

World 281

Chapter 281: All Out

Jack continued to kill more magic-users as he moved at high speed, like a wolf in a hen pen. He saw the melee group were coming over to rescue their magic-user comrades, led by the golden knight from before. Several Rogues had now joined the fray.

Jack presented them with another Disruptive bomb. Some of them managed to evade to one side, especially the Rangers and Rogues, using their Roll skill, only to be met by another Disruptive Bomb again. The two bombs completely immobilized those melee troops.

The stop effect of Disruptive Bombs was only 2 seconds, so in actuality, Jack did not have much time. He did not waste this short time to kill the Fighters group which had more HP. He chose instead to dive into the Rangers and Rogues, which required fewer hits to kill. And after the damage from the bomb itself, he only needed one hit to kill those Rangers and Rogues that survived.

For the Fighters, Warriors, and Knights who were immobilized by the first bomb, Jack threw another bomb again. Which was now the third bomb he had thrown in rapid succession. He couldn't care less about the expense at this moment, he still had another thirty bombs left in his bag. The second explosion managed to annihilate the remaining health they had left, except for the golden knight.

The fact that the golden knight had survived did take Jack by surprise, but his movements never stopped as he reaped the lives of the Rangers and Rogues who were close to dying. Half of his attention was on the golden knight. Though he had survived, his life was only a hairbreadth from zero.

Jack was about to shoot a ranged attack to finish the golden Knight when a healing light enveloped the guy's body. There was still a healer around. Still, he was wondering how the Knight had managed to survive the two Disruptive Bombs, that was a total of 600 damage he was talking about. Even after deducting from his armor and endurance, the damage should still be substantial. Unless that golden Knight was like him, who managed to become an advanced class when he was still at level 15, which contributed to a higher attribute increase compared to the others who changed their class at later levels.

He threw the golden Knight out of the back of his mind. Now that he had been healed, it would be difficult to kill him. The golden Knight also chose not to come after him, he retreated to drink some potions. Little did Jack know that the guy had also suffered trauma after being so close to death. It would take him a while before he gathered the courage to come at Jack again.

Jack ran back to the place that was still covered by the Wall of Vines while being chased after by many players. Another group came from the other side. He took out another Wall of Vines scroll and cast it next to the first wall. The cooldown of that spell was three minutes while the wall itself could last ten minutes, so he could actually stack the spell together.

A second wall erupted right next to the first. One wall had a length of fifteen meters. The second wall added it to a total of thirty meters, effectively separating the coalition's army into two. The ones on the other side could still come at Jack but they would need to walk a long roundabout to reach him. In the meantime, Jack was throwing his Disruptive Bombs at the troop on his side like nobody's business, then

added another Arcane Turbulence scroll for good measure. The coalition was helpless as they witness their members kept on dying one after another.

"Where the hell did he get those bomb items?" One of the guild leaders on the small hill asked in frustration. The person was a short and obese middle-aged man. His name was Fat Gregory. Interestingly, he chose to be a Rogue. He was level 19. Perhaps the reason for his class choice was due to his grudge on being unable to move fast in real life.

"And how many scrolls did he have?" Fat Gregory continued. "Are you sure he is an independent player? You sure he is not a secret member of one of the top guilds? How is it possible for an independent player to have enough coins to buy all those magic scrolls?"

"You have got us in quite a mess here, elder Scarface," Proudful Josh also joined in the complaints.

"Well, I myself admire your competence in making mighty adversary," Manager Steelhand added with a critic of his own.

Scarface couldn't help but glance at Bigarm upon hearing Steelhand's comment. Bigarm shrank back from the glare.

"There is no going back for us at this," Scarface said to the others. "What do you think our reputation will be if we fail to take down this lone player here? We will be everyone's laughingstock. We must defeat him at all costs!"

The others did not mock Scarface's statement. Instead, almost everyone had a grim face, because what Scarface had said was right. All of them would lose face if this matter was revealed to the public. They had to kill Jack before White Scarfs and the other independent players arrived, not only because of the worry that they might join hands but also so they could cover this shame.

Scarface turned to his underlings who stood behind him, and uttered, "Bigarm, Stonecleave, bring everyone and finish this! You are allowed to use everything at your disposal."

The two nodded and departed. Scarface then turned to the other leaders and said, "we can't afford to hold back anymore. If we keep on treating him as a lone player, we will lose even more. We need to go all out!"

The other leaders only needed a short moment before they nodded to their second in command or their bodyguards, who soon came down the hill to join the fray. Only the leaders stayed on that small hill with the three bound hostages and a few guards to watch over the hostages.

Bowler, Flame, and The Man themselves were dazed by what they had witnessed. They knew that Jack was strong, but they had no idea he was that strong. And they also had no idea about his Magician's class. They were as surprised and as speechless as the leaders that held them hostage.

Bowler was the one that snapped out of his daze, and started to laugh vehemently, "hahaha! That's what you get for going against our big bro! Let all your members die a shameful death. And have no worry, we will make sure to spread what happens here to everyone!"

"You cretin!" Proudful Josh turned around with fury, he lifted his magic staff at Bowler.

"Hold!" Scarface stopped him. "Do you forget already about his equipment?"

"Tsk!" Prideful Josh returned his attention to the front, his face was red with anger.

Bowler continued to throw insults at the leaders.

"We should have looked for an item that could keep a player quiet," Manager Steelhand lamented.

"Can stuffing his throat with a piece of cloth work?" Queen Magenta offered a simple real-world solution.

The others looked at each other before someone said, "let's give it a try."

