

World 271

Chapter 271: Captives

On the morning of that second day, before he went on the hunting quests with the others, Jack had also gone to visit the guard tower where he could get the faction quest. Unfortunately, there was still no nobility faction quest available.

The three days he spent doing three short adventurer quests and two hunting quests, he had collected 9 gold coins, 163 hunter points, 105 adventurer points, and 2265 souls. He had also sold out the trophy loots of elemental powder and troll's tooth which he had gotten during the time he spent with Themisphere faction's cadets.

During the time he was in the Adventurers Association and Hunters Association, he checked on the exclusive item list. All the exclusive items on the bronze hall had been bought up. The silver hall ones were still available, but he didn't have enough points for any item. However, he still would not get them even if he had enough points. The way he saw it, if he kept with this pace, he could be the first person to reach the gold rank. If so, then at that time, he wanted to have enough points to buy the exclusive items of that rank.

He used 2000 soul points out of the souls he had collected to further upgrade Power Strike and Swing, bringing them to level 10 and 3 respectively. With the help of the Container of Souls, he could also become the first person to max out one of the basic skills. The others could only do so by leveling up and using skill books which were very rare to acquire.

There were another two events to note during those days. First, he had leveled up his Mage class to level 19. Second, he received a message from Scarface in his Unrivaled Arcaner's inbox on the second day, telling him to assemble at Crestfall Plain two days later. He used his Unrivaled Arcaner persona and replied to Scarface that he was still in the middle of a long quest. He would be unavailable for an indeterminate future.

It was not until the third day, that another of themisphere nobility faction quest became available. It was a mission to become a security guard of a dignitary coming from another city. He came to the capital as a guest to a local nobleman to discuss trade. The mission last one day and one night.

It was a boring mission where Jack almost completely did not do anything except following the dignitary around. It was not until the next morning when the dignitary was about to leave that something happened. A servant who was bringing the dignitary the parting gift from his master turned out to be an assassin in disguise. The only thing that made Jack aware of the servant's nefarious identity, was the red dot in his God-eye's radar.

He was confused at first when the red dot showed up, as they were still within the nobleman's residence and everything looked as it should be. It was only when the red dot was getting nearer and Jack matched the red dot's position with the incoming servant that he realized something was wrong.

Jack took action just as the servant took out a hidden dagger. He shoved the dignitary aside, pushing him out of harm's way, and received the assassin's attack using his longsword. The fight didn't last long

as the other guards came and apprehend the assassin. The killer had lost his chance once his ambush failed.

Despite his life was saved, the dignitary was grumbling as he rose from the ground. Jack had a bad feeling hearing his grumbling. The mission ended once the dignitary left. He went to the guard tower to report the completion of his mission.

He got 50 merit points for completing the mission which requirement was only for escorting the dignitary. A bonus of 150 bonus points for foiling an assassination attempt. However, his bad feeling turned out to be correct, he was deducted 50 points for physically assaulting the dignitary.

Are you f**king kidding me? He complained in his mind. He was only doing that to save the bugger's life! This point deduction system was driving him crazy.

Total gained was 150 points, bringing his total merit point to 400 points. He was only a little bit more from becoming a Baron. Unfortunately, there was no more nobility faction quest available again. He might need to wait a few more days again. He wondered what would happen when more players joined the kingdom faction. The mission was already so scarce now, wouldn't then they had to fight each other when it happened? But probably the number of missions would scale up once more people joined.

He was coming out of the noble district when a player suddenly approached him. The guy was short and wore a hooded cloak. He moved in a suspiciously sneaky way. His hooded cloak was not the rare grade though, as Jack could still inspect the guy. The fellow was a member of Death Associates.

Did they seriously trying to look for trouble inside the city, Jack thought as the short guy was getting closer and closer. But instead of attacking him, the guy handed Jack an envelope.

Jack was not sure what to make of it. He just stared at the hand holding the envelope.

"Take it!" The short guy finally uttered.

"What is this?" Jack asked.

"It's a message for you," the guy said.

"What's the message about?"

"You read it yourself!" He spoke with impatience.

Jack decided to stop giving the short fellow a difficult time and took the envelope. He immediately scurried away afterward.

Jack looked at the envelope in his hand. What's the deal with this old-school message? What happened to the in-game message system? Oh right, the other party would not be able to contact him if they were not on his friend list.

He was about to open the envelope before he suddenly thought of something and asked Peniel, 'is there a possibility that this envelope is a trap? Is there a tool that can be disguised into a piece of paper which then can be detonated from a distance?'

"The hell are you talking about?" Peniel replied. "If it was that envelope, it should be all right. If it's something fishy, you should at least see rune words or some kind of inscriptions on it. I also did not feel any mana from it."

"You can feel mana?" Jack said as he turned the envelope around and saw it was indeed just a plain white envelope.

"It's an ability you will have to learn at some point, but not now. Still too advanced for you," Peniel said.

Jack's hand went back to the envelope and this time he didn't hesitate to tear its seal away. He then took out the piece of paper inside. There were writings inside. Jack read its contents. His expression turned grim and serious as he read. After he finished, he crushed the letter into a crumpled sheet.

So that's why Scarface had asked him to assemble at Crestfall Plain. Those guys had gone out of line, he said in his mind.

The letter had told him that Flame, Bowler, and The Man had been captured by Death Associates. If Jack did not want his three friends to lose everything they had accumulated till now and revert back to level 1, then he was to come to Crestfall Plain within six hours. A coordinate was written in the letter which he could input into his map to show the position of the plain. It was a plain to the East of the capital. It was not far away from Starlight Ruin where the three guilds organized their meeting. It was also one of the turfs occupied by the coalition.

It was pretty obvious that the invitation was meant for him to come so they could fight him on their term and had him killed in the wilderness. Still, there was no way for him to just abandon those three.

How the hell did they even get captured? Bowler and The Man, it was still conceivable for those two idiots, but how did Flame get entangled as well?

Jack did not just go ahead and believe the letter, he opened his friend list and write a message to Flame. After he sent the message, he soon received a system reply that the other party was unable to receive his message. He proceeded to send messages to Bowler and The Man as well, which he also received the same system reply.

"There is a couple of reasons when a message can't be sent," Peniel said in his mind. "When the recipient is in a restricted area, when the recipient chooses to turn off his message receiving function, or when there is a jamming object or spells nearby the recipient which prevents him or her from receiving a message. If what the letter said is true, then they are probably held captives in a special area or are being constrained by restraining tools."

"There are restraining tools?" Jack asked.

"Sure. A simple rope will be enough to restrict one's movement, but they are most likely being tied by restraining rope. It was a type of rope with inscriptions on it. Apart from restricting movement, it also inhibits skill and spell activation, and also prevents you outworlders from accessing your bags."

Chapter 272: Second Class Discovered?

Jack thought about the situation. Apparently, his opponent knew him enough to plan this setting. They knew he would not abandon his friends. And they were arrogant enough to not asking him to come alone. It's like saying that he was free to ask for help. His opponents were a coalition of guilds, any other party would be a fool to try to take them on. He was unsure if Silverwing would mobilize his guild to help him even if he asked for help.

He opened his friend list, if there is one person who can figure a way out, it had to be this guy. Considering his dispute with the coalition, he might be able to help him. He then sent a message to said person.

Jack was at Raven's Den, the tavern which he normally frequented by Bowler and The Man. It took four hours by running for a normal level 20 Warrior to reach the Crestfall Plain that was marked, three for Jack. In other words, he had another three hours to prepare. It was almost an hour before the person he had sent a message to, appeared before him.

"It's unusual for you to actively seek me," John said as he took the seat opposite Jack. "I assume something is wrong?"

John proceeded to order an ale before they begin their discussion. When the maid brought his ale over, John pointed at Jack and said, "tabs on him."

Under normal circumstances, Jack would have complained, but his concern at the moment was not on his coin expenditure. John caught his mood, he put on a serious face and asked, "what's wrong?"

Jack told him about the situation.

John was silent as he digested Jack's information.

"What's your thought?" Jack asked.

"It's easy. Just leave them be, it's not like they will really die. They can just level up again after," John said with ease.

Jack frowned, he was not in the mood for jokes.

"Damn it, you really are a nice person," John said. "I'm being serious about it. You can just take your revenge on them afterward in a guerilla manner. You will have no problem taking out their members one by one, but if you go there now, you will be facing their full force. I don't think even with your special condition, you will be able to face them all."

"... I still have to go," Jack said. There was one reason Jack was willing to take the risk. It was because of his Immortal Soul inherent skill. Even if he died in the coming battle, he would not lose everything. Of course, he was not going to tell John about this secret of his.

John sighed. "Well, it's your funeral."

The two of them went quiet for a while, before John finally broke the silence. "I might be able to cook something up that will put them in a bind, but it will take some time. You are required to arrive there at what? Four hours from now?"

