is no longer around. There is no need for you to hide anymore. I need you to get me into the palace."

He soon got a reply, "I ain't hiding. I'm infiltrating the palace. Just get yourself here as soon as possible."

Several consecutive explosions happened on Master's right side, which made him turn to look. He saw the residue of fiery energy from the explosion.

"Divine skill...," he muttered.

Draconian soldiers and a bunch of players charged through the opening created by the fiery explosions. On the lead was a large humanoid tiger encased in a fiery suit. This weretiger used a charging skill and headed directly to the land behemoth.

Although the land behemoth was much larger, it still stopped advancing after getting crashed by the tiger on fire.

This humanoid tiger was Leavemealone in his White Tiger Emperor form. He activated all his buff and bloodline skills to get his attributes to the max. Even then, the land behemoth seemed to only budge a little from the collision.

But even so, that was enough. By stopping the land behemoth's advance, it slowed the entire enemy army's advance.

The land behemoth tried stomping Leavemealone, but it was slow. Leavemealone was already out of the danger zone when its foot landed. Leavemealone jumped onto a nearby building and climbed it with the nimbleness of a cat.

Hydrurond's houses were tall. Leavemealone climbed to the tallest part of the roof before jumping away. His fist, which was coated with fire, formed a tiger's image. This tiger image followed his fist and slammed into the land behemoth's head.

The behemoth's head reeled back from the punch. World Maker members who followed Master were dumbfounded by the feat. This land behemoth was a monster that went toe-to-toe with the lord of dragons, after all.

Leavemealone landed on the land behemoth's head and started hitting it at the back of his head while clinging onto it.

BANG!

A bullet struck Leavemealone's head, causing a critical strike. Luckily, Leavemealone's HP was very high when he was in beast form. He was also protected by the Fire God Suit, so he was in no danger.

Another gunshot was heard. Leavemealone ducked and hid behind the land behemoth's large spines.

The shooter was none other than Ronald. With Leavemealone using the behemoth's spines for cover, he couldn't get a clear shot from down there. He was about to do his trick shot by ricocheting his bullets to hit Leavemealone in his cover when a large ice nail formed on top of him. He rolled away as the Ice Nail stabbed his previous position.

Trinity Dawn was the one who cast the spell. She continued sending spells at Ronald to stop him from bothering Leavemealone.

Many of Everlasting Heavenly Legends' core members were among the defenders charging here. They knew they had to stop Master from reaching the palace. World Maker's core members went and engaged them.

Domon saw Spring Crown and came at him again.

Spring Crown, who saw Domon approaching, said exasperatingly, "Come on, man. Do you have a beef with me or something?"

Master continued to proceed toward the palace. He had many soldiers. Even when his guild members were occupied here, there were still many who opened the path for him.

But an incoming spear forced him to stop. He conjured a magic shield and blocked the spear which was held by Jeanny.

"You...", Master uttered. He was displeased that someone stopped him, but then he smiled. "Good. I thought at first you have died a wilderness death when I saw you not wearing the Amulet of Rebirth when I killed you. It's good that you are not."

Jeanny was confused by Master's words, but she didn't stop her assault. Her spear turned into a blur as she used Hundred Spears.

Master vanished and appeared a distance away with Teleportation. In his previous place was the dark ball from the Gravity Field spell.

"Damn it!" Jeanny cursed. She was held down by the same spell again.

Master ignored her and continued onward. He even cast the shadow army spell. The one thousand shadow creatures rushed forward. He commanded the other soldiers who were not engaging the enemies to do the same. He was short on time.

He summoned his steed, a horse with dragon-like features. It had a dragon's head with two horns and its body was covered by golden scales and red manes. It was a Qilin, a unique-grade steed.

On top of the Qilin, Master rode toward the palace as his minions cleared the path.

Chapter 1236: Entering the Palace

Master called his summoned creatures accordingly if any enemy break through his soldiers and blocked his way. He also called his companions and royal agents and left them to deal with the higher-level native soldiers. He didn't want to waste his time dealing with them. He had to complete his objective before Eoranth escaped the immortal prison.

The Qilin he rode maneuvered nimbly whenever enemies appeared. His summoned creatures then kept those enemies busy while he continued galloping toward the palace.

The Qilin's hooves didn't touch the ground as it ran. A layer of mist appeared a few centimeters above the ground and the Qilin galloped along this mist. Every time an enemy approached, fire burst around its body, discouraging anyone from nearing.

