

## **World 1531**

### **Chapter 1531: Catfolk's Quests**

They exchanged their scores for various materials for the guild. Everyone promised to gather again five days from now to do another Hard difficulty.

Jack asked Jeanny if she needed help to capture another guild guardian. After winning the war in Palgrost, their guild received a huge reputation boost. This catapulted their guild to level 6. They now had a slot for their third guild guardian. Their member limit had also increased to 25,000 members.

Jeanny told Jack not to worry about this matter. They had just finished building the structure needed for their third guild guardian, but they didn't need to go catch one. The built structure was Hallowed Grove. It was situated inside the woods next to their headquarters. This hallowed grove could house a beast-type guild guardian.

The reason Jeanny told Jack not to worry was that they didn't need to capture the guardian using the normal way. Leavemealone and Domon's connection to the Catfolk had opened this minor race to their guild members. Many of their members visited the catfolk's village and did many quests for the catfolk, which further increased their relations.

Domon and Leavemealone also went there often. They had many friends among the catfolk and Domon also liked to check in on the progress of his disciples, whose number had expanded to more than Mohmed and Ihhi.

Due to all this interaction, the guild received special chained guild quests which upon completion would grant them a guild guardian of the beast type. One of the chained quests was building the required guild structure, which had just been completed recently. They were now at the final phase of the chained quests. Domon and Leavemealone were involved in the quest, as well as other prominent guild members, so Jeanny said there should be no problem.

Jack told her that if she needed his help, she could call.

Aside from the chained quests, the guild also received another quest from the catfolk which granted an insignia. This insignia allowed the guild to train a new guild unit, Feline Immortals. This unit comprised fast units in light armor.

These units were of the catfolk race. They had a special ability that Jack should be familiar with, Second Life. But theirs were passive abilities. They came back to life automatically if they were killed the first time. This ability had a cooldown of one day. So, these Feline Immortals would only die if they were killed twice in a day.

Their weapons were twin scimitars, but they also carried bows and arrows on their back. They were versatile units that could adjust to different situations on the battlefield.

After saying farewell to the others, Jack went to the Space-time Chamber to work on his newly gained legendary sword. Jeanny and Leavemealone also gave their new legendary armor to Jack for leveling up.

Now that most members were back, the Time-Space Chamber was filled with training members. With their member limit increased, their core members' number was also increased.

Jack went to a corner to do his things. He took out his mobile blacksmith tools and started working. The divine sword of valor continued to increase in level with each attempt. It became slower once he reached level 71. The success chance, even after using his Runestone of Probability powered by his Intermediate Master runecraft skill, was 50%.

He stopped after getting to level 77. The success chance to get to the next level was only 20%. He would likely fail four times before he succeeded. That wasted too many materials. Even for his Transformation Prism, he couldn't squander materials like that.

At level 77, the divine sword of valor had a damage value of 1,225 physical damage. With his strength and other passive damage buffs, he could easily one-hit kill a low-aged player with this sword.

Nowadays, players could regain their levels quickly with power leveling. Age, however, was much more difficult to cut corners. For a human race, only drinking a Thousand-year Wine could increase one's age, but this wine was extremely rare. Hence, a large portion of players who had died a wilderness death had shorter ages than they normally should. In terms of HP, Jack learned that age played a more important role.

Jack didn't immediately feed this legendary sword to his Storm Breaker. He continued the blacksmithing process on Jeanny and Leavemealone's legendary armors.

As he worked, the nightmares zipped past him several times. The two nightmares had recently reached adulthood. Bowler and The Man's hard work had paid off. The same as their custodians, Sol and Fira also accepted the two humans and agreed to become their steeds.

Bowler was currently riding Fira, and The Man was riding Sol. The two had seen Jack enter the chamber and had purposefully run in front of him to show off their new steeds.

Jack ignored them at first, but the repeated zooming was getting distracting by the second. It was especially annoying when the two rascals ran past him when his blacksmithing attempt failed.

He finally could take it no more. He came into the two nightmares' running path and then summoned Pandora. The two nightmares immediately came to a full stop when they saw their aunt. If there was no magic gluing Bowler and The Man's butts, they would have been thrown off from that sudden stop.

Pandora gave the two nightmares a hard stare, which caused the two to lower their heads. Her gaze softened then. She talked with them in languages only they and Peniel understood. The two young nightmares then reared up. Bowler and The Man were thrown off as a result.

"Hey!" The two protested.

Sol and Fira didn't even glance at them. They followed Pandora who took the two out of the chamber.

"She wants to spend some time with them outside," Peniel explained.

"That's good. They should spend more time together," Jack said. He then turned to Bowler and The Man, who grinned sheepishly.

"If you two disturb me again, I will ask Pandora to command Sol and Fira to break your contracts," Jack threatened.

"Sorry, boss! It won't happen again!" The Man hurriedly said. Bowler expressed a similar statement.

"Now, keep everyone away from me so I can work in peace," Jack ordered. The two stood up and started forming a barricade, keeping other members away.

Jack resumed working again. He leveled up Jeanny and Leavemealone's armors until level 72. He didn't want to waste too many materials. They would need it later when more members acquired their legendary equipment.

Now that he was done with his task, it was time to feed the divine sword of valor to his Storm Breaker.

### **Chapter 1532: Legendary-grade Storm Breaker**

When the divine sword of valor was absorbed by Storm Breaker, the sword broke apart. Jack wasn't surprised. The weapon would become legendary grade, he expected some sort of an animation to accompany the transformation.

Storm Breaker broke into multiple parts the way it was when it was in Overlimit State. The power orb at the center of the formation thumped with rhythmic pulses. The light emitted by the orb became brighter and slowly enshrouded the entire sword. Jack could no longer see the sword.

After a few seconds, the light shrunk. Jack could already see the shape of his sword, but the light was still covering it. The black surface of Storm Breaker's blade was not visible. From the shape, he could see that the sword had become longer again, but it was also slimmer. The light enshrouding the sword continued to dim.

Jack waited. He expected the process to end any moment now and he could see the familiar black sword again. After a while, he realized that the process had ended some time ago. The light had dimmed but it remained. The light was part of the sword.

Storm Breaker was no longer the black sword with thin golden lines along its blade. It was now a golden sword with soft light constantly emitted from its blade.

Jack grabbed the still-floating sword at its hilt. As he touched the sword, he felt power coursing through his hand. He sensed rich mana throughout the sword. He knew then that even without using mana manipulation, this sword's slash would deliver damage as if someone used mana manipulation.