"Five," Jack said.

"I don't think it's possible for me to arrange something and go there within five hours," John said.

"How much more time do you need?"

"Maybe another two more hours... or an hour at least."

Jack stood up and said, "okay, I will try to survive until then."

"You really are serious, aren't you?" John said. "Well, not like I dislike that attitude of yours. It will be troublesome as a friend when you are in need, but reliable if I am the one in need. Say, if I am the one being held captive, will you come to save me as well?"

"Of course," Jack told him.

"You are not just saying that because you need my help at the moment now, are you?"

"Of course not," Jack said, then added, "maybe."

"Heh, fine, but I'm not doing this for free. I will expect compensation!" He declared.

"Bro, you still owe me the coins you got from selling those recording stones."

"Ugh, you really drive a hard bargain. Fine, I will take your share of those selling as payment. So we are square now, ok?"

"Okay," Jack said.

"One other thing," John said to him before he left. "If you really are serious about going through this, you have better stop concealing that special condition of yours."

"What special condition?" Jack asked.

"Your ability to use magic."

"What are you talking about?"

"Heh, look at you, suddenly become smart. Usually, you will just ask me how do I know about it. Guess you are not falling for it anymore."

"I still have no idea what you are saying," Jack insisted. In his mind though, he did ask how the heck did this guy know.

"Well, I know you are still wondering how I know. I will still tell you then. I already have my suspicion since the first time we work together. There was this mysterious magician who cast spells from behind me, but there was no one behind me at the time except for you. At first, I thought there is an unknown magician hiding somewhere in the cave, yet there was no such person. Then I was sure when I find out that an asshole has taken the technique book Body Double which I have set my sight on."

Uh-oh, Jack thought in his mind.

"And guess what? At that time, it was still too early for someone to become a silver adventurer, and you need to be a silver adventurer to have enough points to get that book. So I asked the counter who was the first person that has become one. Guess whose name pops out?"

"Well..., I could just be getting the book for a magician friend of mine," Jack tried to make an excuse.

"Are you taking me for a retard?" John said. "Well, whatever your reason. I know concealing your trump card is wise, but an unused trump card will not be functioning as a card at all. You should use your trump card at the emergency moment, and this, my friend, is that emergency moment, is just what I'm saying. You decide it yourself, just try to stay alive until I arrive. If they are already gone by the time I arrive with reinforcements, I will just be making a fool of myself."

Jack nodded, "I will try my best. Oh, before I forget, if your plan involves the White Scrafs as well, you should know that Death Associates has a spy within their core members."

"Oh? This is interesting. I don't suppose you will tell me how you come to this piece of information?"

Jack shrugged.

"And do you know who this spy is?"

Jack shrugged again.

"I suppose not. All right, I will be off to make the arrangements," John said as he walked outside.

In the end, he left first, Jack thought. He looked at the time, there was still around two hours, or one hour at least before he had to leave. He decided to make preparation first.

Luckily, he had leveled up all his weapons and armors four days ago. If not, he would not have enough time to do all that. He opened up his status window. He still had some saved up free attributes points and free skill points. No sense to save them any longer, as John had said, this was an emergency moment. He needed all the advantage he could secure.

He threw all 4 free attribute points into Reflex, an attribute he had been neglecting all this time. He would be fighting against numerous enemies, he would need quick reaction time for that. His reflex went up to 74, there was also a total of 16 points boost from his equipment, lifting his reflex to 90 points.

He had 4 free skill points for Warrior class, and 8 free skill points for Mage class. He put the 4 free warrior skill points into his two new advanced skills, 2 for Shredding Fang and 2 for Flash Step. The 8 free mage skill points he also divided equally for Barrier and Ice Ring. He took a look at his improved skills and spells.

Flash Step, level: 3/20 (Active skill, movement)

Instantly moves in a direction to a maximum distance of 2.5 meters. Create an afterimage in the original position.

Cooldown: 10 seconds

Stamina consumed: 10

Shredding Fang, level: 3/20 (Active skill, range, required melee weapon)

Creates three giant energy fangs that traveled in three directions in a fan shape. Each fang deals 210% physical damage, 25% chance to cause Bleed.

Range: 6 meters

Cooldown: 2 minutes

Stamina consumed: 50

Barrier, level: 7/20 (Active skill, defensive, required magic weapon)

Create a barrier around caster that can withstand damage of 68% from caster's maximum HP. Barrier will vanish once damage threshold is reached or duration had passed.

Duration: 30 seconds

Cooldown: 3 minutes

Mana: 50

Ice Ring, level: 7/20 (Active Skill, range, required magic weapon)

Deal 240% ice damage to a radius 6 meters area around caster.

All enemies within the area are slowed for 10 seconds, 10% chance of enemies struck to get frozen for 2 seconds.

Cooldown: 2 minutes

Mana: 50

Now that the attribute and skill parts were done, time to gather external tools, Jack thought in his mind as he left the tavern.

Chapter 273: Shopping

Jack walked into the magic scroll shop and looked around the place. His stock of scrolls from his last purchase had almost been depleted, only leaving 1 Heal and 1 Magic Bind scroll.

The storekeeper approached and asked, "are you looking for something, sir?"

"Yes, I'm looking for the Chain Lightning scroll, where do you put it?" Jack asked.

"I'm sorry, sir. We have run out of stock for that scroll. Perhaps I can propose another scroll for you?"

Peniel chimed in, "It was normal for elite spell scroll to be out of stock, especially the mid-tier elite ones like Chain Lightning. Perhaps the one you bought last time was the only one that was available in this shop. It will take a few weeks before that scroll is restocked."

'Then I am stuck with the low-level ones?'

"That can also be in your best interest. Have you ever thought that those guilds might have come to purchase the magic scrolls here as well? If they have gotten their hands on the high-level spells, you won't stand a chance. You should be grateful it is still rare to get those spells at this time."

That's true as well, Jack thought. After all, John had also come to purchase the Wall of Vines scrolls. The guild certainly would not be lacking in coins to purchase these scrolls. But then again, they had a greater expenditure, so they would not be spending them recklessly as well.

"What AOE spells do you have here?" Jack asked the storekeeper.

"AOE spells are mostly high-level ones, so we don't have many. Here are the available ones," the storekeeper said as he brought Jack to another section of the shop.

"Are you thinking of spamming the spells using these magic scrolls?" Peniel asked.

'What other choice do I have? I will be fighting against a crowd. Although I have done that before, I think this time will be very different. I will need firepower that deals damage in a large area.'

"It's good that you are looking for AOE spells, but you need to know that there is a cooldown for each usage of same magic scroll."

'There is such limitation...? Hey, wait a minute, I clearly remembered when I was fighting with the three guilds' members, I've used Magic Wall and Chain Lightning back to back. There is no cooldown restriction.'

"Can you please listen to me more carefully? I said same magic scroll..."

'Oh... So I cannot spam the same spell.'

"The same way as if you have cast the spell yourself, there will be a cooldown before you can use the scroll containing the same spell again."

'Then I'll just stock up on different AOE spells and used them in turn.'

"Look at that pile of magic scrolls first before you make such comment," Peniel told him. They had arrived at the section where the storekeeper took them. Jack looked at the magic scrolls on display.

Arcane Turbulence, Arcane Turbulence, Arcane Turbulence. Crap, they are all the same spell, Jack cursed in his mind.

'What is Arcane Turbulence spell?' Jack asked.

"It is an AOE damage spell. It is actually a standard advanced spell that Mage will acquire when they reach level 20. You are just one level away from getting this spell."

'Advanced spell? No wonder there are many stocks.' Jack then turned to the storekeeper. "Is there any other AOE spell available?"

"Regretfully not at this time," the storekeeper replied apologetically.

'How good is this spell?' Jack asked Peniel.

"It creates an area which deals continuous damage to all the ones within that area. It also caused Disoriented to those in the area and it lasts for ten seconds."

'Sound pretty good,' Jack commented.

"Yes, just buy some, but if you want a good AOE, you should go to another place. Good thing is, that place should still not be accessible to those guilds people at this time."

'Oh? Where is it?'

"Remember the Disruptive Bombs you bought before?" Peniel reminded him.

'Oh, that. Yes, I want to buy more of them as well, but it was not my first choice because I was still shocked by how awesome the Chain Lightning spell was. I thought I could get my hands on that scroll again. Is there a cooldown time for those Disruptive Bombs?'

"There are none, so you can spam them."

'They are expensive though. Almost as expensive as the Chain Lightning spell while they only deal 300 magic damage.'

"You can spam them though," Peniel said again.

'All right, let's finish up here and we will go there and buy up their entire stock of Disruptive Bombs!'

Jack went to see if there was any other elite offensive spell. He went to the section where he last bought the Fireball scroll.

