

World 1301

Chapter 1301: The Game Begins

When the flash of light happened, they had to close their eyes due to the brightness. When they opened their eyes again, they found that they were outdoors on a stadium-sized race track.

The first thing Jack did was look at himself. He was still wearing the ragged shirt and pants except no more chains were binding him. He tried accessing his inventory and took things out. He could not. He also still couldn't use any of his skills or spells.

Master did the same. Except he tried casting his spells first, intending to cast an offensive spell on Jack. He was disheartened to find that he was unable to do so.

Jack looked around. The place looked like an ordinary race track with spectator seats at one side. No one was in those seats. As for the other side, everything was void.

'Where are the other three teams?' Jack wondered. There were only ten of them here. The same people as when they were locked in the dungeon.

Another flash of light and an elven woman of celestial beauty appeared before them. She was smiling and had a friendly expression. Yet, Jack felt her eyes look somewhat hollow.

"Hi, everyone. Thank you for participating in our games," The woman greeted. "I'm your host, Aglea. I will oversee this game and give you the instruction on each round."

"Aglea? You are one of the divine priestesses of this faction!" Jack exclaimed. "I've come to meet you. I'm here as a representative of Hope. We need to speak. I've come to warn—"

Aglea stared at Jack with her smiling face. She lifted her hand and pointed at Jack. Jack's lips suddenly glued together. He was unable to speak.

"Mmhh..." Jack tried exerting full force to open his mouth, but they were like being held by a clamp.

'Hm... I've to learn that trick,' Master thought to himself.

"I'm sorry, participant. You are not allowed to speak while I'm explaining," Aglea said. "This is a soft warning. The next one to interrupt me will receive a more severe punishment. There will be a questions and answers session, so please stay quiet until then. Now, back to my explanation. The game will consist of several matches before they culminate in an end match. This will be the first match, the track running match!"

The sounds of gongs and cheers were heard. Everyone looked around, wondering where those sounds and cheers came from.

"You will start from this starting line and run one round. When you get back to this line, you will complete this match," Aglea said. "Simple, right? Now, are there any questions before we begin having fun?"

"So, all we need to do is just run this track?" Stefan asked.

"Uh-huh," Aglea nodded.

"What's our prize for winning? Do we get our freedom?" Naomi asked.

"No. This match is not about who wins the first place. It is about who has the last place," Aglea answered.

"What do you mean?" Richard asked.

"The participant who has the last place will be nominated as a sacrifice."

"Sa... Sacrifice...? What do you mean by that?" Kramer asked.

"You will find out once this match ends," Aglea said. "Any other question?"

"Mmm...! Mmh...!!" Jack tried to open his mouth, but his lips were still locked. He had some questions of his own.

Aglea acted like she didn't see Jack. She continued looking around for the others to ask their questions.

"Where are the other teams? Your colleague mentioned there are four teams," Master asked. This was one of the questions Jack wanted to ask.

"You will meet the other teams at the end match, considering that you survive until then," Aglea answered. "Every match before the end match will serve to choose a sacrifice. When you get to the end match, the more participants you still have in your team, the better your chance is against the other teams."

"Wait! If every match chooses a sacrifice, won't the end match have a fixed reduction in the number of participants?" Richard asked.

"Will we be freed if we win the end match?" Naomi asked.

"Questioning session is over. Everyone, please take your positions," Aglea uttered without answering those questions. She moved to the side of the track where the starting line was.

The others looked at each other in confusion. Aglea stared back at them with a beckoning motion. She was still smiling. Her expression never changed since she first appeared. Rather than a face, it was more like a mask.

Master went and took a position before the starting line.

Jack came beside him. "Mmm... Mmm..."

He was still unable to speak. He pointed at his lips in protest while looking at Aglea. Aglea again acted like she didn't see him.

The others came to the starting line one by one.

"Ready?" Aglea asked when everyone was in position.

Everyone took a pose. Some bent down and imitated the starting pose of professional athletes before they run. Some simply readied themselves in a standing position, like common people who were about to run.

Jack jumped a few times and ran in place.

'All my skills are locked, but my attributes still work normally,' Jack thought. In this case. He and Master who had multi-classes should have the fastest running speed.

"Get set... GO...!!" Aglea shouted.

At the same time that she said, Go, the sound of a gunshot was heard. No one had the time to wonder where that sound came from. Everyone dashed off running. No one wanted to be the last. No one questioned what it meant for being a sacrifice.

As expected, Jack and Master led the race by a huge margin. Despite Master having more classes than Jack, Jack was still faster. All his classes gave a huge boost to dexterity, after all.

Jack half expected this match to be something more than a simple track running. He kept expecting monsters or some obstacles to appear on the track as he ran, but no such thing happened.

Jack was the first to arrive back where they started without any suspense.

He lifted his hand in victory and then made a motion to Aglea, who was still standing there, by pointing at his mouth. He figured since he was the first, he had the right for a prize to be allowed to speak. Yet, Aglea continued to ignore him.

Jack started to worry. Would he be denied speaking throughout this entire game?

Chapter 1302: The Sacrificial Round

Master arrived second. If he was upset that he lost to Jack, he didn't show it. The others came one by one.

Some that reached the finish line wore confused expressions. Were they locked all this time just for a simple running match?

By now, the one who should arrive last was almost clear. It was amongst three people. Richard, Dina, or the native Glover.

Both Richard and Dina had the magic class so they had the least dexterity. Among the two, Dina seemed to be doing better. She was a bit ahead of Richard and Glover.

Richard and Glover were running at neighboring lanes. They could practically touch each other while running side by side, both competing on not being the last. They kept on glancing at one another. Glover's face showed a panicky expression. He didn't want to be the sacrifice.

His hands suddenly grabbed Richard. Richard and the others who watched were taken by surprise by Glover's action. The old orc didn't stop there. Glover's leg came to Richard's running legs. Richard lost his balance due to this and stumbled over.

Glover let go of Richard when he was down and ran forward leaving him behind.

"What the... That's a foul...!" Stefan shouted. He turned to Aglea and demanded, "That orc should be disqualified!"

Aglea who was also watching the incident, turned to Stefan with her unchanging smile and asked, "Disqualified? Why?"

"He... He broke the rules...," Stefan said.

"What rules?" Aglea asked back. "I never said you are not allowed to touch your competitors."

Stefan was dumbstruck by Aglea's words.

Aglea turned her attention back to the race as if nothing weird had happened.

Dina arrived first among the last three racers. Glover was next. Richard arrived later after getting up and resumed running. When he arrived, he was understandably furious.

"You cheating piece of sh*t...!!!" He scolded while lunging at Glover.