The sword also reacted upon Jack's touch. Dark-gold lightning sparked from the hilt and ran along the length of the blade. Jack sensed excitement. It was as if the sword was alive.

Jack looked at the sword's stats and set its abilities. He found that all the selectable passive abilities had also improved.

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Storm Breaker, level 77 (legendary one-handed sword, bound weapon), embedded: Orb of Eurus (Rare-grade Weapon orb).

Physical damage: 1,482

Attack speed 5

Cannot be destroyed, Bound to Storm Wind.

All sword skills +20% damage.

All received damage is reduced by 20%.

Elemental resistances +50

Soul Mark (Active skill): Mark a struck enemy. All subsequent damage received by this enemy will add 10% soul damage. Reduce this enemy's speed, defenses, and attributes by 15%. Duration: 3 minutes. Cooldown: 10 minutes.

World Splitter (Active skill): Deals 2000% physical damage to all enemies in a line. Ignores 50% defense. 100% chance of causing Weakness and Bleed for 1 minute. Range: 50 meters. Cooldown: 30 minutes.

Overlimit: Release the weapon's hidden power that provides an additional 300% chaos damage to every attack, increases the weapon's reach by 5 feet, and decreases the defense of hit targets by 90%. Duration: 5 minutes. Cooldown: 6 hours.

Four wind energies constantly swirled around the weapon. Whenever the weapon makes contact, the wind energies will lash out and deal 50% wind damage.

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All of Storm Breaker's aspects had increased. Its base physical damage was higher than the divine sword of valor it was fed. Its attack speed had increased again. He didn't feel any weight from the sword at all. He didn't even feel as if he was holding a sword, which wasn't necessarily a good thing. He had gotten used to Storm Breaker's previous weight. Now, he would have to adjust himself to this new sword.

Its Overlimit ability had again improved. It now dealt more additional chaos damage and its reach was increased. It would be like he was holding a spear during Overlimit. The duration was also one minute longer.

"Sweet sword, boss... I bet you are now even scarier than before," The Man remarked.

"Never even think that was possible until now," Bowler added.

"Nail it, man. Haha," The Man gave Bowler his palm. The two high-fived while laughing.

Jack ignored the two Jokers. He slashed this new Storm Breaker around. There had always been wind energies circling his sword due to the Orb of Eurus, but this time his slashes also generated additional winds.

He swung the sword harder. There was a clear line in the air where Storm Breaker had slashed past. That line remained for some time. It was as if the air itself was cut.

Fascinated, Jack went a step further. He focused his mana and performed the One-word Slash. A sonic boom was heard following his slash. The noise startled those around, but one person was more startled compared to the others. This was because he suddenly lost more than half of his life.

"Arrgh...!" That person was The Man. He fell backward clutching his arm as if something had hit him.

"Why did you do that, boss?!" He yelled.

"What skill was that?" Bowler asked. Jack was standing more than five meters away from The Man when he slashed, but Bowler didn't see any animation that usually followed a skill.

"I didn't use any skill," Jack replied. "It is just a normal slash. Well, not exactly normal. I used a sword art with that slash, but I never expected it to hit a distant target. I'm sorry."

"Ugh. Well, luckily it hit me instead of this scrawny guy," The Man pointed at Bowler. "He would have been sent straight to the resurrection chapel."

"Um... If you no longer need us, I just remember I have something need doing," Bowler said.

"Uh... I also just remember. I think sister Jeanny gave us an errand," The Man said. "Sorry, boss. Gotta run. Congratulations on that sweet sword. See you!"

The two ran to the entrance.

Jack shook his head and ignored the two. He returned his attention to his sword. "Well, I promised before that I'm going to make you the strongest sword, didn't I? I can still increase your level. But in general, I think we can agree that I've fulfilled that promise. Now, let us see what you got in store, shall we?"

Jack used Spirit Weapon.

### **Chapter 1533: Spark**

What appeared after Jack used Spirit Weapon was not the usual sword-like entity. It was more of an automaton. One with a very sleek design. It was tall and slim. Its arms and legs were that of a curved blade. Its head was the shape of a crescent blade.

It had a metallic golden body. Its surface was almost a mirror. It was shiny and gave off reflections. On its back were three pairs of blades that looked like wing-bones. Sparks of black lightning regularly coursed through its elongated body.

Two purple orbs suddenly glowed from the crescent head. They were the automaton's eyes. At the same time, the spirit weapon's computerized voice was heard, "Thank you, master. I've finally reached my full form."

"Uh... You're welcome," Jack replied.

"I see you are in a training room. The mana here caused the time to function ten times faster than normal."

"You can sense mana?" Jack asked with surprise.

"I can. I can also manipulate mana," The spirit weapon replied. "This is all thanks to you. I've been studying the way you fight ever since you first acquired the spirit weapon skill, but I've never been able to put these learned abilities into practice because I don't have enough processing capacity. It is different now that I'm in my full form."

"Fascinating," Jack remarked.

"I assume the purpose you call me out is to study my new form rather than to aid you in battle?"

"Um... Yes, you are correct," Jack replied. "I must say, your speech has also received another upgrade."

"Thank you. In that case, do you want me to aid you in your training?" The spirit weapon asked.

"Uh... sure. Let's train. We will see how your melee prowess is," Jack said. He equipped his magic staff and cast Magic Weapon. "I will fight using just standard attacks. I assume you still don't have any battle skills after upgrading?"

"I can only do standard attacks," the spirit weapon confirmed.

"Okay, spirit weapon... You know, it feels weird for me to keep calling you spirit weapon now that you talk more like a real person. Do you have a name?" Jack asked.

"I do not. If you want, you can give me one," the spirit weapon answered.

"Hm... All right. Let's call you..."

"Don't you say Storm Breaker!" Peniel interrupted.

"Uh, what's wrong with Storm Breaker?" Jack asked.

"Do you seriously just going to give him the same name as your sword?" Peniel asked back.

"It is the spirit weapon of Storm Breaker. I don't see why I can't call it using the same name," Jack argued.

"If it is the same, then it would have told you to call it Storm Breaker, but it didn't. This means it considers itself a different entity from your sword."

"Are you?" Jack threw the question at the spirit weapon.

"Your sword has been with you since you first acquired it. I only came into being when you acquired the spirit weapon skill. So, yes. I consider myself different from your sword," the spirit weapon explained.

"I see... Hm... How about you give it a name then?" Jack threw the responsibility to Peniel.

Peniel rolled her eyes. "What about Spark? Do you like it?" Peniel asked the spirit weapon.