"Why is there no fireball scroll at all? I remember there are still plenty of them the last time I was here," he asked the storekeeper.

"I'm sorry, sir. We run out of that scroll as well," the storekeeper replied.

"Why are you looking for a Fireball spell anyway?" Peniel asked, "the spell has high damage but it is a single target spell. Aren't you looking for spells that damage a crowd? That Arcane Turbulence is still better even with less damage."

Jack shrugged, "beggars can't be choosers, but since there is none, I'll just make do with the ones available."

In this magic scroll shop, Jack bought 3 Arcane Turbulence scrolls, 3 Heal scrolls, 3 Regeneration scrolls, 3 Wind Jet scrolls, only 1 Magic Wall because that's the only one left in the shop, 5 Magic Bind scrolls, and 5 Wall of Vines scrolls. He paid 8 gold and 20 silver coins for all the scrolls. Now was not the time to be stingy, he said to himself as he bitterly handed the coins over.

After leaving the magic scroll shop, he hailed a carriage and went back to the noble district. He headed directly to the magic association shop which sold the Disruptive Bombs. He found that the shop's stock on the bomb was much more than the previous time he came here. There was a total of thirty bombs available. He went and bought them all up without reserve, which cost 18 gold coins.

He felt like crying, all this spending for one-time-use items. He was basically going to fight the enemies using coins.

When he was ready to leave, Peniel stopped him and asked him to look around more. He had not checked all the merchandise in this shop the last time he was here, Peniel wanted to see if there was

any other thing that could be of help before they headed to battle. The fairy seemed genuine in her intention to help, she didn't want Jack to fall in the coming battle.

Jack saw that he still had plenty of time left, so he complied. After all, if he could get another useful tool, it would give him a better chance at surviving.

As he walked around the large store, Peniel abruptly asked him to stop. The fairy came out from her hidden dimension and flew to an item on a nearby shelf. She looked at the item, which was a tiny red statue with the shape of a cat. Jack used his God-eye monocle to scan the object.

Pyro Lynx Figurine (rare consumable)

Summon a special elite fire elemental lynx that match the summoner's level.

Duration: 1 hour

"Wow, good eye!" Jack complimented Peniel after he read the item's description. As his eyes moved lower to the price section, he added, "wow, shit!"

The price indicated was 4 gold. 4 gold coins for a single one-time-use item that only lasted for an hour. Wasn't that a bit too much? But a special elite monster was no joke, he had fought against two already and tested their power. Although on both occasions the monsters were at a higher level than him. He estimated if it was the same level, this special elite should be around the same power level as him with his dual-class attribute and fully leveled-up rare gears.

As he was still struggling with that figurine price tag, Peniel called out from the opposite shelf, "you should take these also."

Jack looked over and saw a batch of small round glass balls, like marbles. He picked up one of the tiny things and inspected it.

Liberty of movement (rare consumable)

Break free from all movement restrictions. Immune to movement restriction for the next 10 seconds.

Cost: 50 silver

Jack could see why Peniel asked him to buy it. He had been wondering what he would do if the other side had Magic Bind scrolls as well, or any other spells that could affect his movement. He would get beaten up if he could not move freely while being surrounded.

Jack went ahead and bought ten of the fancy marbles. He presumed the other side wouldn't have prepared more than ten Magic Bind scrolls, right?

"This as well," Peniel pointed at another item not far away. It was a potion bottle.

Reset Potion (rare consumable)

Reset all skills' cooldown.

Cost: 1 gold coin

Cooldown: 1 hour

Another good supporting tool. With this, he should be able to use Life Burning Art twice, in addition to his other skills which had a long cooldown. He glimpsed at the description again, an item that reset cooldown which had a cooldown itself, what irony.

He took the Reset Potion and that Pyro Lynx Figurine as well, so in total, he spent another 10 gold coins more. He supposed at this stage even the big guilds had never made such large spending as he did within today, except for the property purchase of course.

His gold coin saving was now down to 29 gold coins. A far cry from what he had when he started the day.

With all the new supporting tools, he was ready to move out. He again used a carriage to save time as he traveled to the city gate.

Chapter 274: Crestfall Plain

Crestfall Plain was a large open field filled with low yellow grasses. The monster habitat at the place was decent-leveled Giant Wolves and Wild Cats, their levels in that area ranged from level 17 to level 19, which was very suitable for the current mainstream players.

Many independent players and guilds outside of the coalition had avoided this place for knowing it to be the coalition's turfs.

At the moment, Jack was hidden behind a tree in a forest at the periphery of the Crestfall Plain. He was applying the enhanced Whetstone to his Storm Breaker and eating one Sweet Dumpling. The battle will be soon and he wanted to get as many buffs as possible.

There were several players standing at eyesight distance along the edges of the Crestfall Plain. They appeared to be keeping watch, and they were standing in plain sight, without a worry of being perceived. Not that there was any place to hide in this open field plain. They were probably acting as sentries to notify the others when Jack appeared.

The advantage of his God-eye monocle would be nullified here. If it was a forest setting or a hillside setting with irregular terrain, he could use hide and seek tactics to whittle down his foes. He could easily determine their positions using his radar and strike them while they were unaware. But here, everyone could see everything clearly. He wondered if the act of choosing this site was to counter his radar detection ability? But that would mean somebody from the opposite side had known about his ability?

Could Bowler or The Man or Flame have spilled the beans while they were in captives? Nah, he didn't think so. He could tell the three of them were the type that was fiercely loyal to a friend. They wouldn't tell the enemy anything even if it meant losing all that they had gained till this moment. If they were to actually be threatened with real death, now that might be a different case.

While the players were in plain sight, Jack, on the other hand, did not see any of the monsters typical to the plain. The Death Associates might have cleaned up all the monsters in the area, to make the area more controllable.

Since he found no way to sneak past the sentries, he simply strutted out brazenly.

The nearest player looked surprised when he saw Jack. They were indeed being tasked to watch for Jack, but they did not actually expect the guy to truly come. The sentry looked at Jack in a weird way.

Jack made a scan on that sentry and found out that he was a level 17 Ranger from a guild called Crowd of Sins. They were amongst the guild that had joined the three big guilds and formed the coalition. So it was as he had expected, he was not just going to deal with Death Associates here. He was actually going up against the coalition.

But that didn't deter him. "Lead the way," he said to the sentry.

Jack's words awakened him from his stupor. He looked at Jack with an even more awkward expression. Not only did this idiot really show up, but he even had the gall to ask him to lead the way?

He was not sure of how to react. The upper management had warned him that he might be killed once their target appeared. His task was to simply send a warning before it happened. If he could escape, that would be the best, but he would be compensated if he died. This was also what had been told to the other sentries. So he was now sending a message to his superior asking how to proceed.

Jack became impatient when the sentry wasn't giving him any reaction. "Hellooo...", he called out.

The sentry received his superior's reply at that moment. He was told to bring the guy over. He immediately said to Jack, "this way please."

As the sentry turned around to start walking, he suddenly realized. Why the heck did he act so polite? Weren't they supposed to be enemies?

As they walked, Jack could see the other sentries in the distance also started walking in the direction that he was heading. They were indeed tasked to look out for him. Now that he had shown up, their tasks were done.

They didn't have to walk far before Jack saw a throng of people in the distance.

Did they seriously amass that many people just for him? Jack thought as he watched with apprehension.

Not far from where the crowd had been seen by Jack, there was a small hill with an elevated position that allowed viewing to most part of the plain. On this small hill was a small group of people standing and three bound ones sitting on the ground.

The three bound ones were Fierce Flame, Star Bowler, and The Man. They were each bound by a piece of yellow rope that radiated a thin golden aura.

The others around were the heads of the guilds in the coalition, or their superior representatives, and their bodyguards. Amongst them were Scarface, Manager Steelhand, and Queen Magenta, who were all at level 20 already.

"I'll be damned! He really does show up," Manager Steelhand uttered when he saw Jack in the distance.

"Hmph! His arrogance will be his downfall," Queen Magenta commented.

"I've expected so," Scarface said.

"Still, I did not expect him to come alone, I would expect that at least White Scarfs will lend him some assistance," Manager Steelhand said.

"Too bad then, we would have been able to crush them together," Queen Magenta said.

"As a matter of fact, they did intend to lend him assistance," Scarface spoke.

The others turned to him. He then explained, "I've received a message from my source that a contingent from White Scarfs had been mobilized to come here. They have left an hour ago."

"What? Why didn't you tell us earlier?" Queen Magenta complained.

"Because the six hours deadline we gave Storm Wind will expire long before they arrived. If he comes, we will deal with him, and then reorganizes to deal with the White Scarfs group. If he doesn't come, then we waste these hostages and then we organize to deal with the White Scarfs group. In any case, we still have enough time, they will not arrive here in at least another two hours, three if their group has magicians."