Glover expected the aggression. His two arms grabbed Richard's incoming arms. Since the two couldn't use skills nor were they martial artists, they simply wrestled with strength.

"Damn, you! You, mother*fcker!!" Richard continued cursing while he tried to overpower Glover.

Glover cursed back. "Screw you! You will just come back to life again. Do you think it is the same for me? I will die for real...!"

The others just watched the tussling without interfering. They did think Glover had cheated, but they also empathize with Glover's fear of permanent death. Except for Richard's friend, Stefan, who went and helped Richard by hitting Glover using his fists.

'Hey, leader. Aren't you going to do something?' Jack asked Master by doing gestures.

Master just glanced at Jack but otherwise remained silent. It was unsure if he just didn't care or if he didn't understand Jack's weird gestures.

Since Master didn't want to do anything, Jack was about to take action to separate the three. But a flash of light enveloped Richard and he was gone. Glover's hands that were grabbing Richard a moment ago froze in the air. Stefan, who was beside him, similarly stopped punching Glover. They were all surprised by the sudden disappearance of Richard.

"You... You kill him!" Stefan yelled at Glover. Since they couldn't use equipment, Richard couldn't wear the amulet of rebirth. If he died, he would lose everything and return to level 1.

Stefan resumed hitting Glover. Now that Glover's hands were free, he punched back. The two brawled like they were in a bar fight.

"Richard is not dead... yet," Aglea said, which stopped the two.

"No? But you said... He is the sacrifice," Stefan said.

"He is," Aglea answered. "There is a sacrificial round after a match. This will decide whether the sacrifice will die or if they can be saved to join the next match. We will now proceed to the sacrificial round."

Once she finished speaking, the world around them changed. Everything appeared to be reshuffled into something else. Before they knew it, the chaos around them stopped and they found themselves indoors again, but not in the dungeon where they used to be chained.

It was still a dungeon. It was an underground room filled with contraptions. At the center of that room, hanging from the ceiling was Richard. His hands were bound by a chain that was attached to some kind of a mechanism on the ceiling. His two legs were also bound together. He had a frightened face.

"Everyone, help me!" He shouted when he saw the others. He wanted to say more but his mouth was suddenly clamped shut. He was unable to speak, the same as Jack.

"Sorry, I want to say something, so everybody please refrain from speaking," Aglea had also appeared in this room.

She floated to Richard's side and announced, "Welcome to the sacrificial round! Where we have the second most fun part of this game. The most fun part is, of course, the end match. But I assure you all that you will enjoy this round no less. Now, let me explain the rules."

She pointed to Richard and said, "This is the sacrifice. You have ten minutes to free him from his binding. He will be slowly lowered during these ten minutes. After that, he will enter the pond below. Any questions?"

Everyone turned their attention to the large hole below Richard. They came closer and saw the inside of the hole was filled with lava. If Richard dropped into this so-called pond, he was a goner.

"How do we save Richard?" Stefan asked.

"That is for you to figure out," Aglea answered. "It's more fun this way, isn't it?"

"This is fun? This is torture porn shit!" Stefan exclaimed.

"If he dies, where will he revive?" Master asked. He didn't see any rune diagram in this room. He didn't care if Richard died, but if dying brought them out of this place, that could be an option for escape. He had the Immortal Soul so he didn't need the amulet of rebirth. The question was whether that skill could bypass the restriction of this dimension.

"In our nursery hall, of course. Where we will nurse him back to a suitable level so he can join the fun again," Aglea answered.

The players were dejected hearing that. This means even in death, there was no escape.

"What if it is a native who is sacrificed?" Kerry, the ethereal native, asked. "Will we get revived as well?"

"No," Aglea answered flatly. She then announced, "Okay, let the fun begin!"

The moment she made the announcement, the mechanism above the ceiling made a creaking sound and the chain that was binding Richard started to lower.

Chapter 1303: Lava Worms

"There is too little information! At least give us some clues!" Stefan yelled.

Yet, there was no one in the direction he was yelling at. He looked around. Aglea had already gone from this place. They were left to deal with this round alone.

"Damn it!" Stefan cursed. He then said to Naomi, "Hold my hand!"

Naomi complied. Stefan leaned forward by the edge of the hole. His arm stretched forward to grab Richard. Naomi held his other arms and kept him from falling into the lava pool.

The hole in the floor was large but if Stefan could lean forward enough then he should be able to grab Richard. He could then pull Richard to safety instead of letting Richard fall into the pool as the chain lowered him.

Jack, who saw what Stefan was trying to do, tried jumping. If he could do his super jump, he should be able to grab Richard. He couldn't. His jump was a simple regular human jump. This place had also locked away their passive abilities.

So, Jack came forward and helped in another way. He helped Naomi hold Stefan, allowing Stefan to lean at a lower angle and thus covered further distance.

"Yes, I should be able to reach him once he is lowered enough," Stefan said.

Richard's position was still high at the moment. Because Stefan was leaning low, he needed to wait until the chain lowered Richard enough for him to grab Richard's feet.

"Don't let go," Stefan told Naomi and Jack.

"Don't worry. We got you!" Naomi replied. Jack could only nod since he couldn't speak.

While waiting, Stefan looked at the lava below. He could feel the heat. Since he was hanging on top of the lava, he felt as if he was being roasted. But he endured. This discomfort would not stop him from saving his friend.

While his eyes were on the lava, he saw movements. He thought he imagined it at first. Then, something that looked like the back of a snake swam across the surface of the lava.

"What the...," Stefan muttered.

A round thing emerged. Stefan at first had no idea what that was. It then wiggled around. Stefan knew then that whatever it was, it was alive. Then, the center part of that round thing opened up. Inside the opening, Stefan saw that it was filled with numerous sharp teeth.

The thing then disappeared into the lava again.

When Stefan was still trying to make sense of what he had just seen, the lava burst, and those sharp teeth he had seen a moment before were now right in front of his eyes. He then felt extreme pain in his face.

"Pull me up! Pull me up!" Stefan screamed frantically. He now also felt pain from his other body parts.

The others, who were watching, saw numerous snake-like creatures jump out of the lava pond and bit Stefan. Jack failed to detect the existence of those creatures inside the lava because the lava itself was full of mana. The mana from the lava pond obscured the creatures inside. Hence, Jack was only aware of these snakes at the same time as the others when they jumped out from the lava.

Damage numbers came up above Stefan as he was bitten. Jack and Naomi hurriedly pulled him away from the pond.

Some of the snakes fell back into the lava as Stefan was being pulled away. Some remained on his body, biting ferociously, not letting go.

"Ahh...! Get them off! Get them off...!" Stefan screamed.