"Spark. Yes, I do. I like it very much. You can call me Spark from now on," Spark replied.

"Okay, Spark. Let's see what you can do. Prepare yourself!" Jack exclaimed as he brandished his two longswords.

"Do not hold back, master," Spark returned. Its two arms that was shaped like a curved blade extended. They became even longer than they were. With the two unusually long blades as its arms, Spark slashed forward.

Jack was surprised by the sudden increase in his opponent's reach, but he was fast enough to cross his swords in front of him to block. The impact forced him to step back.

"Your strength is impressive!" Jack exclaimed. Spark's attributes didn't lose to Jack's three classes' stats.

Jack's two swords turned into a blur as he performed Formless Flowing Sword Style. Spark responded in kind. Countless sword lights crisscrossed around them. Clanging sounds were heard repeatedly as their weapons collided with each other.

The players in the chamber forgot about the training and came to watch the spar between Jack and Spark. They only saw the two standing and facing one another but they couldn't see their weapons. Their arms moved so fast that everything was a blur.

Jack was amazed and excited at the same time. Before, his spirit weapon could do Formless Flowing Sword Style but it was only an imitation. Now, Spark performed the sword art as if a true master. A master who had reached the third phase of the sword art the same as he did.

While Jack was still captivated by the exchanges, Spark suddenly changed its stance. One of its bladed arms was retracted in the beginning pose of a slash.

"Are you...," Jack sensed mana accumulating on that arm.

He quickly put his two swords in front of him in a defensive pose, just as Spark slashed. A straight line cut across and clanged against Jack's two swords. He was thrown backward by the impact.

Jack's feet skidded on the ground a few meters before it came to a stop.

"One-word Slash...," Jack uttered. One that was even performed using strong mana manipulation. Spark's martial prowess was truly not to be underestimated.

"The spar is still ongoing, master. Don't space out," Spark uttered as he thrust forward with the One-word Thrust.

Jack ducked to dodge the deadly thrust. "Haha! This is more like it! Let's see how good you truly are!"

Jack no longer considered this a normal spar. He went all out without using skills. They fought with only martial arts. He was fully absorbed. He had never fought against anyone who could cross swords with him like this. Domon and Arthur might have better sword expertise, but their attributes were way below Jack's. Spark here had stats almost similar to Jack's as long as he wasn't using any buff skills. Hence, this was the first time he could spar with such intensity.

He even saw that Spark here understood the Sword's Heart. The precision and moves it exhibited using its two sword limbs were on par with experts who had wielded swords all their lives.

Jack felt as if he was sparring against his own self.

Time flew before he knew it. He wasn't aware of everything else other than the spar until Peniel's words awakened him from his fighting trance.

"Isn't it already past twenty minutes?"

### **Chapter 1534: Not Yet Go All Out**

A spirit weapon skill that was fully leveled had a duration of ten minutes. Jack's legendary-grade Superior Amulet of Summoning doubled that duration to twenty minutes.

So, Spark should have gone out of existence by now, but it was still here crossing swords with Jack.

Jack realized that and disengaged from the fight. "Spark, hold!" He called as he jumped away.

"Are you getting tired, master?" Spark asked. There was a hint of disappointment in his computerized voice.

"No, I'm not getting tired," Jack said. "I want to know why you don't disappear. It should be past your duration."

"I'm sorry. I should have explained earlier. I'm too engrossed in our fight I wasn't aware that I have gone past my original duration," Spark said. Jack somehow found this statement hard to believe. Because of Spark's appearance, he saw the automaton as an emotionless machine. Perhaps this was a wrong perception.

"After I obtained my full form, I'm no longer bound by the duration rule of a spirit weapon skill," Spark explained.

"Huh? It can do that?" Jack turned to Peniel.

"... I'm not aware of that," Peniel answered. "Then again, I also don't know the kind of spirit weapon that weapon of yours produces."

"So, you can stay around indefinitely?" Jack asked Spark.

"That is correct," Spark confirmed.

"Can you still use your finishing mode?" Jack asked again.

"I can. But after using that mode, I will be considered to have died. Not a real death, of course, but I will become unavailable for as long as the cooldown time of the spirit weapon skill, which is three hours."

"If you don't die and I unsummon you, will I have to wait for your cooldown time as well?"

"No," Spark answered.

"Cool!" Jack exclaimed. In terms of availability, Spark was now the same as Therras. He could summon Spark at any time without having to worry about duration or cooldown time. Spark was also expendable, unlike Therras who could die a permanent death. Spark would come back to life again if it died.

Jack checked Spark's HP then. Spark had 810,000 HP.

"Hm...", Jack massaged his chin.

"It is more than twice its previous HP," Peniel remarked.

"I think its HP depends on my main class' level," Jack said. "My Brave Swordsmaster was originally level 81. It is level 80 now because I used a level-down pill for that class. I think if I level up another level, it will have 820,000 HP."

"Your deduction is correct, master," Spark said.

"In terms of survivability, you've improved a lot," Jack remarked. "I'm not just talking about your HP. You are also faster and much more skillful in swordplay. I couldn't land a hit throughout our spar just now."

"Thank you for your compliment, master. To tell you the truth, I've not gone all out yet."

"Huh? Are you saying you are holding back on me?"

"That is correct."

"Interesting," Jack chuckled. "All right. Show me your true power then."

"Affirmative."

Once Spark finished speaking, the three pairs of wing-blades on its back extended. They turned into something that looked like a mantis' long forelegs. These wing blades now reached forward and became additional weapons.

"Whoa! I thought you said you have no skill!" Jack shouted.

"This is not a skill. These are my natural weapons. They have no duration. I can use them for as long as I stay on the field," Spark informed.

"Impressive... All right. Then allow me to use one skill to even the field," Jack said and activated Soul Asura. Four extra arms grew from his back.

"Let's resume our spar!" Jack lunged forward.

In terms of the number of weapons, Jack lost by two, but they didn't fuss about this difference. Jack's six swords clashed with Spark's eight blades.

The sword lights became even more jam-packed than before. Other players had difficulty seeing Jack and Spark among those sword lights. The two also didn't stay in the same spots. They moved around as loud clanging sounds followed their movements. The spectating players ran away when the two seemed to move in their direction.

These went on until Jack's Soul Asura ended. With only two arms, Jack had difficulty defending against Spark's eight blades without using any skill. Jack called for a stop then.