"Okay, so let's just waste this Storm Wind so we can deal with the real problem," manager Steelhand said. "Once White Scarfs is defeated, we will be the true overlord among players in the capital. The other guilds will have no choice but to submit!"

Another person who stood beside them snorted, "hmph! If you didn't inform me that White Scarfs is really coming, I was just about to pull my people out. Assembling us here just to deal with a single person, that is embarrassing."

Scarface turned to the person who had spoken. The guy was a tall yet skinny elder, his skin was dark and his expression exuded the definition of arrogance. The old man was called Prideful Josh, a level 20 Mage. He was the acting leader of the guild Crowd of Sins within the capital.

"I would suggest you not to underestimate that man," Scarface told him.

"Hmph! Don't lump me with your incompetence men for dealing with a single person," Prideful Josh uttered.

Bigarm who stood behind Scarface was angered by the insult. "How dare you! Do you think your guild is stronger than our Death Associates?! And you only bring less than a hundred people here. You were not serious about joining this call for assembly from the start!"

"You are right I'm not serious! The call is to deal with one person, with the White Scarfs guild only as a probability. Heck! I can just send my guild's small expert group to deal with this matter. Assembling as here only show off your guild's incompetence!"

"You...!"

Scarface stopped Bigarm from arguing further. "It's not time for us to fight among ourselves," he said. "In fact, I understand many of the others think the same. The difference is that brother Josh here was being honest about his feeling."

He looked around at the other leaders of the coalition. "Many of you only send a small part of your troops. It doesn't matter, it should be enough to deal with that man and the White Scarfs group that is

coming. If you think that it's a disgrace that I've been overcautious to invite all of you just to deal with that man, so be it. I will consider your coming here as a favor to Death Associates, and we will remember it. For now, let us focus to deal with the matter first."

The other leaders nodded, while Prideful Josh snorted. Manager Steelhand who saw that everyone had calmed down, spoke out, "In fact, I also have a piece of news that I might need to share with you people."

The other leaders now turned to him. Manager Steelhand continued, "I've also received a message from my members in the capital. Do you guys still remember the player named Saint John?"

Chapter 275: Small Talks

"That *sshole!" Queen Magenta cursed out.

"Yes, indeed, that *sshole," manager Steelhand agreed. "He was a hated player within my guild, so my people can easily recognize him. My member has reported that this detestable person has been riling up the masses by making an oration on the capital street. He tried to coax the independent players to follow him and battle our coalition. He said that we are congregating at this place and White Scarfs with the other guilds were on their way here. He urged the independent players to join them in the fight to stop us from continuing to monopolize the leveling grounds."

"How stupid can he be? Why does anyone want to follow him?" The Real Man commented. He was at level 14, he was still having trouble trying to catch up with the others' levels after being killed by Jack. Hence, he was amongst those that were most eager when this plan to deal with Jack was laid out. His guild, Warriors of Solidarity, was also amongst those that joined the coalition.

"Strange thing is, my member reported a lot of players were leaving the gate with him as he went out. That was around one hour ago as well," Manager Steelhand said.

"Hm... If those independent players do join hand with White Scarfs people, that will be quite troublesome," Scarface said. "And what did he mean by other guilds? Is he saying that other guilds other than White Scarfs are taking action against us as well?"

"I don't know. The guy could just be bluffing," manager Steelhand said.

"No matter, we will crush anyone that comes!" Prideful Josh declared.

Scarface nodded. "That's right. Let's deal with Storm Wind first. Send the messages to the group leaders that they can engage!"

Bigarm followed the instruction and sent the messages. A level 20 Rogue beside him, who wore a long black cloak, approached Scarface.

"She will be furious when she finds out that you are dealing with that man when she is not around," the Rogue, who was Blackjack, spoke.

"She has an important mission," Scarface replied without turning around.

"Heh, I was wondering why you choose this date to enact this plan. Not two days ago, not the next three days. Now I'm sure it's because you don't want her to be here. You are afraid that she will insist on having a duel first with Storm Wind before she allows any of you to touch him. Am I right?"

Scarface didn't answer.

Blackjack continued, "she will see this as you do not trust that she will win in single combat with that man. That's why I tell you she will be furious. You have better have a good excuse when she comes back."

Queen Magenta who was standing nearby, overheard their conversation. She asked, "are you talking about Red Death? I have been wondering why she was not around."

"She has an important mission to deal with the guild quest that we discussed in the meeting. Her task is too important for her to deal with this matter here," Scarface said.

"Heh, I will advise you to think up a better excuse than that one," Blackjack said. He then turned to Queen Magenta, "I also not see your top player here. Where is Selena?"

Queen Magenta face turned sour, "that bitch, she said this ploy is beneath her. She wants nothing to do with it."

"Haha," Blackjack laughed out. "Those two women with their strong personalities."

Queen Magenta gave him a stare.

"Ah, forgive me. You are also a very strong woman," he quickly corrected.

As the leaders of the coalition were conversing, Jack was watching the sea of players. The sentry who brought him over stood beside him. Jack looked at him and asked, "do you want to stay here? Or do you want to cross over there?"

The sentry, coming to realize his position, immediately scurried over to his guild's side, cursing himself all the way.

Jack turned his attention back to the crowd. He made a rough calculation, there were probably around a thousand players over there. Most of them were basic class with an average level around 17 to 19. There were some advanced class players but only a minority, he guessed it was still difficult for most players to pass the advanced class test at this stage.

Did they really have to amass so many people just to deal with him? That Scarface guy was truly too paranoid, Jack complained in his mind.

He looked over to the small hill behind the crowd. His Dragon's eye skill's passive ability allowed him to see further distance much clearer compared to the average players. Thus, he could recognize the people on that small hill despite the distance. Amongst the people he knew, there were the leaders of the three big guilds, then The Real Man, then his three friends on the ground who were bound with some kind of rope.

"Now do any of you guys were given the authority to speak? Or should we just get directly to bashing each other?" Jack spoke out to the crowd.

A female voice responded to him, "There is no us bashing each other. It will be only us bashing you! Can't you take a look at the situation? Do you seriously think you can take us on?"

Jack turned in the direction of the voice and saw a face from the past. "Oh, it's you, hag."

"Who the hell do you call a hag?!!" The woman who spoke was Flowing Fox from Weary Wolf gang, who had recently become a formal guild. Boulder was beside the woman holding her from making a rash move of running towards their opponent by herself. He was at level 18 and had just recently become an advanced class, Knight. While Flowing Fox was still a Magician at level 12, she was not as passionate about leveling up after dying in the tutorial period. She was the only odd level 12 amongst the troop. Everyone was actually wondering why the heck this weak woman was out here at the front line.

She, on the other hand, just wanted this business with Jack over with. So she could go and kill Fierce Flame. Scarface had warned to not have anyone touch their three captives until their business with Jack was done.

The Weary Wolf was the only small size guild within the coalition, so Boulder didn't get the privilege of standing amongst the other guild leaders on the hill. Instead, he was tasked with leading the front line of the coalition troops, which he thought was excessive. In fact, everyone standing there now think it was excessive to have so many people dealing with a single player. Everyone just considered this whole affair a weird joke.

"It's Boulder, right?" Jack called out from the distance. He was around twenty-five meters away from the troop's front line. He was within the spell range of a Mage, but not Magician, and there were not many mages within the troop.

Around 80% of the front-line troop consisted of Magicians. Jack surmised that they had studied his previous battle styles against a crowd, where he liked to dive into their ranks and wreak havoc by abusing his overpowered attributes. Range players would not be able to provide assistance since there will be many friendly fires possible to happen. With the front line troop consisted mostly of magicians, they could start swarming him with spells before he approached. And it seemed like that was their intention, as Jack saw all the magicians holding their staffs and wands ready and aiming at him even before he came into their range.

"Is there any condition that you were asked to apply to me before we start?" Jack continued. "Like I am not allowed to hit any of you or else my friends will be hurt?"

Boulder touched his chin and said, "well, we haven't discussed that, but I can ask."

"I mean, if you are going to add more ridiculous conditions even though you have already greatly outnumbered me, I will just pack up and leave immediately," Jack informed him. "I don't think none of you is fast enough to chase after me now, do you?"

"Uh, in that case, no, no condition," Boulder said.

"What are we even having these small talks with him for? Let's just get this over with," Fox complained.

Boulder glanced at her with annoyance, wasn't it you who first started responding to his talking?

"So no one is going to touch my friend while we are at it, right?" Jack asked again to confirm.

"You are such a wussy! Do you think we need any more conditions just to deal with the likes of you?" Fox mocked.

Sister, you are talking with him again, Boulder said in his mind. At that moment, he received a go message from Bigarm.

"Okay, we can go," Boulder told the others.