Jack accumulated mana onto his arms and slashed them as if they were swords. The impact damaged the snakes and forced them to let go of Stefan. The snakes fell onto the ground and slithered their way back to the lava pond.

Some of the parts bitten by the snakes were burning. Damage numbers were still appearing above Stefan's head. His HP bar had lowered to half.

"Put them off! Put them off...!" Stefan yelled in panic.

'Those were lava worms,' Jack heard Peniel's voice. 'Their bites have a chance to cause burn effect, but the effect doesn't last long.'

Jack couldn't speak, so he couldn't convey the message. He could only make gestures to Stefan to calm him down.

"Quit your yelping!" Master scolded. "Those were just lava worms. Their burn effect didn't last long. You won't die."

Jack glared at Master. He wanted to say, 'Come on, dude. The guy is in pain.'

The others were crowding at the hole's edge. Now that they knew there were lava worms inside, they could better see the creatures. These lava worms swam to the surface once in a while. They saw a lot of them. The whole pond was filled with them.

"Good lord... You would think the lava is enough. Do they have to add those things? This is simply overkill," Winson remarked.

The flames around Stefan's bite wounds soon died down. Stefan was able to calm down once that happened.

"What should we do now?" Naomi asked.

Jack was still unable to say anything. He slumped his shoulders.

"You know martial arts?" Dina asked Jack.

Jack answered with a nod.

"I came with someone who was also a martial artist. Unfortunately, we got separated once we entered the mist. I never see him again. I wonder if he was also trapped here."

Jack made some hand signals to tell her that he also came here with a companion and got separated. He wanted to tell her not to worry. Their friends must be on the other teams. They could see their friends again once they got to the end match.

Jack didn't use proper sign language because he didn't know any. He simply flailed his arms around and hoped to God that the other side understood. This, of course, just confused the hell out of Dina.

"Can you maybe use your martial arts to deal with those worms while Stefan tries to grab Richard again?" Naomi asked Jack.

"I am not hanging over that lava again!!" Stefan shouted. He wanted to save Richard, but he had been traumatized by what just happened.

Nobody blamed him. When everyone was looking around for a volunteer, Glover came forward.

"I will do it...," Glover said.

When he saw how the others looked at him, he explained, "He is in this situation because of me. I was afraid, but I never meant him any harm. If it is possible to save him, I would like to do so."

"All right, let's do this!" Naomi exclaimed.

"Just... Don't drop me!" Glover said to Naomi.

"Don't worry, I have confidence in my strength. I won't release my hold," Naomi assured him.

Glover turned to Jack. "You truly are good?" He asked.

Jack nodded.

"Don't let any of those things bite me!"

Jack nodded again.

Chapter 1304: Rigged

While they were getting into position, they heard several clanking sounds. They turned back and saw Master was rummaging at the corner.

"What are you doing?" Naomi asked.

The place was full of unknown contraptions, with devices that seemed a bit too modern for their current world.

They heard a tug. They turned and saw that Master was yanking at something. A loud popping sound and in Master's hand was a pipe. He did that a few times until he had six pipes with irregular lengths. He threw the pipes onto the ground.

"Here," he said. "Use those pipes to fend off those worms. That fool won't be able to do it alone."

'Can you please stop with the fool word?' Jack wanted to say. He picked up two pipes.

Dina, Kramer, Kerry, and Winson picked up the rest. They then took position around the hole. Jack stood closest to where Glover was.

"Ready?" Naomi asked. He was holding to Glover who stood by the hole's edge.

Stefan had come to her side. He was still scared, but he should be able to help if it was just helping Naomi hold on to Glover.

"Wait," They heard Master say. "That sacrifice is still out of reach. It is pointless to try grabbing him now. You will just waste your energy fending off the lava worms. Wait until he is lower."

They thought it made sense, so they wait.

While waiting, Stefan said to Master, "Why don't you go pick up another pipe and come help? It's better than just standing there doing nothing."

"I'm not doing nothing," Master said. He was surveying the room. "Just do what you are told. I will give you the next instruction when it's time."

"The hell, man...," Stefan didn't like the way Master talked.

"Well, he is the leader," Naomi said.

"I never agree to that! It's this guy who said he is the leader," Stefan pointed at Jack.

Jack just shrugged. He had expected Master's attitude would be a problem.

"Hey, you think he is lower enough?" Kramer asked. More than five minutes had passed. Richard had been lowered halfway.

"I can probably grab him now," Glover said.

"Okay. Get ready, everyone!" Naomi called.

Everybody nodded.

Glover took a deep breath before leaning forward. Once he was lowered enough, the lava pond became restless. Some lava worms burst out and flew at Glover who was hanging above their territory. Glover instinctively closed his eyes when these lava worms came at him.

Several flashes of light crisscrossed the space below Glover. The lava worms that were about to touch Glover were smacked back into the pond, accompanied by damage numbers.

Those flashes were Jack using the pipes to perform the burst attack of his sword art. The damage number he produced was small, though. The pipes weren't a proper weapon. They didn't have a weapon's damage stat. Hence, after falling back into the lava pond, the lava worms swam back to the surface and jumped out again for another try.

As time passed, more and more lava worms burst out of the lava. There were too many of them that Jack had trouble trying to stop them all.

Luckily, he was not alone. The four with the pipes joined in by swinging their pipes at the lava worms.

As the intensity of the lava worms' attacks increased, a few managed to pass through the net of attacks and bit Glover. He yelled from the pain, but these worms were immediately slashed by Jack.

It's a good thing natives had a high HP pool. Glover was also a special elite grade and was level 61, so his HP was rather high. He didn't worry about his life from those few bites. Even so, these bites caused him trouble concentrating. His hand tried to reach Richard who was now in range, but he kept on missing. His fingers nudged Richard's hanging leg but were unable to get a firm grab.

Richard also tried to move his legs toward Glover but he was in a panic, so he wasn't of big help. It just increased the difficulty for Glover to grab him due to his constant movements.

"Richard! Stop flailing your legs!" Stefan yelled. Richard calmed down a bit after the yell.

"Raarggghh...," Glover roared as he focused his mind to ignore the pain from the lava worms' bites.

He forced his hand to become steady and finally managed to clamp the fabric of Richard's pants using his two fingers. He then slowly pulled Richard toward him by exerting his entire strength on his two fingers. Richard also pushed his legs in the direction of Glover's pull.

When Richard's legs were pulled far enough, Glover let go of this finger clamp and quickly grabbed Richard's leg with a full hand.

"Got him!" Glover shouted triumphantly.

"Now, pull!" Naomi instructed.

She and Stefan pulled Glover's body, which in turn pulled Richard. Jack and the others doubled their effort repelling the lava worms so nothing ruined this moment when they almost succeeded.