"That was a great practice," Jack announced. "You are very good, Spark. I can't believe I say this to my summon but I think you can be a better swordsman than me. Well, considering you have more natural arms, that is. I very much like to continue this but I'm afraid I have other tasks I need to attend to."

"It was my pleasure, Master," Spark replied. "I'm also glad that I can finally put all the martial arts I've learned into practice. If you need another practice, I'm just one call away."

Jack was amused by the statement. Spark was not wrong, though. Jack could easily summon it any time now. Jack thanked the automaton before unsummoning it.

Spark still had the ranged mode and finishing mode, but Jack decided to just leave those for later.

The players dispersed after seeing that the show had ended. Some of them displayed disappointed expressions. These players used swords for weapons and had been trying to copy the swordplay from the spar. Domon had taught these core members Formless Flowing Sword Style as well, but their level of understanding was still far below Jack's. That's why they were very absorbed when they saw the high-level sword art in action.

Jack left the Space-time Chamber and teleported to Thereath. Now that he reached level 80 and had the Lightning God Incarnation, he wanted to try beating the stages in the League of Champions and the Order of Magi.

Jack traveled to the Order of Magi first. He planned to ascend the rank in this faction. Hence, he had to beat the stage here first. Once he ascended, the next rank in the League of Champions would be locked out for him.

He greeted young Janus before entering the obelisk courtyard. He now stood before the stage 90 obelisk.

### **Chapter 1535: Becoming a Minister**

The same as his last attempt. He was faced with fifty opponents after stepping into the challenge stage. Three of which were level 80 mythical grades.

Jack didn't waste any time. After battering these opponents with Judgement of Past Kings, Perpetual Lightning Judgement, and other strong AOE spells to decimate the special elites and wound the rare elites, he then cast Double Clone.

Each clone took on one mythical opponent. One clone used Gold Scale Armor and the Strength of Hope. Another clone used Lightning God Suit. His real body used Lightning God Incarnation. One of his clones cast Time Realm while the other cast Superior Acceleration, granting all three Jacks impossible speed.

The real Jack cast Time Lock at the mythical opponent he was facing. The Time Lock might only last two seconds, but with Superior Acceleration in effect, that opponent might as well have stopped for twenty-four seconds. Jack battered that opponent with multiple spells when it was helpless.

After the time lock ended, the opponent was already in a disadvantageous position. Jack continued to pound at it without giving it the chance to escape. The remaining rare elites that tried to help ended up killed by Jack. In his lightning form, even standard attacks became deadly ranged assaults.

Jack made full use of Lightning God Incarnation's three-minute duration. When the duration was on the verge of ending, Jack channeled the explosive mana from the divine skill's final attack and sent it all to the half-dying mythical opponent. This final attack finished the opponent off.

With one mythical opponent defeated, Jack turned his attention to the remaining two opponents. He joined his clone who was using the Strength of Hope. With that sanctification on, the mythical opponent already had trouble keeping up. With his intervention, they systematically reduced this opponent's HP to zero.

With only one opponent left, it was a sure win. Jack and his clones bullied this remaining opponent and defeated it before the Strength of Hope and Double Clone ran out of duration.

When he came out from the stage, he was greeted by a notification that congratulated him for becoming a minister. The same as when he was promoted to Exalted, he received knowledge points as a reward for the promotion. The knowledge points he received this time were 20,000, twice the reward from the last time.

For completing stage 90, he received 270 knowledge points. This showed that for a minister, his knowledge points from clearing a stage were now three times the normal gain.

Jack had also done the challenges daily ever since he returned to the capital. Out of those routines and the current gain, he had accumulated 25,912 knowledge points in his badge.

He didn't stop there. He continued and entered stage 91. The grades and number of opponents inside this stage were the same as in stage 90, but their levels were higher. It was more difficult but Jack still managed to beat this stage.

He continued until stage 94 where he spent a few hours but still managed to beat the stage. In stage 95, he had to go up against four level 83 mythicals, sixteen level 86 rare elites, and thirty level 90 special elites.

They were too much for him. He failed to pass this stage.

He went back to repeat stage 92. Beating stage 94 took too much time, he would be here until tomorrow morning if he accumulated knowledge points from that stage. After becoming a minister, he could repeat the same stage twenty times. With the Honorary Magi title, he could repeat it twenty-five times.

From repeating stage 92 and the knowledge points gathered until stage 94, he received another 7,734 knowledge points. He couldn't believe he received so many points in a day's work. Becoming a high ranker truly sped up the point-collection process.

His Order of Magi badge now had 33,646 knowledge points inside it. Feeling rich, he went to the exchange counter.

Since he was now a Minister, a new batch of exchangeable items was opened to him. Now that he thought about it, he felt pity he couldn't increase his rank in the League of Champions. This meant he wouldn't get access to the items in the Laticlavian rank.

He didn't dwell on the matter. Life was always about choices. To get everything life had to offer was just fairy tales. If you wanted to get something, most of the time you had to let go of another thing. This was called transaction, the most common aspect of human interaction.

He was now studying the new list in the Minister rank. Although he wanted to get the spell, Magic Bombs, from the Exalted rank, he wanted to see first if his current points were enough for any item of interest in this new list.

His face showed disappointment after seeing the list.

"Why the long face?" Peniel asked.

"No Greater Dispel on the list," Jack answered. "I thought the spell would be here on this list... Maybe it is on the list under Head Minister? But I can't get to the rank of a head minister, can I?"

"You can't. You already have the top rank in a country faction. You won't get the top rank in other factions unless you relinquish your position as the Themisphere King," Peniel replied. "Plus, you won't find the Greater Dispel even if you become the head minister."

"Oh? How can you be so sure?" Jack asked.

"The Greater Dispel is one of the most powerful spells in this world. Even league factions won't have them. Your only hope of getting it is from a rare quest encounter or kill drops. The rate of either happening is extremely abysmal. You won't have any chance to obtain the spell with normal luck."

"Hoho! That means I'm bound to get it sooner or later," Jack uttered.

Peniel decided to not discuss the matter further.

Since the spell he targeted was not here, his eyes were on the second thing he was most interested in.

"Hm... I expect to see this in the exchange list of the League of Champions. This place also offers this?"

The thing he was referring to was a wing tool. He originally thought he had lost the chance to get this item as he expected this item to be offered in the Laticlavian rank in the League of Champions.

"Why? Magic users can also use wing tools," Peniel said.

"But they have access to Fly spell. Melee combatant needs this more," Jack argued.