At the same time, Jack exclaimed to them, "all right, I'm coming over!"

Chapter 276: The Battle Starts!

The Mages took a step forward to put Jack into their range and started throwing out the Energy Bolts spells, while Magicians followed behind and got ready to follow up once Jack came into their range. Jack executed Charge at the same time the spells were cast.

Boulder smirked, he was familiar with Charge skill, as one of his subordinates had also successfully become a Warrior. The Charge skill had a range of 8 meters. There was still a distance away after the Charge was done. Jack had instead delivered himself right inside the range of all the Magicians. He shouted the command for those Magicians. "fire at will!"

Jack chose to use Charge to beat the slow turning mechanism of Energy Bolts. The Mages had targeted his position before executing Charge. As the bolts rushed forward at his original position, his Charge had brought him to a distance. All he had to endure were the few bolts that came directly from his front. These few bolts didn't cause him much damage due to his high defense and endurance, and were further mitigated by his Blood Guard Scale armor which reduced all ranged damage by 35%. The other energy bolts tried to turn and came at him but they did a large arc and ended up further away to his left and right.

There was however a different torrent of spells coming at him at the end of his Charge. It was casted by the Magicians, though their damage was less compared to Mage, they numbered far higher. The spells and attacks came from every direction, it was like a rain of light that fell in a horizontal direction.

Jack knew that he would not survive all those spells landing on him, but if only a portion, then that's another story. He took out the Wind Jet scroll. Using the same tactic but with a different skill. He barreled in a straight line into the enemy's rank, suffering through the spells and attacks that had been shot from his front while the rests decimated the ground at his original position.

Jack pointed the wind jet a bit up into the sky, so he didn't crash into the crowd. He wanted to be right in the middle of the enemy. The Wind Jet spell ended and he started to fall, right above the head of one of the level 18 Fighters of the enemy troop. He cleaved downward at the fighter's unsuspecting head using his Storm Breaker while applying Power Strike. The poor sod was blasted into the ground accompanied by critical damage of 912! The guy died immediately from that one strike.

It was not just the players around him that were dumbstruck by that one-hit-kill. Jack himself was similarly astounded.

Holy shit! 912? Heck, if I was the one getting hit like that, I would also almost die, he thought. After all, Jack's full HP was 950.

But there were several reasons why Jack's damage could reach that height. First of all, his sword's base damage was already 140 after the upgrade to level 30. Then he had further boosted it with enhanced whetstone which added a 20% increase. The Sweet Dumpling also added a 10% boost, and his inherent Warrior class granted another 10% increase to physical damage. In total, he already had 196 base damage from that 40% boost, and that was not yet calculated with the boost from his Strength attribute, which calculation as Peniel put it, was a bit vague. That added with his level 10 Power Strike which dealt 240% physical damage, and then again doubled by critical damage. It was not strange for the damage to reach over 900 damage. Even with a Fighter's decent endurance and decent armor, the guy still died immediately since his full HP was only 460.

The dumbstruck players around froze in place. They felt like they had just seen something unreal, and were still registering the incident. Jack similarly paused for an instant, but he soon recovered. After all, he was not as surprised as the others, since he was aware of the multiple factors that had contributed to his high damage.

He utilized their surprise to his advantage, using Swing to hit multiple enemies at the same time. He then started hacking at the ones closest with extreme speed. Each of his normal slashes dealt damage ranging from 160 to 180. One of his normal slashes could already reduce a Magician or Ranger's life to less than half, two slashes to kill them. While Fighters would survive only one more slash compared to those two classes. The basic class players started to drop like weeds.

He used his past strategy when fighting in a crowd. When many started to converge at his position, he used his uncanny speed to move to another position. When the players tried to stop him physically, he used his exceptional strength to shove them aside. All the while forcing his enemies into close combat and rendering their range attacks unusable. He continued to cause damage to every enemy he passed through. This strategy was rendered possible due to his overpowering attributes. Not to mention all his equipment was rare grade, and all of them had been upgraded to level 30! None within the enemy's rank possessed the stats and gears that could match his.

"I will stop him!" A Knight suddenly appeared in front of Jack. He used a large two-handed broadsword. He swung the heavy sword vertically at Jack. Several Fighters took position near Jack's two sides while a group of players came at his back, cutting all his escape paths. He must clash with the Knight's swing.

As the large sword came down, Jack didn't lift his sword to parry. The others looked on in confusion as the heavy sword crashed into Jack's face and sliced through his whole body. Or so they thought, but then they realized Jack was still in his position despite the heavy hit, and there was no damage indicator. And then the Jack who they were looking at suddenly disappeared.

While these onlookers were still in a confused state, they were awakened by a pained cry. They turned and saw the knight who had made the attack was holding the back of his waist. Jack was standing behind him.

While the others were stunned by his sudden disappearance and appearance due to his new skill, Flash Step. Jack executed his other new skill, Shredding Fang! Three giant fang-like shapes made of blue color energy erupted from the ground, they then traveled at high speed to three different directions in a fan shape in front of Jack, mowing down every player on their paths. Every player hit by those fangs

received damage around 380 to 410 damage. Any Rangers or Magicians on their ways died immediately while the Fighters were in a critical state.

Jack sent another normal slash to the Knight and took his life. When he was about to dive in to finish off the other fighters who were in critical health. Some of the closest to him were enveloped by healing lights.

Healers around! Jack quickly surmised. He looked around and soon located their positions with his enhanced vision in seeing details from the Dragon's Eye passive ability. The heal spell had a cooldown, and there were limited healers, but he didn't try to barge through the healed Fighters to get to the still injured ones behind. Instead, he changed direction and headed to the healers. It would be troublesome if he let the Healers free.

But the enemies were also aware of this, several fighters came in front of the healers. They were not holding any weapons. Instead, they were having their arms interlocking with each other, forming a human wall.

What the hell is that? Jack thought when he saw their tactic.

The human wall started to move towards him. The wall formed was rather long, the left and right sides moved faster and they slowly formed a half-circle enclosing onto Jack.

They were trying to encircle me! Jack realized. He had used his havoc-wreaking strategy against the crowd a few times. Even if the enemy had no way to defeat his overpower attributes, it made sense if the enemy had thought of other ways to deal with him. There were other players waiting behind the fighters that formed the human wall, ready to strike at him through the gaps between each fighter once Jack was rendered immobile.

Jack rammed his body to one of the Fighters within the human wall, trying to use his incredible strength to break through like usual. But those fighters with arms interlocking each other proved too solid for his strength to overcome. He was pushed back instead.

Jack tried to move backward but he then noticed another human wall had also formed behind him.

Jack sent a slash to one of the Fighters that formed the human wall, trying to kill one to break the chain and thus escaping through the gap. But a healing light soon enveloped that fighter, bringing his HP back to full.

Damn! It's the Healers again, Jack cursed. They had used those healers to lure him into a position where the human wall could entrap him. Now those healers were sustaining the wall and making sure none of the Fighters that formed the wall died.

Chapter 277: Hellish Explosion

The human walls from the front and back soon squeezed into him and limited his movement. The rangers from behind started stabbing through the gaps, nipping at Jack's HP.

Oh, so you want to play rough, eh? Have at thee! Jack screamed in his mind as he activated the Life Burning Art. His body exploded with a red aura as all his already high attributes doubled to a new height.

He rammed at the human wall again. Different than before, the Fighter that received Jack's slam could no longer keep his position. He felt like his arms were being torn apart as they were forced to break away from his comrades' hold. A gap was created, and Jack did not waste it. He used Charge as he barged through everyone on his way, dealing damage all the way.

He looked at the Healers who were not so far away. Those healers instantly felt goosebumps after being stared at by that fiery demon. They turned around trying to run and create distance.

Sword of Light! The crescent light crashed into the back of a fleeing healer, directly claiming his life.

"Now that feels better," Jack said. He had no actual enmity with those healers, but it was just annoying having them disrupt his fighting patterns.

He took out a Heal scroll and used it. The Life Burning Art had directly taken 30% of his life and was still eating his HP slowly, while his fight from the start was not without wounds. He had suffered several hits and with the activation of Life Burning Art, he had less than half-life remaining. The Heal scroll immediately brought his HP to a safe level. He then proceeded to use the Regeneration scroll. His life started to recover by 5 HP per second. The Life Burning Art ate 1 HP per second while the Regeneration spell healed him by 5 each second. So he was still healing by 4 HP per second.

This was amazing, he thought. If he could keep using the Regeneration spell, he could sustain the Life Burning Art indefinitely!

'How long does this regeneration spell lasts?' He asked Peniel.

"1 minute," Peniel answered him.

That was short, but still, it meant he could have a free 1 minute long of Life Burning Art. Not wasting the advantage, he continued wreaking havoc amongst the coalition troop.