With the Qilin, Master covered large distances in a short time.

His soldiers thinned as he approached the palace, but so did the enemies. Most fought near the wall. A majority was still fighting there, preventing more attacking soldiers from entering the capital. As for the capital inhabitants, they gathered at assembly points and hid there. So, the capital was mostly deserted.

With the Qilin's extraordinary speed, he soon reached the deepest point where his soldiers had charged into. He didn't wait for them. He continued onward, riding on his own to the palace while his soldiers chased from behind. Enemies also didn't show up anymore. It was like he was riding through a ghost town.

He wasn't afraid of encountering a strong native inside the palace. All the troublesome ones were out there on the wall fighting his army. The strongest one inside the palace was probably the queen herself, which he should have no problem dispatching on his own.

Soon, he arrived before the palace's entrance. One person was waiting for him there.

"Took your time getting here," Long said. He was sitting on top of a dead native. Around him was a score of dead draconian soldiers.

Master jumped down from the Qilin and walked past Long to the opened palace gate. "Let's go," he ordered.

Long snickered. He stood up and followed Master into the palace.

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When Master was still on his way to the palace, Queen Frorryntiar and the others watched his progress from the holographic projection. Master was sighted by the soldiers who tried to stop him, so his dot was visible on the projection.

From what they saw, it was apparent that no one was able to stop Master's approach. Not to mention, more and more enemies poured through the gap in the wall Suzaki had created. Most of the battles now happened inside the capital. The defensive factors were greatly negated. In this situation, the enemies who were superior in number held the advantage.

They were losing.

"Aldryth... Go out and leave the capital," Frorryntiar said.

"What? Mother, no! If you want me to go, we go together!" Aldryth exclaimed.

It took some time before Frorryntiar said, "I'm protected by this palace's rune diagrams. You are not. My chance of survival is better here. You will just distract me if you..."

"My queen, is something wrong?" Grombi asked.

"The rune diagrams... They are down," Frorryntiar answered.

"How can that be?"

"Someone must have destroyed the power crystal at the palace's basement...," Frorryntiar said.

"But how did they get past the guards?"

Instead of answering, Frorryntiar turned to Aldryth. "You have to leave now! We don't know how many enemies had infiltrated this palace!"

"No! We go together!" Aldryths insisted.

"My place is here. If our dominion falls, then I fall with it!" Frorryntiar made a resolute expression.

"We... We haven't lost yet," Guzrim said. "That fireball conjured by the enemy's phoenix won't hold Eoranth long. I'm sure our great country guardian will free itself soon."

"That's right, mother. Even if the enemy enters this palace and destroys the throne. They won't be able to become the lawful sovereign of this dominion as long as you are still alive," Aldryth said. "We have to hide until Eoranth is freed. I'm sure he will be able to turn the tide once that happens. All we have to do is make sure that we survive until then."

Frorryntiar frowned and uttered, "I should be with the throne and face our enemies. I can't desecrate our draconian pride just to save my..."

"Screw our pride...!" Aldryth yelled. Her sudden defiance surprised everyone in the room. "Pride means nothing if we die! We will just be a shame to the next generation if we continue being stubborn when we still have a way out. Do you want to be remembered as a queen whose country is taken by a foreign power?"

"How dare you...," Frorryntiar was angry at her daughter's words, but her expression then softened. She sighed. "But you are right... Maybe it's time for me to step down. You will be a better queen compared to me."

"Mother, I didn't mean to..."

"It is fine, my daughter. I'm proud of you," Frorryntiar hugged Aldryth, which surprised the princess greatly. She couldn't remember when the last time her mother hugged her.

Frorryntiar let go of her embrace and said to Aldryth, "Let's leave this palace together."

Aldryth smiled upon her words.

Frorryntiar commanded everyone in the room to leave, including Bowler who was still with them. But as they were ready to walk out of the war room, they saw in the projection one red dot appearing.

Frorryntiar had sent the guards down to the basement to check the power crystal after the rune diagrams were down. They were just about to leave the main entrance and go down to check when this red dot appeared. The intruder must have tried to flee via the main entrance. The guards caught sight of this intruder and thus he appeared in the projection.

"Only one?" Guzrim said. The info on the red dot also indicated that this intruder was an outworlder.

"We should ask the guards to apprehend this outworlder alive, just in case there are still more..."

He didn't continue his words as he saw the green dots that symbolized the palace soldiers vanish one by one.