Richard's body was pulled to a diagonal angle. He was now tethering between Glover's pull and the chain from above. As the chain lowered, Richard's body could be pulled further to safety.

"Yeah!" Kramer shouted triumphantly. Fewer and fewer lava worms jumped out of the pond because Glover was now almost back to the side of the hole.

Suddenly, the chain that was binding Richard's arms snapped.

This was so unexpected that everyone failed to react. Glover was only holding Richard's leg with one hand. When the chain snapped, Richard was suddenly falling and Glover was unable to hold Richard's full weight. His grab slipped, and Richard fell straight into the lava pond.

Everyone heard Richard as he fell in screaming with a closed mouth. They could still see him for a second on the lava surface before the lava worms swarmed out and covered his body. They then dragged his body down into the lava.

Everyone watched the pond in disbelief, unsure of what to do.

While everyone had been shocked into silence, they heard Master's words. "As expected, this game is rigged."

Chapter 1305: Different Ideologies

Everyone's eyes were still glued to the lava pond which was still surging around. They had no problem imagining the lava worms having a feast below the surface. It took the others a few whiles before they could respond to Master's words.

"Ri... Rigged...? What do you mean by rigged...?" Naomi asked.

"This round only has one answer. We have to solve the puzzle in this room in a predetermined method," Master answered. "Anyone trying to free the captive in a way outside this method, the captive will get sacrificed early."

The ten minutes deadline wasn't completed yet when the chain broke.

"What predetermined method? There is no one telling us any method at all!" Stefan exclaimed.

"Are you a baby? Do you have to be spoon-fed everything? Open your eyes and find the clues yourself!" Master rebuked. He then pointed at one of the contraptions on one side of the room. "That lever there. Turning it should start something. It should trigger a chain reaction to that point, then that, and that."

Master continued pointing at multiple spots. "We need to do something to the gadgets there. Probably even hitting them. If we complete the sequence properly, we can then save the sacrifice."

"What's the point, we have already failed," Naomi said gloomily.

"Mm... Mm... Mm...," Jack wanted to say something but can't.

"Wait, you already know this while we try to save Richard but you didn't tell us?" Stefan asked.

Jack pointed at Stefan with approving eyes. That was what he wanted to say.

"We need to find out how this place works. That sacrifice serves a perfect function to test my hypothesis," Master answered.

"Mm... Mmm... Mmhh...!!" Jack mumbled. He was very dejected to be unable to speak.

It took a while before Master's words dawned on Stefan. His face turned dark and he lunged at Master.

"You, piece of sh*t! You used my friend just to prove your guess...?!"

Jack again looked at Stefan with appreciation. Stefan's words were less flowery, but those were more or less what he wanted to say.

Master wasn't surprised by Stefan's advance. He had even expected it. His one hand shot out and grabbed Stefan's throat. Stefan wasn't even aware until Master's hand was already on his neck. With the stats from his five classes, his speed couldn't be compared to Stefan's, and so was his strength.

Master was currently applying pressure to his choke. Stefan tried to break free but Master's hand was like steel. He couldn't pry open even a single finger.

Another hand came and grabbed Master's wrist. The pressure from this hand slowly forced Master to release his clutch. Stefan hurriedly moved away once he was freed, coughing while he did. Once he was at a safe distance, he had a good look at the one who came to his rescue. It was Jack.

"Hmph! What are you going to do, mute king?" Master asked with a mocking tone.

Jack responded by sending an abrupt punch into Master's chest. Master flew back and hit the wall.

"Hm...?" Something puzzled Jack.

Master didn't fall despite being hit by such a strong punch. He rebounded off the wall and landed on two feet. If he felt any pain, he didn't show it.

Aglea's voice interrupted them. "Congratulation! The sacrifice dies! Isn't that fun? Hm...? What is this, are you people having a conflict among your own? You shouldn't be too hasty. You should save it for later, you know."

She just materialized beside the hole out of nowhere. Those who still stayed near the hole were startled till they fell. Luckily, they didn't fall in the direction of the hole.

"Today's match has ended. We will continue tomorrow," Aglea informed.

The room shuffled again. Before they knew it, they were back at the dungeon before the match, with chains bounding them.

"Rest. We will have fun again tomorrow," the vine face told them from above. Now that they had heard Aglea's voice, they noticed this vine face's voice was Aglea's but slightly distorted.

"Mmh! Mmhh...!!" Jack tried to call.

This time, the vine face or Aglea didn't ignore him.

"Do you promise to not interrupt me again?" Aglea asked.

Jack nodded profusely.

"Good boy," Aglea said.

Jack felt his lips part. He uttered something. "Yes!" He exclaimed. It was truly torturing for him not to speak.

Aglea vanished. The vines returned to their dormant state. The captives were now alone again in the same dungeon as before but with one fewer person.

Stefan was staring at Master with enmity.

Master snickered at the display. He taunted, "You, lowly people, can only blame others. If everything is left to you, everyone will die in every sacrificial round. It is because of the first sacrifice that we can now have better success chance in the next round."

"Are you trying to explain yourself?" Jack asked. In his heart, he felt so good to be able to talk again.

"Why do I need to explain?" Master scoffed. "This is what a leader does! I make the hard decision to sacrifice one person for the sake of more. The same way a ruler sends scouts during wartime. Even with the knowledge that some of these scouts will be most likely killed. It is worth it as long as a few returns with valuable information."

"Speak for yourself!" Jack spat. "A leader who doesn't care about his followers won't get far! All you care about is just yourself. For the sake of more, my ass! You just care for yourself and your ego! Everyone who follows you is just doing it out of fear. You will quickly find that you are alone when you lose your strength!"

"Haha. So, do you think being compassionate makes you a better leader? You are weak! That's what you are," Master returned. "I'm grateful you are a merciful leader because then, I will have an easier time crushing you and your pathetic country!"

"Come here then! Do you want me to punch you again?" Jack pulled at his chain.

Master was no longer sitting beside Jack. Master had changed places with Kramer, so Stefan and Kramer were now by Jack's side. Aglea probably did so because Jack and Master fought when she returned to the sacrificial round.

"Hmph! I have no time to waste on you," Master said and turned away. He no longer spared Jack a look.

"Just so you know. If you become the sacrifice, I will happily let you die," Jack said.

"The feeling is mutual," Master replied without turning back.

The others were both confused and fascinated by the two. It seemed the two had quite a history between them. They didn't understand most of the things the two talked about. They just knew the two had very different ideologies.

Chapter 1306: Network of Worlds

Seeing that Jack treated Master as a sworn enemy, Stefan felt a kinship with Jack. He said, "Brother. If you need my help dealing with him, I'm ready."