On the small hill where the leaders of the guilds were spectating the fight, Prideful Josh's expression was ugly. There were several of his men amongst those that died. Including the Knight that had tried to block Jack's advance. An advanced class player was still rare, it was not easy for one to pass the test. A loss of an advanced player was a heavy blow to a guild.

"Now do you understand why I called everyone over?" Scarface said to him.

"Hmph! He was just a bit talented. He will fall soon, no one will be able to fight an entire army by himself," Prideful Josh found admitting a wrong was beneath him.

"That's true," Scarface agreed. "However, we can't waste too much manpower to wear him down. Better to sacrifice some to bring this to a swift conclusion. We still have the White Scrafs group to deal with. We need to conserve our strength."

"You have a proposal?" Prideful Josh asked.

"Yes," Scarface said as he took out a dark red color magic scroll. He then told everyone, "have your people's advanced classes out of the battlefield! Only leave the ones that we have promised for compensation."

Before the fight, Scarface had asked each guild to inform their people involved in this operation that those who died will be given compensation. There will be a possibility as well that a sacrificing move might be needed. Those with the lowest level have the duty to hold back the enemy. At first, no one was taking it seriously. After all, the enemy was one man. Only if White Scarfs guild appeared then the move might be used. But it appeared that Scarface was serious about deploying that killer move now.

The others found this idea inconceivable. Yet, seeing their members dying continuously on the field below, they had no choice but to swallow this bitter pill. They either use that sacrificing move or they sent their elite members into the foray. However, doing that would mean a possibility of them losing said elite members. These elite members were the foundation of their guild. Losing them would cripple their guild's strength. They were not ready to take that risk yet.

Queen Magenta glanced at Scarface and couldn't help but wondered, 'is this the reason why he sent Red Death away? Because he was afraid that she might die in this battle?'

The instruction was soon relayed. Many advanced classes started to pull back and distanced themselves from where Jack was fighting. The only ones remaining were those with the lowest levels. They had bitter faces as they knew they were about to be sacrificed, yet they had no choice in the matter. At least they knew they would be compensated for their losses. Their equipment will be resupplied once they came back to life, and there would be a veteran from their guild that would power-level them back to their current level. For coins and their other possessions, they had submitted them to the upper management for safekeeping. They would get those back after they came back to life.

Jack was not aware of the enemies' movement. In fact, he found the fight becoming easier. He just thought that he was getting used to the rhythm of the battle, instead of registering that those that fought him at the moment were all low-level basic classes, until the red dots' movements in his radar caught his attention. Many red dots were actually moving away, leaving only a cluster of red dots around him.

What are they trying to do? Jack thought in puzzlement.

Jack then paid better attention to the players around him. After better observation, these players did not seem to be too intent on damaging him. Some were not even holding their weapons. They crowded around, interlocking with each other just like what the fighters had done when they formed the human wall. But this time all of them were doing the same, making it multiple layers of human walls.

They were trying to hold me down, Jack realized. What for?

He then caught the sight of someone familiar coming near. It was Scarface, he was accompanied by a few subordinates. The Mage was holding something that looked like a magic scroll.

"Dark red color!" Jack heard Peniel's worried voice. "That magic scroll he was holding was at the same level as the Chain Lightning you used previously, probably stronger."

Ugh, really? With all the high defenses his gears provide, combined with his high attributes, he wondered if it was possible for him to survive a spell of that level? It was not wise to try to find out. However, at this moment, it looked like he had no choice but to find out.

He saw Scarface unfurled the magic scroll. A string of runes was formed, which soon shaped into a spell formation with five runes.

"Oh no! It's the Hellish Explosion!" Peniel exclaimed as she recognized the runes of that spell formation.

'How strong is it?' Jack asked.

"Very! And your Magic Wall scroll will not be effective against it, it hit the entire area with a very wide range of effect!"

The magic scroll disintegrated as the spell formation came into power, the runes flared and a tiny whip of flash appeared in the sky above Jack. Jack made a decision and he activated Dragon's Eye skill.

The flash in the sky retracted into a tiny red dot before blowing out into a shuddering explosion. A deafening sound caused the ears of the others nearby to buzz, while Jack and the crowd surrounding him were totally consumed by a giant red ball of energy. Everyone could watch that giant red ball had torrents of energy spinning around inside it in a violent manner. A strong shockwave radiated out of it and pushed everyone in its surroundings away. Some with weaker constitutions fell to the ground due to the shockwave.

Scarface stood his ground, resisting the force of the shockwave, as his eyes continued to stay on that explosive spell. His guild had paid a high price for that scroll. It was the highest level spell available in that magic scroll shop. Its high damage and large area of effect made it the most effective spell to deal with an opponent with high movement speed like that Jack. The spell itself should already be enough, but he didn't allow any possibility of it failing, hence his instruction for those low-level members to sacrifice themselves in order to hold Jack down.

The ball of energy soon receded. The red gale that was swirling within the ball of energy started to diminish and slow to a breeze. The area which had been devastated by the spell was covered by a thick cloud of dust. Within the dust, shadows of people lying on the ground could be seen. The dust continued to dwindle as time passed. The outer parts of the destroyed ground started to be revealed. Numerous corpses littered the ground.

Chapter 278: Second Class Revealed!

"It's finally over," said one of the subordinates accompanying Scarface.

Scarface, on the other hand, was frowning. The subordinates saw his expression and asked, "what's wrong?"

"The corpses...", Scarface said with an unsure tone.

The subordinates looked at the mount of corpses in front of the receding dust cloud. He sighed and said, "it can't be helped. Who would have thought the guy to be that strong? It was good enough that we have limited our loss to a small portion of our force. Alternately, if we don't..."

"No!" Scarface cut him mid-sentence. "The corpses do not disappear, the battle is not over!"

At that moment, Several bolts of light shot out from the cloud of dust, six small ones and one large one. The small ones traveled in curved paths as they sought after the closest players. The unsuspecting players did not have time to react and were hit by the bolts, receiving damages ranged from 100 to 130.

The large one traveled in a straight path and headed right at Scarface. Scarface managed to react in time as he put on a Magic Shield in front of him. Still, even when he defended using the Magic Shield, he still suffered 112 damage.

"Mana bullet?" Scarface uttered as he recognized the spell that hit his shield, "impossible! The power is so high that it can still give me so much damage after being blocked by my Magic Shield? Who?!"

Answering him was a shadow that dashed out of the cloud of dust at a high speed. It went straight in Scarface's direction. Everyone who saw the face of the shadow felt like they had seen a ghost.

"Not possible! How is he not dead after being hit by such a powerful spell?!" One of the guild players, who was standing not far from there exclaimed.

The shadow was none other than Jack. Scarface stood a distance away, Jack could not reach his position in a short time. The other players awoken from their stupor and immediately put themselves between Jack and Scarface. Especially Scarface's subordinates, they stood in front of him as they urged Scarface to return to the small hill.

Jack used Charge to barge through the players on his way, but the 8 meters range of Charge was not enough to cover the distance to Scarface. One of Scarface's subordinates who was a Knight went ahead to stop Jack.

"Please!" The subordinate pleaded, "it's too dangerous here. You need to go back there and reorganize our troops to deal with him."

Scarface gritted his teeth. He wanted to fight Jack, but his subordinate was right, it's too dangerous. There were too many unknowns at the moment. How did Jack survive? Who shot that powerful magic spells? He decided to listen to his subordinate and started to retreat. His eyes continued to look at Jack as he moved back towards the small hill.

He then realized something odd. Jack was holding a magic staff on his left hand? A sudden realization came to him. "No, it couldn't be...", he muttered.

As he tried to deny the understanding that had come into his thought, Jack instead confirmed it by using his action. He fought the Knight with the sword in his right hand, as the staff in his left hand formed a Magic Shield that blocked the spells and range attacks that were coming at him.

"He... he can cast magic spells?" Scarface uttered with disbelief.

Scarface was not the only one startled by the revelation. All the others were stunned too. After all, everyone knew that they could only choose one class and their progression was fixed along the first class they chose, yet Jack had broken this rule.

The Knight fighting with him was also stunned. His eyes stared at the Magic Shield in front of Jack's staff.

"Y-you..., how do you..." His sentence was stopped short as Jack took the opportunity when he was distracted and used Power Strike to send him away. He then took out another Heal scroll and used it on himself.

Jack's HP bar was in fact not in good condition, it was below half.

Back when the Hellish Explosion was cast, Jack knew he only had an instant, after all, a scroll did not need the user to form the spell formation. It was instantly cast. So when the runes of Hellish Explosion's spell formation flared and took effect. Jack knew he only had an instant. Since Magic Wall was not effective, he could only use the other defensive spell he had, Barrier.