"That's true, but it doesn't mean magic users don't need this tool. Fly spells allow them to fly, but the speed is not impressive. They were mostly sitting ducks in the air. Plus, those spells had duration and cooldown. Wing tools let them fly faster and without restrictions. Well, there is still a restriction. You will see when you get it. You intend to get this, don't you?"

"I do," Jack said.

This wing tool cost 26,000 knowledge points. The other things on the list were also similarly expensive. One spell Jack was interested in was Black Hole, which cost 24,000 knowledge points. Peniel explained Black Hole was an elite spell for Archmage. It was similar to the Chaos Black Hole used by the Herald but with a variation. It didn't cause chaos damage. This made this version slightly weaker.

There was also a mega spell available for exchange, but it cost a whopping 35,000 knowledge points.

Jack shook his head. Here he thought he was rich with knowledge points.

## Chapter 1536: Magi Wing Tool

Jack should have expected the price to be more expensive than the previous rank. He could only exchange for one thing with his available knowledge points.

He could, of course, do more of the lower-level stages to accumulate the knowledge points or come here again tomorrow to repeat the stages. This way, he would have enough points to get the mega spell, but he had other plans for tomorrow and the days after. He also wanted to use the remainder of today to do the challenges in the League of Champions. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to do it for some time.

Hence, he chose the wing tool. He might have the gold dragon wings which was way better but he also had the Double Clone spell. All this time, one of his clones had to either use the Soar spell, ride on Therras, or stay on the ground. It couldn't contribute much to air-borne battles. With this wing tool, he could have both clones join him in the air.

He proceeded with the exchange and his knowledge points were subtracted. There were now only 7,646 left on his badge.

Jack studied the wing tool he had just gotten.

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Magi Wing Tool (Unique wing tool)

Maximum flying speed: 60 meters/second + dexterity modifier

Intelligence +25

MP consumption: 5 MP/second + speed modifier

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His max-level Soar spell had a maximum speed of 10 meters each second without considering the boost from his dexterity. He didn't have the Fly spell but Peniel informed him that the first-level Fly spell had a maximum speed of 20 meters per second. The max-leveled Fly spell could go up to 40 meters per second.

Hence, this wing tool in his possession allowed him to fly faster than the Fly spell. Plus, there was no description of a height limit as it did on the spells. He wondered if he could fly into space with this wing tool.

Grace's wing tool was even better than this. Hers was a legendary grade. Her wing tool could fly to a maximum of 100 meters per second. Additionally, her wing tool had an active ability aside from the single stat boost. When her wing tool was active, she could erect a protective barrier that absorbed damage.

He couldn't expect to get a wing tool on par with hers, though. Hers was given by a God. His was gotten from a league faction.

"The restriction you mentioned, it's this MP consumption?" Jack asked.

"That's right," Peniel confirmed. "The 5 MP each second is the lowest amount this wing tool consumes during flying. If you fly faster, the consumption will be more."

"How much more?" Jack asked.

"You will have to find out by yourself, but normally the consumption only increases after you pass half the maximum speed. In the case of this wing tool, you will lose more MP each second if you fly faster than 30 meters per second. In any case, the increase in MP consumption won't be more than four times the base consumption."

"So, I can consider 20 MP each second if I fly at top speed," Jack concluded.

Peniel shrugged. "Theoretically speaking," she said.

Jack had 17,626 MP, but this was because of his pinnacle special class and legendary-grade bloodline. Other players probably had only half that amount. Without any other skills, he normally recovered 193 MP every ten seconds. This put his recovery at around 19 MP each second. If he flew at top speed, he would lose only 1 MP each second. With his MP pool, he could last for almost five hours if he flew constantly at top speed.

This, of course, if he considered he didn't cast any spell that consumed his MP further. But he also had several abilities that increased his Stamina and MP recovery, including the passive recovery boost from Time Sage. So, he didn't see this MP consumption to cause him any trouble.

He equipped the wing tool via his status window. This wing tool was considered special equipment, similar to his God-eye monocle. They didn't require any special equipment slot. He felt a tickle on his back when the wing tool was equipped.

He went outside into the open and sent a mental command to activate the wing tool. A pair of translucent blue wings spread on his back. He took to the sky then. He already had plenty of experience flying using wings, so he didn't feel awkward using this new tool. The difference was that he could sense his MP getting absorbed by these wings for their fuel.

Jack went straight up at top speed. Due to his insane dexterity, he ended up flying much faster than the description of the wing tool. He flew a bit past 100 meters per second, the same speed as Grace's legendary wing tool.

Nevertheless, his gold dragon wings and supreme dragon form allowed him to fly faster than this.

He continued going up. Because of the thought from before, he wanted to test if he could truly fly out into space. However, his flying speed became slower as he went up higher. The MP consumption remained at 20 MP per second as if he was at top speed, but he was much slower than he should be. It was as if the air had become denser and harder to fly through.

As he reached an altitude of around 50,000 meters, he couldn't go any higher. He even transformed into supreme dragon form and tried to push higher. The beast form only managed to add a few meters of height but then he was stuck. Peniel also couldn't explain this phenomenon.

He understood then there was an invisible barrier that kept the inhabitants of this world from going out of its boundary.

He gave up trying and flew back down. He didn't have the time to deal with every mystery of this world. He still had many things that needed doing.

He went to the League of Champions and did the challenge there.

Although he couldn't use Double Clone inside the stages here, he had two new advantages he could use. The Lightning God Incarnation and Spark.

### **Chapter 1537: Receiving the Guests of Honor**

Spark was more than enough to contend against a mythical opponent on its own. With its eight blades, it gave the opponents a run for their money when they engaged it in melee.

When they kept a distance, Spark's three pairs of wing-blades detached from its back. These six long blades then split into eighteen shorter blades. These blades flew around as if drones. They struck the enemies with incredible speed. All the while, Spark continued to fight using its two main arm-blades and occasionally, its leg-blades.

The spirit weapon no longer had a distinctive melee and ranged mode. It could perform both at the same time.

Spark also had a very high intelligence. It was able to study its opponent's fighting pattern and adjust accordingly. Jack didn't have to trouble himself by giving it instructions. Quite the opposite, Spark informed Jack about the enemies' weaknesses it had uncovered.

Best of all, Spark had no duration. It could stay the whole fight. With the two working together, and Jack using Lightning God Incarnation, they conquered stage 90.

Triumphantly coming out of that stage, Jack expected to hear a notification. No notification was heard. He remained a Praefectrus. The glory points he received were also only double the normal gain, not triple. He remembered then he was no longer able to ascend the ranks of this league faction. He felt a sense of pity but forgot about it soon. He went and entered stage 91.