"See? I've already got a friend and you instead get an enemy," Jack said to Master.

"Hmph. Like I give a damn about a weakling. I don't give a shit even if one thousand such weaklings become my enemies," Master said.

Stefan's face was red from such an insult.

"Don't worry. I will kick his butt for you one day," Jack said to Stefan, then he added, "By the way, since we are now brothers. Do you mind helping me with something?"

"Anything, brother," Stefan said.

Jack nodded. "It will hurt, though," he warned.

"I'm not afraid of trouble if it is for a friend," Stefan announced. "Tell me what you need. If it is within my power, I will gladly do it. What do you need me to do?"

"Oh, I don't need you to do anything much. Just lean closer," Jack said.

"Closer...? What for?" Stefan was confused, but he complied. He came closer to Jack. He thought perhaps Jack wanted to whisper some secrets to him. Since they couldn't use messages, they needed this old-fashioned way of sharing secrets.

While he was expecting Jack to lean his head closer to his, it was Jack's hand that came. Jack's hand slapped Stefan's cheek hard.

"Ouch...!! What the f*ck was that for...?!" Stefan screamed.

"I'm sorry! I just want to test something," Jack said.

"What the hell are you testing by hitting me?" Stefan asked.

"You don't have a damage number appearing," Jack answered.

"Of course, I don't. You don't have a weapon equipped!" Stefan said.

"No, you don't understand. Some of us martial artists have an ability called mana manipulation. With this ability, we can cause damage even if we don't use any weapon. I used this ability just now, but it didn't cause you any damage."

"So, what does that mean, my king?" Kramer asked from Jack's other side.

"You are still on with that 'my king' shit? Didn't I tell you no way he is your king?" Stefan said to Kramer. Kramer paid him no mind.

"This means the rules of this constructed world prevent members of the same team from hurting one another," Jack answered. "I bet even if we have weapons equipped, we still won't be able to hurt each other."

Which was a pity, Jack thought. Earlier, when he sent Master flying to the wall, he was ready to continue his assault. Master had proven to be someone he couldn't tolerate. He wanted to take Master out now that Master was vulnerable, but it seemed that option was out of the window. He couldn't kill Master even if he wanted to since he couldn't cause any damage to a team member.

"Let's rest. We might need our strength for tomorrow," Jack said.

Some rested as Jack suggested. Some continued talking with one another, discussing the event of today. Jack, who was normally chatty didn't join them. He closed his eyes.

He was glad now that Master had changed position. He felt safer with Stefan and Kramer by his sides. Otherwise, he might not dare to risk what he was about to do.

He acted like he was asleep while sitting on the wall, but he was focusing on his mana sense. Gradually, his consciousness left his body.

'Good,' he thought. This ability was still working, the same as his mana sense and mana manipulation.

However, when he expanded his sense, he found that the space here was just this dungeon they were in. This constructed space was just a small pocket world. Even if they weren't chained, they were still trapped. There was no exit.

He didn't let himself get disheartened by this finding, though. He floated to where the edge of this constructed world was. The last time, he was able to interact with the mana of a constructed world and sense its structure. Perhaps he could do the same here.

His consciousness touched the wall of this pocket world. He sensed nothing at first, but he forced himself to delve deeper into its fabric. He felt the membrane that enveloped this world shiver.

Sensing the reaction, Jack pushed harder. He forced his consciousness to pierce through the membrane. His control over mana sense and mana manipulation could be classified as top-tier already. If anyone could break through this dimensional layer, he would be one such person.

With his persistence, he sensed the membrane give in. His consciousness started to seep into it. As that happened, his sense expanded. His sense was abruptly flooded with so much stimulation that he felt as if he had lost himself in a sea of turbulent waters.

He didn't know for how long, but he slowly regained control. As his awareness returned, he could make sense of all the information that floated around him.

He could see now that there were a lot of these constructed worlds. A whole network of them. Each pocket housed different things. He couldn't sense what was inside them. He would have to pierce through their layers as he did when he penetrated out of the one his body was in.

He was suddenly alarmed. What if he couldn't find his way back? He tried sensing around. He was relieved when his consciousness easily identified the pocket world where his body was located.

After making sure that he had an escape route, he returned to studying this mess of worlds. Was Grace in one of those worlds? But there were too many of them to check one by one.

He wished Peniel was here to guide him. But considering Peniel was also in a different dimension, Jack wondered if he could contact her like usual. Jack tried calling her. No response. He then focused his mind. He felt the connection.

"Where are you?" He heard Peniel's voice.

Jack was happy that they could still be in contact despite his incorporeal state. Perhaps because his mana sense had become stronger.

Jack told her where he had gone and tried describing what he saw. When Peniel didn't quite get it, Jack tried concentrating and sent her his vision. She could see what Jack saw then.

After seeing Jack's vision, Peniel warned him. This constructed dimension was very complex. Anyone responsible for its creation had a God-level power. She told Jack to not be reckless.

With Peniel's guidance, Jack spent a few hours studying the dimension. He found that all of the pocket worlds were linked to one large pocket world. Jack figured that must be the nexus world. The one that held all the other worlds together.

Jack decided to check this nexus world. If there was a way to escape this place, the clue must be there. Peniel reminded him that the one responsible for creating this dimension was most likely in that nexus world. Jack answered he had no choice. He had to take the risk if he wanted to understand more about this place.

Jack approached the nexus world and did the same thing when he forced himself out of the dimension he was locked in. It took him more time and effort. The wall protecting this nexus world was stronger, but it was still no match for his determination.

When he got through, he found himself in a similar dungeon where he came from.

'Huh? Is this truly the nexus world?' He thought.

He then sensed a presence. He turned in that direction and saw a woman with an appearance that was similar to Aglea. The difference was while Aglea wore an elegant dress, this one wore a ragged one. She was also in chains.

'Is she a prisoner as well,' Jack thought.

While he was thinking, he noticed this woman was looking in his direction.

"Who are you?" The woman asked.

Chapter 1307: A Chilling Presence

The first thing Jack did was direct his senses to his back. Probably the woman was talking to someone behind him who just happened to enter this room.

But after sweeping his consciousness throughout the room, there was only this woman. Jack returned his attention to this woman, who was still staring at where he was floating. Her next words convinced Jack that she was indeed aware of Jack's presence.

"You are... an outworlder... How do you get into this spirit form?"

Jack wanted to reply but he couldn't. He wasn't able to speak during his incorporeal state.

The woman seemed to understand Jack's dilemma. She said, "You can focus on the message you want to convey in your mind. I will be able to hear your thoughts."

Jack did what the woman told him. He didn't sense any malice in her. Plus, she was also a captive. Jack focused hard using his mind and directed a thought at her, "HI, HELLO! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!"