However, that spell required him to perform a rune formation. He was not confident enough to form the spell before the Hellish Explosion spell detonated. That's why he had activated Dragon's Eye. The Dragon's Eye active skill put his vision into slow motion. Everything around him moved slower while his mind operated at a normal pace, or if from other's point of view, Jack's mind suddenly worked at a high speed when the Dragon's Eye active skill was activated.

To form the rune of a spell, Jack did not need to move his magic staff. He only needed to form it with his mind. Hence with the high-speed operation of his mind, the rune was formed at a high speed as well. If it was seen by a bystander, it would appear as if Jack formed his spell rune in an instant.

Jack's Barrier spell took effect before the Hellish Explosion detonated and engulfed him. His Barrier was level 7, giving him a shield that could absorb 68% of his total HP. His total HP was 950, which had been filled up to full when the Hellish Explosion took effect due to the Regeneration spell. If included with the life of his Barrier, Jack could be said to have a total of 1596 HP.

The Hellish Explosion caused damage of around 1500 to 1800 to everyone within its area of effect. Fortunately, Jack's armor had a high magical defense, coupled with his high Wisdom stat. He barely survived the terrifying spell.

His Barrier spell was already broken from the explosion, his remaining HP after the full damage was done was at a dangerous 26 points. If there was any enemy around, it was very easy to use this chance to kill him. Fortunately, the Hellish Explosion had stirred up all the dust on the ground and created a cover.

He deactivated the Life Burning Art to prevent his life from continuing to deplete, the regeneration spell from the scroll had run out when he was hit by the spell. He took out a basic healing potion to recover some of his health and a basic energy potion to replenish his stamina which was also low already. Unfortunately, the potions had cooldown time as well, so he could not spam it despite having a large stock of them.

With the magic staff already out in his left hand, he then decided to no longer keep his second class a secret and cast his two basic range spells, before rushing out from the dust cloud to meet his enemies.

Coming back to the present, after Jack used the Heal scroll, his HP was recovered to a bit more than half. He could not use the Regeneration scroll yet as it was still in cooldown.

Scarface had run back to his base on that small hill. Forcing his way there was not smart, so Jack went to the side and ran towards the closest crowd to kill as many of the enemies as possible. He used his high

speed to weave through the range attacks that came at him while using Magic Shield to block those he could not evade.

The players who saw him coming felt like a ravenous monster was coming at them. The weak-willed ones wanted to turn around and flee, but their superior yelled at them to stay their ground. Several higher-level Fighters of level 20 and a few Knight and Warrior came out to meet with Jack. Jack shot standard range attacks with his magic staff and another Mana Bullet which was off cooldown before clashing with those melee players. The unfortunate Warrior who was at the head was immediately thrown back after he tried to stop Jack's Power Strike with his own Power Strike.

Scarface who was back on the small hill with the other leaders watched the incident with grim faces.

"Can anyone tell me what is going on here? How can he cast magic spells?" One of the guild leaders asked.

"Maybe he is using a special tool?"

"Who the hell is he? Why has none of us ever heard of him in the gaming community?"

"Maybe he is using a different alias."

"Everyone stopped!" Manager Steelhand spoke out as he saw the leaders were getting agitated. "There is no need to concern. He was still just one person. We can still deal with him, we just need to prepare to risk more."

He then turned to Scarface and asked, "what do you think?"

Scarface was silent for a bit before saying, "He has two classes."

Chapter 279: The Experts Appeared

"Say what?" Manager Steelhand asked.

"He has two classes," Scarface repeated. "A Warrior and the other most probably a Mage. That's the most likely explanation. That is also why his attributes have been so high. He must have survived the Hellish Explosion spell by using the Mage's Barrier spell."

"But how is that possible?" Queen Magenta asked.

"Don't know. There is much to this world that we still don't understand," Scarface replied, then to the others he exclaimed, "everyone! No more holding back! Send your experts in. We no longer have the luxury to whittle him just with numbers. And if you have any support forces nearby, call them in! Don't forget that there are still White Scarfs and those independent players on their way here."

"This matter is becoming more trouble than it's worth," Prideful Josh grumbled.

Jack at the moment was returning to his previous pattern, charging straight into the enemy's rank while killing everyone that got in his way. He had also activated his Heightened State, allowing him to abuse more of his skills and spells. Most that he targeted were rangers and magicians, as they had lower HP. A couple of his normal slashes was sufficient to send them to the afterlife.

He took the chance to drink basic healing potions once in a while. His defense and endurance were too high, the damages from enemies were not enough to put him in danger.

As he was wrecking through the enemy's rank, he found himself stumbling into a familiar face. It was Boulder and Flowing Fox, he had not seen the duo since the fight started. It turned out that Boulder and Fox were cunning and cowardly bunches, they were not willing to take the risk as the others. They and their guild members had been slowly moving themselves away instead of clashing with Jack.

However, calamity couldn't be avoided. They still ended up stumbling into Jack.

"Fancy meeting you here," Jack called out to them, before quickly adding, "goodbye!"

Jack swung his Power Strike at Flowing Fox. Even a level 20 Magician could not survive Jack's Power Strike, much less a level 12 one. The woman died while being thrown far away by the skill, unwillingness in her face, she had not vented her grudges at Fierce Flame. She had been so looking forward to dealing the killing blow on her once this matter with Jack was done, but she did not expect that it would be her who died first before Fierce Flame.

"You...!" Boulder was clearly agitated when he saw Flowing Fox died again.

"I'm sorry, are you in a relationship with that woman?" Jack asked when he noticed Boulder's anger upon Fox's death. However, it did not mean that Jack stopped moving. He was giving Boulder an empathetic look while at the same time not stopping at hacking away at the man's comrades.

"Get him!" Boulder shouted out in anger. His subordinates who had been following him at sneaking away from the battlefield all this time, had no choice but to follow the order.

They swarmed at Jack, trying to use numbers to overwhelm him. They had witnessed the effectiveness of the human wall tactic against Jack, they did not believe that Jack could use that fiery aura buff again.

Jack instead, started forming a rune on the tip of his magic staff. The rune slowly took shape as Jack clashed his sword against the masses that tried to surround him. The rune then flared and came to power, a blue circular ring swept outward, crashing everyone in the vicinity. The Ice Ring spell dealt damages ranging from 260 to 290. Some rangers and magicians were outright killed by that single spell, while the fighters were heavily wounded.

A few of the surviving ones had a thin layer of ice covering their entire bodies, freezing them into stagnancy. While the rests were covered by specks of ice, they were not frozen. Yet, their movement speed had been slowed.

The spell had functioned as Jack had hoped for, he did not regret to have used the Ice Seed on the Mana Detonation spell. He used Swing to cut off those that were still alive near him and then rushed forward hacking the remaining ones that had survive his spell. The Ice Ring spell was very effective in complementing his melee prowess. His victims were unable to flee as they were frozen and slowed.

Boulder was at the periphery of the spell's area of effect. Sadly for him though, out of the few ones that got frozen, he was among them. He could only see Jack as he approached without being able to do anything.

"I'm truly sorry about that woman, but no worry, I will send you to accompany her," Jack said when he arrived.

Just as Boulder's frozen status expired, Jack's rapid slashes took his life.

"You mother**r...!!" He screamed, but no voice came out of his mouth, since his HP was zeroed already.

Jack proceeded in another direction with the most crowd. He took out another basic healing potion to drink as he used Magic Shield to block all the range attacks.

An unseen arrow suddenly lodged at his waist. Jack looked over and saw an Archer not far away. The guy notched another arrow on his bow while a group of level 20 Rangers and Fighters, with a few Warriors and Knights, led by a Knight in golden armor were coming over. From another direction, a row of level 20 Magicians were casting their spells at Jack, they completely did not care if their spells hit their teammates.

While Jack was busy blocking with Magic Shield and cutting using his sword at the incoming spells, the ground underneath him suddenly shone.

"Retreat! Retreat!" He heard Peniel's warning.

Right before Peniel shouted, he had also instinctively started backing away from the shining area once the ground started showing the anomaly. He did not know what it was, but it would not be anything good. After all, the spells that were cast at this place if not from him, would only be from an enemy.

The light in the ground burst out with high intensity, several colorful wisps appeared and danced in the area. Jack had been moving very fast to break away, but he was still caught by the spell at its edge. He received Disoriented status and whenever the wisps passed by him, he received damage. Luckily he was closed to the edge, despite the Disoriented status which slowed his movement, he managed to escape from the affected area before suffering too much damage.

"Is this..."

"Yes, it's the Arcane Turbulence spell," Peniel answered before Jack could finish his question.

Jack turned around and finally found the Mage who had cast it. He was standing behind the row of Magicians. A Mage's range was longer so he could afford to stay behind.