Jack continued until he was stuck at the same stage as in the Order of Magi, which was stage 95.

He reentered stage 93 nineteen more times to reap the glory points. He chose one stage higher to repeat than the one at the Order of Magi because he was able to beat the stages here faster.

After those long fights, his badge had 12,812 glory points in it. A far cry from his Order of Magi badge, but he guessed that was the advantage when one was able to advance in ranks.

He remembered that the exchangeable items on this rank started from around 12,000 glory points, so he went and checked the list. The exchangeable items were mostly 12,000 to 16,000 glory points. The most expensive were the companion tokens he had checked before which cost 20,000 glory points.

He looked at the list of items he could afford which catered to blade dancer class. There was one technique book that fulfilled these requirements. He paid 12,000 glory points for it.

The technique book contained a skill called Teleport Slash. It was similar to Flash Slash but covered a longer distance. Jack called Jeanny. She was at Heavenly Citadel at the time so Jack went over and had her copy the book. Afterward, Jack learned the skill.

\*

Teleport Slash, level: 1/20 (Active skill)

Instantly moves to a target with a maximum distance of 20 meters and deals 500% physical damage.

20% chance of causing Bleed.

Creates an afterimage in the original position.

Cooldown: 5 minutes

Stamina: 100.

\*

It was late at night by then. In two days, they would have a meeting with allied countries on how to deal with Liguritutum. These countries' leaders, however, would be arriving one day prior, which was tomorrow. Preparation had been made in the palace to prepare for tomorrow. There would be festivity and feast.

Jack didn't think that celebrating before they won was appropriate, but such was the custom. He couldn't just treat these country leaders as common guests.

Thaergood and Grace were in charge of the events tomorrow. They had been hard at work these past few days. Jack and John chose to stay out of their ways, which was also what thaergood and Grace thought was best. The two would just mess things up when it came to hospitality.

Jack was required to be present tomorrow, though. He was the king. He had no say in this. Otherwise, those visiting leaders would consider it as Jack gave them no face. Thus, in the next two days, he won't have the chance to do his things.

\*

The next day, the first to come was the delegations from Verremor. Four Winds and his guild members arrived early in the morning. He informed Jack that Grand Chief Kabaka would arrive before noon. Since natives required high expenses to operate the zone portal, there would only be a handful that followed the grand chief.

Jack asked Four Winds about the result of the election tourney, which decided the replacements for the two tribes banished from Verremor's council of ten.

Four Winds informed Jack that one of the winners was the Giantkiller Tribe. Mkulme Giantkiller now sat at one of the council seats. Jack didn't think that was strange. If it was not for him and Four Winds, the Giantkiller tribe would have been the winner of the last election tourney.

The second winner was a player guild, the Liberty Fighters, who was also one of the three guilds who joined the previous election tourney. The other guild, Warsong Rising, had been banned from Verremor

because they were found out to have a hand in the country faction quest that attempted to throw the current sovereign.

Four Winds informed Jack that Mkulme and Vivian, the leader of Liberty Fighters, were among the dignitaries who would be accompanying Grand Chief Kabaka later.

As Jack entertained Four Winds while waiting, it was Palgrost's delegations who arrived first. Thelgrun came through the zone portal and was escorted to the palace. Thelgrun was accompanied by his admiral, Helga Flameforge, and his adjutant, Broban Deepminer. Followed behind them were Viking and Genesis from the Licth Squad.

Despite the Licth Squad's initial failure to protect the Num Maldur Pass, the guild had shown its dedication and valor during the capital defense. Thelgrun had welcomed the guild back into his fold. The Licth Squad was also the number one guild in Palgrost now, replacing the State of Galhana which had been banned from Palgrost.

When Jack saw Thelgrun, he rose from his throne and came over to welcome the dwarf. Thelgrun was cheerful seeing Jack's gesture. The two approached one another and then hugged like long-lost friends.

After the hug, Jack said to Thelgrun with a beaming smile, "So, what gift do you bring me, mister president? Let me warn you. If I'm not satisfied with your gift, don't expect to leave this place in one piece."

### **Chapter 1538: World Announcement**

The whole hall went silent after Jack's words. They were wondering why the king gave such a menacing statement to the first country leader who arrived. The silence was broken by a hearty laughter from Palgrost's President.

"Hahaha...! You still remember our first meeting, eh? King Storm Wind," Thelgrun laughed. "Of course, I bring you a gift!"

Thelgrun gestured to Broban, who took out a parchment.

Jack was wondering whether Thelgrun made a joke again like the last time when Thelgrun gave him the worthless statue, which was still sitting inside Jack's bed chamber. He accepted the parchment. After using Inspect, he found that the parchment was a schematic of the mana cannon.

"Mana cannon is an exclusive research tech in Palgrost," Peniel explained to Jack via their minds.

"Normally, other countries won't get this tech. But if you gave this parchment to your royal mechanics, you will find a new special tech appearing in your military research path. Similar to that martial art drill tech that popped up in the research path."

Hearing that, Jack thanked Thelgrun earnestly. He had not seen the mana cannon in action but he had heard the report. The mana cannon's range was the farthest among current existing siege weapons. If his army could have these siege weapons, they would have something that resembled the artillery of the past world.

Jack gave the parchment to John while sending him a message about what Peniel told him, only for John to reply, "I know. I have Hope's Knowledge, remember?"

Jack also presented Thelgrun with a gift. A small statue of himself. After returning to Thereath, Jack had Thaergood look for a talented sculptor. Thaergood found him an outworlder who made a living in this capital by creating various marvelous sculptures for the citizens. Jack commissioned this outworlder to make this small statue of himself.

"Haha. I always know we have a similar sense of humor," Thaergood said. "Tell you what. I will treasure this statue and put it right there beside my throne. A reminder to everyone who comes into the throne about a friend of Palgrost who came to her rescue during our country's worst hours."

Jack chuckled and took out a large leather bag from his inventory. "The statue is only half my gift. This one is my thanks for the Divine Might Potion you gave me in the past. That potion had given me a big help.

Thelgrun opened the bag and his eyes went wide.

Jack whispered to him, "Don't tell the others I give you this."

Inside the bag was thirty orichalcum ore. Orichalcum ore was the highest grade of blacksmith material alongside the Astral ore. Any country would fight for this ore. Right now, only Mount Thenias was known to have a mine that produced this ore.

"Thank you, my friend," Thelgrun clasped Jack's arm tightly.