The woman winced. "Not too loud, please," she said. "You have a strong mind."

"Oh, I'm sorry," Jack tried to tone down his focus. "I'm an outworlder called Storm Wind. Who are you?"

"It's nice meeting you, Mister Storm. My name is Talia," the woman replied.

"Talia? One of the divine priestesses of the Council of Charites?"

"You know of me?" Talia asked.

"I come here looking for you and your sisters. Well... I did meet one of your sisters but she wasn't exactly friendly."

"You meet Euphosine...?" Talia seemed surprised.

"No. the other one, Aglea," Jack answered.

"Aglea...?" Now she looked confused. "Tell me everything. Why are you here? How did you meet Aglea and what did she do?"

Jack wanted to ask her what exactly was happening here. Why one of the divine priestesses captured people and forced them to participate in a deadly game? And why was the other divine priestess chained? But since it was Talia who asked first, he had to be a gentleman and comply.

So, Jack narrated how he ended up in this place and what had transpired ever since he arrived here. Talia listened silently.

"... She said we will continue the next match tomorrow. We have been given the rest of the day to rest. I use my secret ability to send my consciousness out to explore this place. This is how I find you. Now, if you don't mind. I want to ask a few questions myself."

Talia had been frowning while listening to Jack. She realized Jack's confusion after his question. "Of course. Forgive me. I apologize for the discomfort my sister has caused you. Although I can't truly help your predicament, I can provide you with an explanation of what is happening. You see..."

She suddenly stopped.

"Yes...?" When Jack wanted to urge her for an answer, he saw her face suddenly turn tense.

"You need to leave! Now!" Talia exclaimed.

"What? Why?" Jack asked.

"She is on her way here," Talia answered.

"She? Who? Aglea?" Jack asked.

"No, worse. You have to leave!"

Jack tried expanding his senses. This nexus world was large. The dungeon he was in was just one of the rooms in this nexus world.

"Stop! Like me, she can sense you. If she finds you, she will do something to prevent you from using your spirit form again. You have to leave, now! Come find me again right after your match tomorrow. She should be occupied for a few hours after the match. I will explain everything then. Don't come before then. We can't risk you stumbling into here while she was present. Now, go!!"

Jack felt the alarm in Talia's voice. He decided to heed her warning. He went to the wall of the dungeon and worked his way through the membrane encasing this pocket world. When he pierced through, for a very short moment he sensed the presence of someone entering the room. This presence sent chills through his very being even when it was just for a brief instant. He was out then.

He turned back and watched the nexus world from the space in between worlds within this constructed dimension. He wondered whether that presence he sensed just now also sensed him back during that last second.

He decided to not think about it too much and make his way back. He was curious about the other pocket worlds. There was also the matter of Grace's whereabouts, but he had been out of his body for too long. He would be in trouble if anything happened to his body while he was gone. Additionally, after spending a certain time in this incorporeal state, he could feel himself becoming weaker. He didn't think it was wise to stay in this state for too long.

As for Grace, he believed in her. She was a woman who could take care of herself, not a dame who needed rescuing, as had been proven during the war with Ligiritudum and Aurebor when she came to his rescue instead of him to her.

As long as he could make it to the end match, Jack believed he would see Grace there. So, he made his way back to where his body was.

In a dungeon similar to where Jack and Master were chained, Grace was sitting by a corner. She was also chained, the same as yesterday when she came into this place after entering the mist.

She and the others in this room had just gone through a running match and a sacrificial round. Ten of them entered the match. Now, there were still ten of them. They had successfully saved the person nominated as the sacrifice, all thanks to two people. Grace and another person she knew well, even if he was an enemy.

That person was Spring Crown.

The sacrificial round they went through was the same as the one Jack's team experienced. With their keen perception, Spring Crown and Grace identified the important parts of the mechanism around the sacrificial room even faster than Master. Then with Spring Crown's puzzle gaming expertise, they figured out what to do with the mechanism.

The hole of the lava pond closed once they completed the puzzle and the chain holding the sacrifice was released.

"We made quite a team, didn't we?" Spring Crown said to Grace with his typical smile. The two of them were chained side by side.

Grace was unsure how to answer.

Chapter 1308: Let's Agree to not Save Him

"Don't worry, I ain't hitting on you. I know who your boyfriend is. I'm not suicidal." Spring Crown said. "... But someone clearly doesn't get the picture."

On Grace's other side, another man sat there. He was also chained like the rest of the people in this room. He was an elf with quite a fair face. He went by the name of Evan and claimed to be a high-level priest. He was here before Grace. Since Grace arrived, he had been pestering her non-stop.

"You have a boyfriend?" Evan asked Grace after hearing Spring Crown's words. "That is not strange. Someone as beautiful as a Goddess like you surely has many suitors. But don't worry, I'm not someone who is easily deterred. Once a girl owns my heart, I will not stop even if powerful storms or violent winds are hindering my way!"

"Excellent choice of words," Spring Crown chuckled.

Grace was not that amused. She had been fed up with this guy. This Evan just didn't know how to take a hint. She had told him politely that she wasn't interested. She had ignored him. She had even shoved him away when he put his hand on her shoulder without permission earlier today when they were not chained. For someone who claimed to be high-level, Evan flew quite a distance from the shove. Yet, he came back as if nothing had happened. If there was something admirable about the guy, it was his persistence.

The other girls in the group were also not amused. They were both jealous and relieved. Jealous because of Grace's Goddess-like appearance and how she got all the attention. Relieved because they had been the target of Evan's flirting before Grace showed up. They were also very irritated by Evan's constant flirting, hence the conflicted feeling they now had for Grace. They didn't know whether they should thank her or curse her.

Evan continued to throw one flowery word after another. If yesterday was any indication, Grace knew that Evan would continue to pester her for her entire waking hours. So, she said to everyone, "Aglea said that the game will continue tomorrow. We should get some sleep so that we can be fully ready for tomorrow."

She then closed her eyes to pretend to sleep. Irritatingly, Evan continued chattering.

"You can rest assured, my dear. I won't let anything happen to you. No matter what peril we face tomorrow. I'll be there for you. These five words I swear to you."

Grace felt very much like slapping the guy, but she restrained herself.

Spring Crown had a different reaction. He sat upright and gave Evan a look of disbelief. "You did not just quote Bon Jovi's song lyrics, did you?"

"What lyrics? You are imagining things," Evan denied. He said to Grace who was still pretending to sleep, or at least trying to. "Don't listen to him, my dear. These words are all genuine from my heart."

'I'm not your dear...!!!' Grace wanted to scream, but she continued with her feigned sleep. Hoping Evan would give up soon.