"They... they are losing?" Guzrim watched with disbelief.

"Most of our higher-level soldiers are fighting on the wall. This one outworlder must be special," Aldryth said. After hanging out with Arthur, he understood that there were outworlders who were much stronger than their peers despite being on the same level.

"What should we do, my queen?" Grombi asked. This outworlder was battling the guards at the main entrance.

"I said we just charge out," Guzrim said. "Our queen is a level 75 rare elite. He won't be able to stop us if we all attack together."

"Mother, let's be prudent and take the secret exit," Aldryth offered her opinion.

Frorryntiar didn't waste her time pondering. "All right, let's head to the secret exit."

The group then used the magic elevator to bring them down to the ground floor. Arriving there, they headed to the rear side of the palace, away from the main entrance. Only a few people knew about this secret exit.

When they came to the wall where the secret exit was supposed to be, one of Frorryntiar's aides ran forward while saying, "I will open it."

But before he touched the wall, a giant flaming axe crashed into him. He was not a high-level native, so that attack took his life in an instant.

Everyone turned and saw an orc wielding a giant axe coming out from one of the pillars in the hall. It was Abasi Raretooth.

"Nobody is leaving this palace," he said.

Chapter 1237: Activating the Secret Exit

Abasi didn't waste time chatting. He went ahead and swung his axe, conjuring a large flaming cyclone.

Most of the aides following Frorryntiar were not combatants. They had low levels. The ones that were battle capable in the group were only Frorryntiar, Aldryth, Guzrim, Grombi, and Bowler.

Abasi's assault had been so abrupt. Frorryntiar was a bit late to cast a protective shell. Several of her lower-level aides were killed by the flame hurricane before the protective shell was formed.

Abasi made a jump assault. His axe burst with fire before it collided with the protective shell. The shell cracked from the first hit. Abasi swung a second time and the shell was shattered. He immediately rushed in before his prey could react.

Abasi was a level 75 rare elite, the same as Frorryntiar. But in terms of battle experience, he was more veteran compared to everyone here. All of Frorryntiar's aides were also magic casters, so they were troubled when Abasi charged into them and started hacking.

Bowler cast Words of Prayer and Mass Regenerate to help everyone.

The low-level aides panicked and tried to run away. But before they could run far, they were hit by sharp winds from the direction they were running to.

"Watch out!" Bowler who had mana sense warned the group. He had sensed the strong attack from the back. He immediately ran forward to the wall.

Those low-level aides couldn't resist the sharp winds. Their bodies were split apart. Frorryntiar, Guzrim, and Grombi were also hit but their HP was higher. They survived the wind attack. Frorryntiar lost fewer HP because he had cast a spell that covered her scales with illusory armor.

Aldryth had also moved away. She also had basic mana sense because Arthur taught her.

The wind attacks almost hit Abasi who was in the midst. But Abasi had also learned mana sense from Long, so he had moved away before the wind arrived. He looked at the perpetrator with discontent.

Master and Long appeared. The wind attack was Master's Wind God Blades. Long saw Abasi's dissatisfied look and just shrugged.

"Queen Frorryntiar," Master greeted.

Frorryntiar returned the greeting with a glare that was filled with both hatred and wariness.

"I will just offer this once," Master said. "Bend your knees and submit to me. I will let you keep the throne as my puppet sovereign in this country."

"Over my dead body," Frorryntiar uttered. She was casting a spell at the same time.

"I figure as much," Master said. His two magic staffs formed spell formations.

Frorryntiar's spell was completed first. The phantom of a dragon's head appeared and headed toward Master. Its mouth was opened and was about to devour Master.

But it soon dissolved into nothingness once Master completed one of his spells. The spell was Cancel Magic. The spell on his other magic staff was completed a second later. The spell was the first spell from his Elemental Master special class, Elemental Turbulence.

It was similar to the mage's Arcane Turbulence except it covered a much larger area and also delivered much higher damage. The three elements of fire, ice, and lightning ravaged the place where Frorryntiar and the others were standing.

Yet, despite the fierce display showcased by the spell, Frorryntiar and the others didn't lose any HP. They even seemed to just stand there without any mind to the chaotic elemental energy around them.

"Hm...," Master activated his bloodline skill, Demonic True Eye. A third eye appeared on his forehead. The eye was completely black.

Under the Demonic True Eye, Master saw that Frorryntiar and the other around her was just a projection. Their real selves had been moved away to near the wall at the end of the hall.