Jack showed Thelgrun and the others to their prepared seats. For Thelgrun, he sat next to Jack where four royal chairs had been prepared. Each for one of the visiting sovereigns. Jack wanted to send the signal that he treated them as equals.

Before noon, Kabaka arrived as planned. Following him were Mifu Longsight, Mkulme Giantkiller, Makubwa Mountking, and the dawning twins who just joined Verremor's ruling power, Vivian and Ursa.

Makubwa looked to the side where Emris was standing. The two other Lord Marshall were still with the army in Palgrost, so Emris was in charge of the security during this meeting. Emris returned the gesture. They would never have thought that half a year ago they had fought trying to kill one another. Today, they stood in this hall welcoming one another as friends. The relationship between political factions was truly fickle.

Kabaka also came bearing a gift, but nothing as special as the one Thelgrun brought. Jack also presented him with one. The gift this time was arranged by Grace. These gifts were just formalities.

Queen Aldryth came at noon. She was accompanied by Dytess, Zoikod, and Arthur.

They stayed and chatted about mundane things and watched entertainment like plays, dances, and songs that had been arranged by both Grace and Thaergood. The performers were both from the native and outworlder communities. Jack teased if Grace wanted to sing a song considering her past job. Grace told him that she had put that world behind her.

Horatio only came when the sun was almost set. Some thought he was rude for coming so late. Considering Horatio's race, Jack didn't have the same thought. Horatio was accompanied by Ezekiel Fanchon, Darius Armand, William of Wellington, and John's father, Saint Jonathan.

The two father and son only exchanged greetings by using stares.

Ezekiel also gave John a stare, which John didn't reciprocate. Ezekiel was still resentful for being tricked by John in the Jagara region.

Everyone took their arranged seats and chatted as they watched the entertainment. Nothing serious was mentioned. That would be for tomorrow. Today, they enjoyed the world as any common folks did.

As the night approached, the guests were ushered to the palace courtyard which had been repurposed to hold a feast. They enjoyed the night while nearby, an outworlder music band played songs the native sovereigns thought were a bit too fancy for their taste, but they didn't mention anything about it. They simply attributed it to outworlders' peculiar taste.

As the feast continued well on in the night, they were startled by a booming sound from the sky. All of a sudden, the sky was brightened by colors. Everyone looked up and was surprised to find a gigantic image of a person in the sky. That person was Master.

"Greetings, people of the world!" Master greeted in that image. "I'm here to announce two things. One is a message for the natives. Another is an invitation for all outworlders.

"For natives, I want to tell you about the truth of this world. Let it be known that you all live in a world that I created! Yes, I am your creator! You came into being because of my effort. This is a world originally meant for our entertainment. Us, outworlders! But I give you a chance for real life. You may thank me, you may not. I do not care.

"The purpose of my announcement is in my second message. Invitation to all outworlders. I bring you into this world. I can bring you back out. At sunrise one week from now, I'm going to hold a convention at these coordinates. This venue is in the area between the Jagara and Khan regions.

"This is a convention for outworlders, so there will be no native soldiers! Every outworlder is welcome. Even those who consider me an enemy. During this convention, you will not be harmed. You have my word. We will discuss the fate of outworlders in this convention. If you wish to return to the old world, come to me then. I will wait for you there!"

### **Chapter 1539: The Purpose of the Announcement**

Master's image vanished. The night sky returned to its usual darkness. There was a complete silence following the announcement.

The announcement didn't just happen above Thereath. It happened in every settlement of the world. Even the villages and the places where the minor race were living. Every inhabitant of this world heard the announcement.

Jack later learned from Peniel that this announcement was possible if one used a legendary consumable item called the World Broadcast Stone. This was a one-time-use item that allowed the user to broadcast

his image and voice to the world. Similar to what Serenity and Fear had done when they broadcasted their support for Jack and Master as country sovereigns. But the stone only allowed the user to broadcast for a short period. That's why Master kept his message concise without revealing too many details.

"What kind of bollocks was that?" Thelgrun was the first to break the silence.

"It's just something the enemy uses to try to unrattle us," John declared. "They had failed to maintain the rhythm of their expansion and they must have received winds about us gathering here. This is our enemy getting anxious and using whatever means necessary to distract us from what we are about to do, which is to bring the fight to them. There is no need to pay too much attention to it."

"So... Are you confirming what the Liguritutum ruler announced just now is false?" Horatio asked.

John gave Jack and Jeanny one glance before he answered Horatio decisively, "His words were a pile of horseshits."

Horatio simply nodded at the answer.

"Whatever it is, it is undeniable that Master is our enemy and he wishes to put us all under his thumb," Jack uttered. "We will put a stop to him as we've planned!"

"I agree!" Thelgrun announced.

"I'm sure everyone is tired by now," Jeanny said. "We will talk about the heavy stuff tomorrow. Your quarters have been prepared. You can rest if you wish."

Thelgrun, Kabaka, and Aldryth said that they wished to retreat to the resting chambers. Grace took over and arranged for people to bring these guests there. Horatio remained a while longer enjoying the night.

Jack, John, and Jeanny went to a secluded corner and talked among them.

"Damn that Master! How could he drop the ball on every native like that?" Jack cursed.

"He is trying to lower our native allies' morale," Jeanny said.

"I think the truth-revealing to the natives is supplementary. His target is players," John uttered.

Jack and Jeanny turned to him with questioning looks.

"He is becoming desperate," John said. "He must never have thought that he would lose in Palgrost. He also lost his zombie army. He is short on manpower, this is why he made that announcement, he wishes to refill his force with different assets."

"The players?" Jack asked.

John nodded. "The players nowadays can already go toe to toe with a native army. Many still have low levels, but a decent number of our experts can already contend against the high-level natives. The ones who joined the past wars were just a fraction of the player community. Many didn't join because they were not willing to take the risks. Imagine if all these players come together and form an army."

Jack and Jeanny contemplated John's words with serious expressions. If Master could get a sufficient number of players on his side, it would indeed spell trouble for them.

"He might say he revealed the truth to the natives," John continued. "But he was trying to put the news into context. He is letting every player know he is the one responsible for bringing them into this world. He is trying to entice everyone who wishes to return to the real world to his side."

"But... he can't do that. Our old world is no more," Jack said. "If he wishes to bring people back to the old world, he will have to erase this one. That is the opposite of his objective."

"True, but people don't know that," John said. "He will lie to them and use them. Once he conquers all the countries, he already has the native armies under his command. He won't worry about the players then."

"What should we do?" Jeanny asked.