By this time, the melee group led by the golden Knight had arrived. Because his movement speed was slowed from the Disoriented effect, Jack had to meet them head-on. He tried his best to trade blows with them, but his slashes swerved sometimes.

F**k this disoriented status! He cursed in his mind. A tiny marble appeared in Jack's hand at that moment. It was one of the Liberty of movement he had bought. He used it and his movement speed returned to normal, but his attacks still missed sometimes.

He could only endure until the status effect expired. He immediately activated Charge to break out of encirclement once it did. However, the Knights had already taken position on all of Jack's four sides, and all of them were equipped with shields. The Charge was blocked by the Knight. The Charge pushed on the Knight, but it could only push a small distance. The Knight was sturdy enough to survive the Charge, not to mention there were his comrades holding his position from behind.

In addition, the Knights' whole armors started to be covered by a thin bluish light.

'What is that skill?' Jack asked Peniel.

"It's Endure, the advanced skill received by Knight when they reached level 20. It reduces all damage received by 30%, and also reduces all knockback and knockdown effect," Peniel informed him.

No wonder his Charge had little effect. Jack could not use his usual method to wreak havoc within encirclement. With that skill, the Knights were sturdy enough to withstand Jack's strength and held their ground.

The Warriors in the group had their hands blazing with red aura as their swinging speed increased. Jack recognized that as they using the Adrenaline Rush skill, which gave them additional attacking speed and damage. Jack also activated the same skill in order to cope with their frontal clashes.

Jack could only rely on his high attributes combined with his martial art moves which he had returned to practice diligently every morning, to cope with the attacks of these many opponents.

Something that he had to be grateful of this group was that they were blocking his line of sight from the Magicians. So they would not be able to attack him without harming these Fighters. Or so he thought, before an arrow went through the gap between the Fighters and lodged itself on his shoulder.

What the...! That Archer could hit him via such a small gap? He could not help but be impressed by the Archer's accuracy.

Heck! So the ones before were only warm-ups? Jack uttered in his mind when he saw this group of experts gunning at him.

Chapter 280: Fighting With Coins

He decided he could not stay still at one place, he would be a sitting duck. As he was about to double his effort to force himself out of the encirclement and move away, he felt a sudden stab at his back. He turned back and caught a glimpse of a familiar figure in red garb moving away.

It's that annoying sneaky Rogue from Wicked Witches! Jack still remembered the woman, her name was Slim Blade. He had been having a good impression of hers due to her help when he was using his Unrivaled Arcaner persona, but now that feeling was completely gone, replaced by the urge to stab his sword into that woman's legs so she could not be sneaky again.

When the Hellish Explosion had erupted, it had taken out many of the coalition players. However, the players that died were only a small portion of the coalition army. There were still plenty of players around to gang up on Jack. However, Scarface had decided it was not the right move for it. After all, there was only a little space when they were engaging one person, the large number of players they had were null since they could not all land attack on Jack at the same time. They still had to come at him one wave at a time.

They could try to continue with a long continuous tactic to exhaust Jack off his restorative potions. But looking at Jack's terrifying efficiency in killing the weaker players, the sacrifice would be enormous. They still needed these lackeys to be the cannon fodder when White Scarfs and the group of independent

players arrive. Thus, the leaders decided it's time to have their experts engaged Jack. Though the risk of them dying was there, the chance of taking out Jack in a short time was also higher with the experts' involvement.

Jack had already felt the pressure now these experts showed themselves. His previously slowly healing health was starting to steadily go down again due to the joined assaults from these experts.

His Flash Step skill which he executed from time to time managed to confuse his opponents and allow him to cope with their numbers. It also prevented him from being an easy target for the Archer and the hidden Rogue, Slim Blade. But the Flash Step skill had limited range, it could help him survive but it could not be used to help him escape the encirclement. He was still in predicament.

He had also executed his Shredding Fang. The move killed a few Rangers and brought the surrounding Fighters into critical health, but they were soon recovered by healing lights. The group of Healers had come again outside the encirclement. The Heal spell did not fully heal the Fighters' HP, but the wounded ones were spry enough to remove themselves from the front line. Their comrades were also coordinated enough to quickly take over their positions, allowing no gap in their formation.

Those Fighters were also veterans who were used to fight together in a team, Jack thought with woe.

Time to change the rule of engagement, Jack thought as he took out a magic scroll and activated it. The ground burst and numerous vines shot out from it. The Fighters were in close range and their comrades were cluttered around them, so when the Wall of Vines came out, many had no space to evade, ended up being entangled by the vines. Even one of the Knights was trapped by it.

Jack then took a different scroll out. It was the only offensive magic scroll in his possession, the Arcane Turbulence which he had experienced first hands. He cast it at the space behind the Wall of Vines, where the unsuspecting Fighters and Rangers were trying to hack at the vines to free their comrades. The magic took place and engulfed them.

The Arcane Turbulence had an area of effect with a diameter of 6 meters. Due to the high density of the enemies flocking together, many were caught inside the spell. The ones at the innermost had difficulty escaping due to being blocked by their comrades and also due to being slowed down by the Disoriented status accompanying the spell. Thus, many of them died from that spell.

The Wall of Vines formed a linear fence that only blocked one direction, hence the other enemies could still come at Jack from other directions. However, stopping one part of the encirclement was already enough for Jack to take advantage of the situation.

The Knights and the Warriors, who were not caught by the scroll's spells, now came at Jack from left and right. Jack parried their attacks using his sword while blocking using the Magic Shield. He coped with them while moving closer to the Wall of Vines.

Those melee experts were not stupid, they continued attacking Jack while keeping a safe distance from the vines to prevent from getting entangled. They were mocking Jack in their minds about how shallow his intention was as it was easily seen through. Jack's back got close to the vine wall as he continued to defend, and then he used Flash Step.

He appeared on the other side of the vine wall, which was now devoid of enemy. The Arcane Turbulence had cleared up the area, and its 10-second duration had expired. Jack was out of the encirclement.

He caught sight of the group of Magicians and mages not far ahead, some healers were there too. He immediately used Charge and rushed at them. The magicians did not expect him to suddenly appear nearby, their reactions were slow. When they started to throw attacks, Jack was already near. Many of the attacks missed, while the ones that hit, were blocked by Magic Shield.

A small metal ball was thrown out from Jack's hand when he got near. The metal ball landed within the crowd of Magicians. All of a sudden, a deafening blast was heard. The area around where the metal ball had landed was covered by a bright explosion. Everyone within the blast radius received damage around 270 damage. Some of the lower-level magicians died immediately, while the others were at critical.

The description said 300 damage, but guessed it was reduced by their defense, Jack thought. The metal ball was one of the disruptive bombs he had bought. He didn't let go of that golden opportunity, the disruptive bomb stopped those hit by the blast for two seconds, and all of them were in critical health already, there was even one mage caught in the blast.

Without wasting time, Jack dived into them and slashed rapidly, claiming their lives while they were immobile. They were helpless to do anything. A healing light covered the Mage when Jack reached him, but he gave the mage a Power Strike, claiming his life already despite getting healed.

He then turned to the Healer who had cast the healing spell. "It's your turn," Jack said as he tossed another Disruptive Bomb in the healer's direction. The healer got the scare of his life. He tried to run, but his slow movement could not save his fate. The bomb detonated, killing several players around him while stopping the movements of the ones that survived, only for Jack to reap their lives soon.

Jack heard a swoosh sound and immediately ducked. He had heard such a sound before and knew an arrow was aiming at him. His duck luckily allowed him to dodge the arrow. He glanced at the direction the arrow was coming from, the Archer was still too far, so Jack did not bother to go over.

A movement in his radar caught his attention, a red dot was coming at high speed towards his back. He already knew who that was. He turned around with a magic scroll ready at hand. It was cast right before Slim Blade reached him. The Rogue woman was abruptly stopped when a coil made of light bound her body. It was the Magic Bind spell.

Consider this repayment of favor for helping Unrivalled Arcaner, Jack uttered in his mind as he gave the bound Rogue a strong kick. Slim Blade was sent far away by the kick while still bound. She had no idea her action during the guild meeting had saved her life here.

Arrows kept on coming at him. The archer's accuracy was good. However, previously Jack was stuck inside encirclement so he had minimal movement. Now, on the other hand, he could freely express his high movement speed, which was even higher than a normal level 20 Rogue, due to his dual-class added by his rare boots' skill which added 20% movement speed. Many of the arrows missed Jack, while the rare one that did, was either blocked by his Magic Shield or cut into two by his sword.

Jack did not forget to drink basic healing potion and then use the Regeneration scroll which cooldown was off now, recovering the missing HP from hits he had suffered all the while during the battle.

With the help of the magic scrolls and Disruptive Bombs, the fight had truly become much easier. But he could not help to feel heartache every time the bomb went off. As each usage was coins gone. He was truly fighting using coins at the moment.