"An illusion spell. It's impressive she pulled it off without me noticing," Master muttered.

Frorryntiar had cast three spells back-to-back after casting the phantasm dragon head spell. She first activated her inherent ability, flash casting. When activated, this allowed her to cast spells instantly without the use of spell formations in a one-second window. Her limit was casting three spells when this ability was active.

She first cast the illusion spell to mask them before using Mass Teleportation to move away and then Group Invisibility. Master was paying attention to the illusion so he was not aware when Frorryntiar's group was still visible for a split second after teleporting away before the invisibility spell took effect.

After teleporting, Frorryntiar was right beside the wall where the secret exit was. She immediately started activating the mechanism.

Unfortunately, although the illusion managed to fool Master for a while, it didn't work on people with mana sense. Both Long and Abasi were such people.

Abasi's flaming axe came at the queen who was busy activating the mechanism, but the attack was stopped by a prismatic shield. A lesser angel put herself between Abasi and the queen. This lesser angel was summoned by Bowler after he escaped the Wind God Blades.

The lesser angel threw her white flame blade, which chased after Abasi as he retreated.

Guzrim and Grombi cast their spells at Long who was running toward them. But their targeting spells were destroyed by Long's palms, while their AOE spells failed to hit Long because of his extreme speed and unusual movements.

Before they knew it, Long was already between them. His two palms struck the two natives on his left and right. The force generated from his palms threw the two away from the group.

Aldryth, who was in front of Long, cast a spell that conjured an ice spear. Long easily dodged the spear. He was just about to hit the princess when his mana sense caused him to forsake this attempt. He moved away just as a sword light slashed where he was before.

Long was about to rebound and attack the ambusher, but the sword that created the sword light suddenly changed direction. It split into multiple slashes that struck from different angles. Long was astonished by the abrupt changes, but he was still able to respond.

His hand parried all the incoming slashes. None of the slashes caused damage, but he was forced to retreat.

After retreating, he had a good look at his ambusher. It was a player, an old draconian in samurai armor holding a katana.

Chapter 1238: Escaping the Palace

"Arthur!" Aldryth exclaimed after seeing her rescuer.

Arthur left the wall when Jeanny led a team to stop Master's advance. But instead of following Jeanny, he rushed to the palace instead. He had very few friends. Princess Aldryth was one of the few he had. Hence, his primary concern was to make sure the princess was all right.

"Powerful swordplay," Long praised. He could judge from the exchange just now that Arthur was not any typical opponent.

"You are no less impressive. I never thought a young man such as you to have mastered the iron hand technique," Arthur returned.

The Iron Hand Technique was a martial art that focused the mana into the arms, turning them as hard as steel. A master of this technique could use his arms to block swords or blades without suffering harm. Battle Monk class gave the ability to parry using arms, but a parry would still result in diminished damage. With this technique, Long could parry without suffering any damage as long as the attack was not too powerful.

The wall shone after Frorryntiar activated the secret exit. A rectangular light portal appeared on the wall.

"Everyone, go through the exit!" The queen ordered. She didn't want to enter the portal before Aldryth.

"Come, princess!" Arthur pulled Aldryth's arm, leading her to the portal. Bowler followed.

Long chased after them but an illusory fence appeared between him and his quarry. It was an obstacle spell cast by Queen Frorryntiar.

"You people are testing my patience!" Master exclaimed.

While Long and Abasi engaged Frorryntiar's group. Master cast the combination spell, Flame Whip, to incapacitate Grombi, one of the draconian officers who had been sent away from the wall by Long. He then cast Telekinesis to the other draconian officer, Guzrim, holding him down.

"All of you will stay in this place!"

Pillar of earth erupted around Master. These pillars then merged into a large earth wyrm. This earth wyrm headed toward Frorryntiar.

Frorryntiar cast a spell that conjured a giant illusory sphere that encased the earth wyrm.

However, the earth wyrm proved to be much stronger than Frorryntiar thought. Her sphere ballooned as the earth wyrm inside stretched itself to pop the cage. Frorryntiar had to focus her willpower to keep the earth wyrm trapped.

After using the Earth Prison Wyrms, Master was already casting another spell. A mega spell.