Yet, Evan continued to chatter away.

"... You go ahead and take your rest, my dear. Let my voice be the soothing melody that delivers you to the dream world. Perhaps we will see one another again in your sweet dream, then I can properly show you a proper expression of my undying love without these others here encumbering us..."

The others had their hairs stood on end hearing Evan's words. Some wanted very much to beat the crap out of him. One such person was another elven male named Tom. Unfortunately, he sat opposite Evan. He tried breaking his chains so he could lay his hands on Evan. His effort was, of course, unsuccessful.

Evan ignored everyone's disgusted stare and continued speaking.

"... We might just meet yesterday but I feel like I have known you for life. The first time I lay my eyes on you, I know this is it. This is the woman for me. I want to spend the rest of my life with you. I know you think this is too soon and are still figuring out how you feel. Take your time, my dear. There is no rush. Know that I'm right here waiting for you. I wish I could cut my heart open to let you see how I feel. For I can feel I'm breaking free. For just this moment lost in time, I am finally me. This real me that I..."

"There you do it again...!!" Spring Crown yelled.

Evan turned to Spring Crown, annoyed that his heart-to-heart expression was interrupted.

"You are quoting another song!" Spring Crown exclaimed. "You think you can hide it because it was from a game soundtrack? I know all the game soundtracks! You just quote a lyric from The Edge of Dawn, you miserable fraud!"

Instead of speaking to Spring Crown, Evan again turned back to Grace who still had her eyes closed, and said, "As I said, there is no need to listen to the others. They are just jealous. Jealous of our love, that we can find each other even in such a horrible place. Don't you see it? This is fate. Fate brought us together..."

Grace suddenly rose. Her arms were lifted in a pose that was ready to give Evan a backhand slap. She stopped. She realized she had let emotion get to her. She had dealt with this kind of harassment a lot in the real world. Even though she knew that, unlike the real world, she now had the power to deliver some pain to this type of person. She also knew that this kind of sick bastard would just revel in the pain she delivered. As if that was some kind of a sick expression of love.

Hence, she stayed her hand. She then gave Evan the sweetest smile and said, "If you care about me, do you mind going ahead and sleeping as well? I'm sure we will need to be at our best tomorrow. We will have to make sure we survive the game tomorrow."

Evan was wide eyes after listening to Grace. He said passionately, "Of course, my dear! Everything for you, my dear! I will sleep at once."

He lay down and closed his eyes.

Grace lay back down and turned the other way. Spring Crown came close and whispered, "Hey. If that guy somehow becomes the sacrifice. Let's agree to not save him. How about that?"

Grace didn't reply, but she nodded softly with her closed eyes.

Chapter 1309: The Second Match

On the second day of the match, Jack and the others were teleported into another pocket world within the constructed dimension. It was again a sports field. Near where they stood were nine metal balls. Each of these balls was attached by a steel wire to a grip.

Seeing those balls, Jack said, "Hammer throw...?"

After blurting, he quickly closed his mouth with his two hands. Aglea was once more here with them to oversee the match. Jack was afraid Aglea would be offended again if he spoke out of turn.

Luckily, Aglea didn't seem to mind. "I see you are familiar with this sport. I don't need to explain then, do I?" She asked.

Jack nodded. He then asked, "Who should go first?"

"Anyone is fine. Just don't spend too long deciding," Aglea said. Even with her wide smile and friendly tone, Jack still somehow felt that her sentence was a threat.

"I don't understand. What should we do with these balls?" Kramer asked.

"Dude, you seriously don't know? Oh, wait... You are a native. I guess it makes sense if you don't know," Jack said. "This is one of the sports from our world. Hey, Stefan. You go first. Show him how to do it."

Stefan turned to Jack with a look that asked, 'Why me?' But since he had to do it sooner or later, he decided to just go along. He walked to the metal balls.

While Stefan approached the metal ball, Naomi asked, "I am wondering, why did they use Olympic games' competitions to choose a sacrifice?"

"Do you prefer they have us play children's games instead?" Jack asked.

Stefan was looking between the nine metal balls. They all looked the same. He bent down to pick one of them up. His eyes turned wide when he tried lifting it.

"Holy!" He exclaimed. He then dropped the one he tried to lift and went to lift the next one.

"Shit! Why is it so heavy? I'm sure the balls from the Olympic games aren't this heavy," He uttered.

"Really?" Jack was about to go and check but Aglea stopped him.

"One person at a time," Aglea said. He then said to Stefan, "You have one minute to throw the ball. If you haven't thrown a ball by then, you will be immediately chosen as the sacrifice."

Stefan was taken aback by Aglea's statement. He glared at Jack.

"Huh?" Jack didn't understand what the glare was for.

Stefan went and tried the third ball. It was also heavy.

"Are all of them this heavy?" Stefan asked Aglea.

"Naturally," Aglea answered. "Providing different weights will just benefit the first participant, won't it?"

Since all of them were the same, Stefan just tried his best to lift the current one. He had to use two hands to lift the ball and brought it to the throwing zone, which was marked with a large circle on the ground.

"What is the weight of that ball?" Jack asked Aglea.

"One hundred kilograms," Aglea answered.

Naomi and several players gasped.

"Anyone knows what is the normal weight for a hammer throw's ball?" Jack asked.

Nobody said anything. When Jack thought no one knew the answer, Master said, "It is sixteen pounds. Around seven kilograms."

"Wow! So, the ones we use here are more than ten times the normal ones?" Jack asked.

"Do you want to issue a formal complaint?" Aglea asked Jack with her smile.

"No, no! I'm good. One hundred kilograms is good," Jack answered.

Stefan had placed the ball at the center of the throwing circle. He was now gripping the handle and readied himself to swing the ball.

He took a deep breath. With a yell, he pulled hard and started to rotate his body. The ball revolved around him with his body as a pivot. He continued picking up momentum while rotating. After rotating four times, he released the ball.

The ball flew a short distance and landed on the ground not far away. The sound of clapping hands could be heard even though they didn't see any spectators. The sound of a bell then drew their attention to a board by the side of the field. On that board were their names. Beside Stefan's name was written 8.1 meters.

"I'm honestly surprised he could throw a one-hundred kilograms ball that far," Winson remarked.

"I don't find it strange. Our strength stat here gave us a much stronger body than our past world," Jack said.

"Good," Aglea said to Stefan who walked back. "If you cannot throw past five meters, you will immediately be chosen as the sacrifice."

Stefan had a cold sweat hearing that. Shouldn't that kind of thing be informed first before the match start?

"Who is next?" Aglea asked.

Now that everyone knew that failing to throw a sufficient distance resulted in an instant death situation, most didn't want to go first. If the one who went first failed and the sacrifice was decided, there was no longer a need to continue the match.