"We will attend this conference, of course," John said. "Whatever he is playing at, we will deal with his lies there."

"Do you think it is safe to go there?" Jeanny asked.

"He announced that he guarantees every player's safety," Jack said.

"And you believe him?" John asked.

"Well... No."

"We will go, but we will go with our force as well. I don't believe we and our allied guilds lost to his."

"Do you think he will keep his word about not bringing native soldiers?" Jeanny asked.

"If he does, he will be breaking his own promise. It is impossible to hide a native army with so many players there. If he is found out, everyone will then see him as a liar," John answered. "I don't think he is that stupid. He will just lose his chance to gain support from players."

"Sigh... Problems just keep on coming," Jack lamented.

"Such is life. It never gives you the peace of settling your tasks one by one," Jeanny said. "It doesn't matter even if you already have too much on your plate, it will just keep throwing challenges your way. All we can do is deal with them as best we can."

Jack nodded. He understood what Jeanny was saying. He guessed he might not have the chance to deal with the quest that involved the league faction leaders.

"In any case, we will attend this convention and ruin Master's plan!" Jack declared.

"I will start sending messages to our allied guilds," Jeanny said. "I also have many contacts among the independent players. We will go there as a group."

"I don't think he invited us there to fight," John said. "I believe the battle there will be in arguments. But go ahead, more numbers on our side should let us intimidate the others into agreeing with us. I believe the enemy will do the same."

Jeanny left to make the arrangements. She would come again tomorrow morning when the meeting started.

John also left. He said he needed to rethink his approach due to this recent development. He might need to readjust his strategy which he would present in tomorrow's meeting.

Jack went back and accompanied Horatio for a little while before he excused himself. Tomorrow would be another long day with the country leaders, he didn't want to stay up too late.

Inside his chamber, he took out the Chalice of Blood.

## **Chapter 1540: Decision About the Truth**

"You have been playing with that artifact every night for a few days already," Peniel remarked. "I thought you didn't plan to use that thing?"

"I don't," Jack answered. "Well, at least not for its intended use."

"Then what are you doing with that artifact?" Peniel asked.

"I'm curious," Jack answered. "Do you notice that natives can interact with things in a way that we players can't? Like what Euphosine did with the divine heritage and what Marcus did with this Chalice of Blood?"

"Duh," Peniel stated. "We natives should be the ones who ask that. Having you outworlder get instantaneous effects from items and artifacts is seriously unfair."

"I don't mean it like that," Jack said. "What I'm trying to say is, maybe it is all about how we interact with the mana within the item."

"Huh?" Peniel didn't quite catch what Jack was saying.

"We outworlders are used to instant effects," Jack explained. "Maybe that's why we never think about using an item outside of its intended use. Natives are different. You are part of this world from the start. You interact with things more naturally. If you can sense and manipulate mana, maybe you can see an item's other usage as long as you are willing to think outside the box. Maybe this was how Marcus was able to use this thing in a way that was not expected."

"Hm...," Peniel didn't fully understand Jack's words. "Is that what you have been trying to do? To try to interact with the artifact naturally?"

"I'm trying to understand its mana," Jack said. "After these few nights of probing, I can understand that this artifact has a very strong binding power."

"Duh...," Peniel said again.

"I can't explain to you in words," Jack said. "You said you can sense my feeling, right? Try to sense what I'm feeling right now."

Peniel closed her eyes and focused her attention on the link between her and Jack. She could sense Jack's mind on the artifact. There was a strange sensation as she felt what Jack was doing. Jack was

trying to fuse his mana with the artifact. The artifact itself resisted the attempt. Any foreign mana that came into its territory was repelled.

As Peniel dwelt into the sensation, she found that not every attempt from Jack was unsuccessful. One part of the mana intruded further in than the other parts. When she turned to that part, she found that at that part, Jack's mana was more in sync with the artifact. It was as if Jack's mana was in disguise to infiltrate the chalice's mana.

From this, Peniel understood Jack's degree of mana control had again improved. Jack might be doing this to satisfy his curiosity, but he also trained his mana manipulation with this activity.

Jack himself was aware of this. He had never skipped the daily training of his martial arts and mana manipulation, but he found that doing this was more effective than his usual meditation training. Maybe it's because he was simply bored with the dull meditation training. In any case, he was absorbed in this new form of training.

He had known for some time that mana manipulation was a form of communication with some sort of sentient energy. He also knew that there were different types of mana. His mana affinity talent further improved his sensitivity to identify this different mana. This was how he understood the difference between his mana and the mana possessed by the Chalice of Blood. He was now trying to persuade his mana to masquerade among the mana of the chalice so that he could get a better understanding of this artifact.

It was easier said than done, though. He had been doing this for days and he had only managed to trick a small part of the chalice's mana into letting him in. He didn't let this discourage him. The same as martial arts, he understood training mana manipulation needed long effort and patience. Hence, he persevered.

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The next morning, Jack, John, and Jeanny had a quick talk before beginning the meeting. Jeanny suggested that they should come clean about the truth of the world. It was still fine if the natives were oblivious about it. But after Master's announcement, they would be denying the truth if they didn't confess to it.

John, of course, opposed the notion. After some argument, Jack decided that they should at least tell the native leaders. He believed all four leaders of their allied countries weren't people who were easily rattled by the revelation.

John reminded how the Gods had reacted after hearing this truth. They didn't even know what those Gods were doing right now. Jack responded by saying that the truth had turned Greed into one of the good ones, to which John countered, "Pride turned into a bad one."

John said that confirming the truth would just create a distraction when they should be focusing on their offensive plans, but he followed Jack's decision.

The meeting was supposed to be carried out in the war room. Jack invited Thelgrun, Kabaka, Aldryth, and Horatio to another small meeting room while their entourages waited at the war room. There, Jack and Jeanny told the four about the truth of the world. John just watched from the side.

The four leaders listened in silence. They were still silent after Jack and Jeanny finished the story.

"What proof do you have of this?" Horatio finally broke the silence.

"I have none," Jack answered. "It's okay if you choose to not believe this. In my opinion, it doesn't matter how this world came to be. What's important is that this is the real world. You don't owe the outworlders anything. This is both yours and our world now. We all live in this world and as leaders, we have to help shape it into something that brings well-being to the people we lead."

"Well said!" Thelgrun slammed his table. "I don't give a shit if outworlders create this world. I am not entertainment for someone else."

John came to the center of the room then. "So, what are you four going to do about this truth? Are you going to expose this to the people of your country?"