His one hand that cast Telekinesis was still keeping Guzrim down. The telekinesis was a protracted spell that needed constant concentration as the spell lasted. As long as this spell was ongoing, the user couldn't cast another spell. But since Master could dual-cast with two staff. He kept the telekinesis active with one hand, while the other was casting the mega spell. The flame whip, which was cast with this other hand, was considered complete after the spell was cast. The flame whip would disappear by itself once its duration ran out.

Master's mega spell was completed. The tri-elemental dragons burst out of the spell formation and rushed to Frorryntiar who was still holding the earth wyrm with her illusory sphere.

"Mother, I'll help you!" Aldryth yelled.

Frorryntiar made a quick look around her. All her officers were killed except for Guzrim and Grombi who were currently incapacitated. The orc had beaten the lesser angel and was now running toward them. The draconian battle monk had moved around her illusory fence and was also coming at them. At the same time, three menacing eastern dragons made of fire, ice, and lightning were headed her way.

To top it off, she knew she couldn't let go of her sphere that was holding the earth wyrm. The second she did, that earth wyrm would imprison them all.

She made a split decision in that second.

She turned back at Aldryth and uttered, "I love you."

Her free hand formed a six-runes spell formation with incredible speed. The sphere she was using to encase the earth wyrm was also a protracted spell like telekinesis, but she was like Duke Alfredo. A native with an inherent talent for dual-casting.

Aldryth was confused by her mother's words at this critical time. She then felt her body getting pushed away when her mother's spell formation was completed.

Not only her. Arthur and Bowler who were readying themselves to engage Long and Abasi also felt their bodies getting pushed. Meanwhile, Long and Abasi who were advancing felt their body becoming heavy.

Aldryth, Arthur, and Bowler were pushed by an invisible force and their bodies flew to the portal at their back. They entered the shining portal and vanished.

The spell Frorryntiar cast was Telekinesis. A level 1 telekinesis only affected one target. Every five-levels-increase, the caster can affect an additional target. Frorryntiar's telekinesis was at max level, allowing her to affect five targets. The five targets she used her telekinesis on were Aldryth, Arthur, Bowler, Wong, and Abasi.

Once Aldryth and her two outworlder companions vanished into the portal. Frorryntiar heaved a relief. As she did, the three dragons struck her body. Her hold on the sphere was disrupted then. The earth wyrm was free and wrapped itself around her while she was still being assailed by three destructive elements.

Long and Abasi arrived at the wall and tried to go through the portal, but the portal rejected them. It only allowed access to those considered an ally to the palace ruler.

Frorryntiar, who was imprisoned by the earth wyrm, fell helplessly on the ground. Her HP bar had gone down quite a large chunk from Master's mega spell.

She looked defiantly as Master walked to her side. She hissed, "You won't get complete control over this country."

Master snickered and said, "You sacrifice yourself to let your daughter go. Although I can't understand it, I must be thankful for your sentimental act. You would have troubled me more if you leave your daughter behind and flee into the portal when you have the chance."

"Someone like you who cannot understand a connection with others will live a pitiful life," Frorryntiar said.

Master pointed her magic staff at the queen. While a spell formation was forming, he said, "A God needs no such connection."

Chapter 1239: The Fall of Messephyria

Aldryth, Arthur, and Bowler were thrown out of the other side of the portal. They landed on the ground and found that they were outdoors. They saw in the distance, the capital where they were in a moment ago. Messephyria was burning as the battle now mostly took place inside the city.

Aldryth ran to the rock wall where they came out from. No sign of a portal was there. She hit on the rock wall.

"No! Mother...," her voice was weak. It was close to weeping.

"It appears the secret exit only works one-way," Bowler said.

Arthur came to Aldryth and consoled her, "Princess, please be strong. Your mother wants you to live."

"Sir Arthur, we need to go back!" Aldryth pleaded.

Arthur shook his head. "Doing that will waste your mother's sacrifice."

"She might still live!" Aldryth insisted.

Arthur just sighed in response.

"Your Highness, the enemies planned to conquer Hydrurond. Killing your mother and destroying the throne are their objectives," Bowler said. "There is no reason for them to spare her."

Aldryth looked down in grief. She knew that was the truth. She knew she was just wishing for empty hope.

Seeing Aldryth had slightly cooled down, Bowler said, "We should leave. Once the throne is destroyed, the lower rank soldiers might switch sides. We will be in trouble if we stay close to the capital."

"That won't happen," Aldryth said. She stood up. Her face was now back to her usual determined expression.

"How do you mean?" Bowler asked. "I thought that was what happened when someone takes over the sovereign role?"