Seeing that no one came forward, Aglea said, "On the count to three, I will randomly pick one."

"No need to count," Master walked forward and picked up the ball.

Different than Stefan, he used one hand to pick up the ball.

"Hey, are you sure all the balls are the same weight? Why does his one look light?" Winson asked Stefan.

"Dude, I ain't the one saying that," Stefan said.

Aglea asked Winson the same question he gave Jack, "Do you want to issue a formal complaint?" To which Winson also replied the same way as Jack.

Jack wasn't surprised by Master's act. Master's five classes provided him with higher strength stat than normal. His level was above average players.

Master dropped the ball onto the center of the throwing circle. Unlike Stefan who immediately spun his body, Master first swung the ball back and forth a couple of times. The momentum generated from those swings gave him stronger force when he spun his body after that.

The way he rotated the ball around him was also different from Stefan's. Stefan's rotation was mostly flat on a horizontal plane. As for Master, his rotation was slightly at an angle. After spinning it five times, Master released the ball when its position was pointing upward. Thus, sending the ball upward and allowing it to fly a longer distance.

"Damn... He truly knows what to do," Jack remarked. The others nodded.

When the ball fell on the ground, the marking next to Master's name was 59.5 meters.

Chapter 1310: The Second Sacrifice

Master returned with an expressionless face, but Jack somehow felt the guy was dissatisfied. Jack wondered what the hell he was dissatisfied with after putting on such an impressive display. Little did he know that Master was discontent because he failed to break the hammer throw's world record from the past world.

"Next," Aglea uttered.

Jack looked around and saw that no one was willing. So, he volunteered.

He went and picked up one of the remaining seven balls.

'Hm? Not too heavy. Is this truly one hundred kilograms?' he thought.

'Your strength stat is abnormal,' Peniel reminded him.

"Hehe. Yeah, I have super strength," Jack muttered while grinning. The others were confused why Jack could still grin under their current situation.

Jack went inside the throwing circle and dropped the ball while holding the grip.

"Hm...," He didn't truly play hammer throw before but he supposed what Master had done was the right way of doing it. So, he copied what Master did.

He first swung the ball back and forth before rotating it with rapid spins. His spinning was so fast that people had trouble counting how many times he had spun. Jack himself also didn't count. He just tried to get as fast as possible. Being accustomed to flying under turbulence let him not become dizzy even with such fast spinning.

After having the dragon eye skill for so long, his vision had slightly adapted. Even without that skill in effect, he could still aim his throw despite his inhuman spinning speed. Like Master, he was also rotating the balls at an angle. He let go of the metal ball when it was at the highest angle.

The heavy ball flew at an arc.

The others were watching with open mouths when they saw the way the ball fly. It landed on the ground with a loud thud. They turned to the board beside the field that showed the names.

101.7 meters.

Everyone was speechless. They wondered if that ball Jack had thrown was truly one hundred kilograms.

Master was scowling. Even though he knew Jack's three classes had a better strength stat than four of his five classes, he was still unhappy, especially for losing to this buffoon. Jack's throw was even almost twice his.

Jack walked back to the crowd with a wide grin. He made sure to walk past in front of Master, which vexed the ethereal even more.

"Thanks for the pressure, man," Winston said.

"You are welcome," Jack replied, either didn't get the sarcasm or chose to ignore it.

"Next," Aglea called. She was the only one maintaining the same expression throughout the occurrence. Her creepy smile never wavered.

Everyone just stayed where they were for so long that Aglea finally chose one randomly. "You," She pointed at Glover.

Glover took a deep breath. He went and picked up the metal ball. Glover never told anyone his level, but from the way he was holding the ball, Jack figured his strength stat wasn't too far from Stefan's.

Glover also copied what Master and Jack did. His throw put the ball at a distance of 10.6 meters. A better result compared to Steven.

"Next," Aglea called. This time, Naomi opted to come forward.

From the way she handled the metal ball, it looked like she was stronger than both Stefan and Glover. She did mention she invested heavily in her strength stat.

She also performed the same movements as the others.

"Damn it. I'm truly damned by you," Stefan said to Jack, which confused Jack. "I have the lowest score because I didn't throw it properly. If I didn't go first as you ask me to, I won't be the lowest one."

Jack now understood Stefan's concern. He said to Stefan, "Have no worries. I promise I won't let you die if you become the sacrifice."

'That didn't comfort me, bro,' Stefan thought while glaring at Jack.

Naomi was currently rotating her ball. She also tried to do very fast spins like Jack. However, she had underestimated the speed. She wasn't able to see clearly. When her ball was released, it didn't fly in the direction she intended.

The ball flew at a low altitude directly at the group of people behind her. This took everyone by surprise.

Because the speed of the ball was very fast. Most didn't have the time to react except for Jack and Master. The two moved away as the ball came flying and it smashed into Winson's face.

Both Winson and the metal ball landed on the ground after the impact.

"Aurrghh....," Winson groaned loudly from the pain.

Under normal circumstances, a one-hundred-kilogram metal ball hitting a man's head at such speed would have squashed the person's head like a melon. Luckily for Winson, this was a game world and currently, he was at a place where he couldn't get damaged by teammates. So aside from the extreme pain in his head, he was not wounded.

"Oh, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry...!" Naomi apologized. She truly didn't mean for this to happen. But then another concern came into her mind. She had thrown the ball in the wrong direction. Would she be disqualified? Would she be the sacrifice?

She turned to the board expecting to see no score beside her name, but it was there. Beside her name was 6.4 meters.

"I'm not disqualified?" Naomi asked.

"She is not disqualified...?!" Winson yelled amidst his pain.

"Why? I never said she has to throw the ball in a certain direction or that she cannot hit anything," Aglea said. "She has the lowest score for hitting you, so that is her loss."

Now that Aglea pointed out this point, Naomi realized she was now the potential candidate for sacrifice. Stefan heaved a relieved sigh, which caused Naomi to glare at him.

"Next," Aglea called again.

Winson was still wincing in pain on the ground. Naomi came to him to apologize and console him. He didn't accept it.

After waiting for a while, Aglea pointed at Kramer. "You."

Kramer felt like he had been given a death sentence. The teenage native walked out slowly to the row of metal balls. When he picked it up, Jack frowned. It was clear that Kramer was having difficulty with the weight. Kramer's level might not be as high as the others.

Kramer tried doing what the others did, but he didn't seem to be able to get the momentum due to his difficulty with the weight. When he threw the ball, the others didn't need to look at the board to know that it didn't go past the five-meter distance.

"We have ourselves a sacrifice," Aglea announced cheerily.