"It is if the previous sovereign has no more heirs, but I'm still here," Aldryth said. She took out a communication stone. The stone had a shorter range compared to the message transmission device that natives normally used, and it could only transmit messages to a corresponding recipient stone.

This stone was given to her by Frorryntiar when they were on their way to the secret exit. The communication stone it responded to was one held by the main general of the defending army, Dytess, who was also one of the lord dominators.

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Inside Messephyria, both armies were still fiercely in battle.

Most of the zombie army, Liguritudum army, and Aurebor army, had breached the city from the opened gap in the wall. The battle was complete chaos without any semblance of formation.

Jeanny and the others tried to chase after Master to the palace, but the enemies were too many. The enemy army had now switched roles and blocked them from going toward the palace.

Jeanny was frustrated. The battle situation didn't look good.

To make matters worse, she heard another bad news.

"Oh, no!" Pagram, the native Hydrurond's commander, exclaimed.

"What's wrong?" Jeanny asked.

"The enemies have entered the throne room," Pagram answered. "They are currently attacking the throne. We won't be able to make it..."

"Shit...!" Jeanny cursed. The fact that the enemies were attacking the throne room was most likely that they had killed the queen.

'This is bad,' Jeanny thought. If the world system acknowledged Master as this country's new sovereign, the army would be under his control. Jeanny didn't worry about officers like Pagram. These high-ranked natives had better free will. They won't submit to the invader's authority, but the lower-ranked soldiers were another matter.

She might need to call her guild members to retreat while they still could.

Before that, she sent a message to Bowler who was supposed to be with the queen, to make sure of the queen's fate.

Bowler, who had just escaped via the secret exit, reported the news to her. Jeanny was down when she heard that Queen Frorryntiar failed to escape. However, Bowler assured her that the army won't switch sides when the throne was destroyed.

Even so, the battle was lost. Bowler told her to start retreating. Princess Aldryth was at the moment also requesting the Hydrurond army to flee from the capital. He sent her their current coordinates.

Jeanny heard a horn then. She saw the army change their movements.

"It's the retreat command!" Pagram informed Jeanny.

Jeanny was also sending instructions to her guild members to retreat. She also sent the info to Megan who was organizing the other Hydrurond players. Most Hydrurond players would stop resisting the enemy army once Master destroyed the throne. The players would not receive any more war contribution points because the war would be considered ended by then.

Hydrurond's army retreated to the southeastern side, which was where the princess was located outside the capital. The gates were opened and the army trickled out under the harassment from the enemy.

During this time, the notification they most dreaded was heard. The enemy had killed the sovereign and the throne was destroyed. The Liguritutum ruler now held dominion over Hydrurond. Master could rule this country directly or appoint a puppet monarch in his stead.

Hydrurond's losing army continued to retreat. Their number was culled in a short time in one night. They retreated with 900,000 soldiers.

Furthermore, they lost another lord dominator during the battle. Balzrim covered the others during the retreat, sacrificing himself to hold the opponents from killing more soldiers.

Only one lord dominator remained, Dytess. She was the main general who oversaw the remnant of the Hydrurond army.

Liguritutum and Aurebor's armies slowed their chase after Hydrurond's army left the capital. Most of their casualties were suffered by the zombie army, who forced themselves on the defending army at the start of the battle. The zombie army was reduced to 600,000. All these fallen zombie soldiers could no longer be revived.

As for the live army, both Liguritutum and Aurebor only lost a little. Liguritutum still had 1,000,000 soldiers, While Aurebor's army was 1,200,000 strong.

Although these two native armies suffered little loss, World Maker and World Ruler still paid a steep price to win this battle. The guild siege weapons would be gone after this battle even if they were not destroyed. The remaining zombie soldiers revived by the Necronomicon would also die once the Army of Darkness' effect ended.

Even so, no one would have expected the Hydrurond capital, Messephyria, to fall from a battle in a span of only one night.

Chapter 1240: Puppet Sovereign

BAM!

Master slammed his fist onto the armrest of the throne. He was currently sitting on the throne inside Hydrurond's throne room. The throne had just been reformed after it was destroyed. Master was acknowledged by the world system as its sovereign and this country was now Liguritudum's vassal state.

However, when he checked the military overview in the monarch system, the army count was zero. None of Hydrurond's soldiers were available for his command.

This was completely different from his plan. The plan was to use the zombie army and guild siege weapons to overwhelm the capital. Once he gained control of this country's monarch system, he expected the low-ranked soldiers to be under his control. In that way, he could add these captured soldiers to his original army. He would then revive the dead soldiers from the battle in this capital, further bolstering his army size.

With this method, they will have enough army to continue the expansion without a need to recuperate. They could continue repeating this approach against the next country they invaded until they completely conquered the whole world.

But this unexpected situation put his entire plan to a halt.

Long was standing beside the throne. He was sneering, but he made sure Master didn't see it. It was rare to see this arrogant person being frustrated. He enjoyed the sight, but he also knew that it was dangerous to tease Master when he was in this state.

Linda sent Master a message at this time, "Haven't you already destroyed the throne? Why is the Hydrurond army continued to put their distance from us? Or did you send them to eradicate the fleeing enemy players?"

"No... I don't have control over the Hydrurond's army," Master answered.

"What?! This jeopardizes our entire plan... What could be the reason? Does this happen because you are already a sovereign of a different country? We should have used one of our draconian guild members to destroy the throne then."

Master was irked. This monarch system was indeed alien to him. He didn't learn anything about this system when he studied the second world game program.

"I think there is another reason...," Master said. He had been checking the other functions of the system.

The Officer Overview was empty. None of the Hydrurond officers accepted his rule. When he became Liguritudum's ruler, some still stayed even when they were dissatisfied with the way he took the throne.

In the City Overview, some settlements were not under his control. All villages and towns submitted to his authority, but around a quarter of the cities and metropolises were designated as rebel settlements.

A pop-up information box informed him that he had to send a force to take down these settlements to reintegrate them into the country's management.

After seeing all this, he suddenly remembered what Frorryntiar said before he killed her.

"Can it be...," A revelation came to him.

He activated the map of the monarch system. He could see the movement of the remnant of the Hydrurond army. Their retreat was too organized for a leaderless army.

He sent a message to Linda, "Chase after the fleeing Hydrurond army!"

"Any reason for that?" Linda asked.

"It's the princess. After helping her daughter escape, Frorryntiar said I won't be able to take full control of this country. I didn't think much about it then. Now I understand. The monarch system gives me rulership after I take the throne by force. But as long as there is an heir, the previous administration will follow the heir as a rebel force."

"I see... It's a pity we didn't know about this rule beforehand. Okay, I will send a chase command."

"Send only the zombie army. They will still die after a few more hours. Even if you can't get the princess, kill as many of the Hydrurond soldiers as possible so I have more numbers to revive using the Necronomicon. Order the live army to take control of this capital and reestablish order."

"I understand," Linda replied.

Master continued checking the monarch system while Linda carried out his order. He went back to the Officer Overview section. In this section, there was an extra portrait above the chief advisor. That portrait was titled Puppet Sovereign.

After giving the matter a thought, he sent a message to Gridhacker, "Gridhacker, I will appoint you as the puppet sovereign of the Hydrurond country."

"I'm honored for your trust, my lord," Gridhacker replied.

"Honor me by not disappointing me," Master returned. He then interfaced with the monarch system and entered Gridhacker into the empty portrait. Gridhacker could now use the monarch system of this country in his stead.

He would let Gridhacker fill up the rest of the portraits, but then he saw the two draconians that were bound by runic ropes in front of him. They were Guzrim and Grombi.

He said to them, "Do the two of you want to live?"

The two were silent, but Master could see a difference between their expressions. Grombi showed defiance, while Guzrim showed fear.

"If you bow to me and swear fealty, I will let you live," Master said.

Grombi spat, "I would rather die than stoop that low!"

"As you wish." Master had expected the response. He cast two spells in a row. Flight and Telekinesis. He flew up and then used the telekinesis to pull Grombi toward him. He then used Wind God Rage.

Grombi was not in a good condition to start with. The divine skill shredded his body to pieces.

Master floated back down to his throne. He then asked Guzrim, "Do you wish to join him?"

Guzrim replied with a trembling voice, "I... I... submit..."

"Good," Master said. He then entered Guzrim into the chief advisor portrait. With a previous officer giving councils, it should help Gridhacker to do a better job ruling this country.

Not long after that, he heard a familiar roar.

"The immortal prison has run out of duration, eh?" He muttered.

The lord of dragons would be extremely displeased seeing the changes after he was freed. Master had no doubt Eoranth would come at him, but he did not worry.