As reinforcements were sent by the guild leaders. Jack had never stopped his offensive. The guild members had now split apart and tried to put themselves away from each other. This way, even if Jack's bomb hit them, only a few would be affected. But this also gave another problem. With them spreading around like that, Jack could easily deal with them as none of them could cope with Jack individually.

It became one player in the middle of a massive group chasing around the majority, while this majority try their best to run from this lone player. It was an utterly comical incident.

Of course, there were also those brave enough to risk facing him. Some of which were ones that he knew of. At one time he found himself facing a quartet of Dasher, Flowerrain, Undo, and Warpath. All of them were level 18. Jack was especially impressed by Warpath, who had died not long ago, to be able to bring himself back to the level of the mainstream in such a short period, which showed his determination. Jack almost felt bad thinking that he was about to send the guy back to level 1 again.

Another point that increased his impression of the fellow, was that Warpath was already a Warrior class. He was holding two longswords in both hands. He was still using that dual-wielding style of his despite the system gave his off-hand weapon a much-reduced damage.

Bangstick and Suckit were nowhere to be seen, those two were always the cowards of the bunch. Jack actually didn't hope to see any of the bunch here. After a few times going out on hunting quests with them as Unrivaled Arcaner, he admitted that this group had slightly grown on him. They were not bad people, they were just following orders.

Chapter 282: Real Experts

Jack did not use his Disruptive Bomb against them. The first reason was because they were spread out as well, the same as the other guild members. The second reason was that he still had reservations about killing them, except for Warpath. Still, he could not go soft at this time, they could only blame themselves for joining the wrong guild. Jack just hoped they didn't push him too far.

Warpath came at him first. He used Charge and rushed towards him. Jack was about to clash with him before he suddenly canceled his Charge when it was about to connect. He abruptly changed position and swiped down at Jack's legs.

Jack must admit the guy was skillful, his fame in past VR games was not without reason. Unfortunately, Jack's speed outclassed him, and Jack was also not exactly illiterate when it came to martial arts. Jack easily reacted to his move as he jumped up and avoided the swipe. He spun his body and swung his longsword down vertically.

Warpath did not disgrace his fame, he used his off-hand sword to meet with Jack's one. But he had known full well about Jack's overwhelming strength, so instead of having his sword crashed directly with Jack's. He put it in an angle that it didn't compete with Jack's sword in brute strength, instead simply altered Jack's swing path. Jack's sword hit the ground instead, while Warpath used his main hand sword to stab at Jack while he was defenseless.

However, Jack also had an off-hand weapon. Although Jack did not have that kind of finesse technique as shown by Warpath, Jack's off-hand weapon was more versatile. A Magic Shield made out of light appeared at the trajectory of Warpath's sword, deflecting it. The shield then disappeared and was replaced by several bolts coming after him.

Warpath did a couple of backflips to evade the energy bolts spell. Some of the bolts still dogged him, which he cut several using the two swords in his hand. The ones that were cut by his off-hand swords still caused him damage as the damage from his off-hand weapon was not high enough to offset Jack's energy bolts.

While Warpath was busy dealing with his energy bolts, Jack had come running to his side, ready to give him Swing. But two Mana Bullets came at him while he was about to execute the move. Jack switched the angle of his Swing and instead of Warpath, it cut through the two Mana Bullets, destroying them.

Then he detected someone coming from behind him. It was Dasher who was trying to flank him. Jack made a swift spin and did a back kick. The spinning back kick swept Dasher's saber aside. The kid's strength was completely trumped by Jack. Dasher lost control of his arm as it flew aside from Jack's strong kick. Jack then slashed at him. The kid was a Fighter, he could survive two of Jack's normal attacks.

Jack was just thinking of giving the kid a scare, so he would not come at him again. But when Jack was doing his second slash, Warpath came and put himself in harm's way. He parried Jack's second slash and saved Dasher.

Huh? Jack was stumped. The guy was saving his comrade? Jack remembered him to be an arrogant and pompous player who held little respect for others. Who would think that he was selfless enough to save someone?

After saving Dasher, the kid moved back to drink a potion, while Warpath came running back at Jack again.

Jack changed his mind, he lost interest in killing Warpath. He took out a Magic Bind scroll and used it on the man, then kicked him away as he did to Slim Blade. If the guy persisted to come again at him, he would not spare him anymore.

Jack then ran to the other part, looking for other victims. Dasher, Flowerrain, and Undo dared not come after him without Warpath.

Jack sighed in his heart. He still ended up going soft on them. What could he do? He was a sucker for loyalty in friendship, he thought in his mind.

On the other part, he did not show the same mercy. His Disruptive Bombs came out again whenever any of his enemies got stupid enough to cluster together. While the ones that were too scared of his bomb

and choose to stand aside in solitary were cut down by his sword. The rests were bombarded by his spells and range attacks.

He caught glimpses of the crimson shadow who was Slim Blade from time to time. The sneaky Rogue was free of Magic Bind and was tailing him again, but did not show any intention to attack. Probably was still afraid to get bound again. If she decided to attack, Jack would not let her go with a simple kick this time. Letting her go the first time could already be considered repayment for her favor from before, he mentally owed her nothing anymore.

He had used up 26 Disruptive Bombs, he had only nine left. He had killed a lot of players. Despite that, the crowd around him did not seem to be thinning.

Heck, how many are they exactly? Jack complained in his mind. He decided to go slow with his remaining Disruptive Bombs, might need them in an emergency situation. The enemies seemed a bit more reserve now, he had much more leeway to drink his potions freely.

Just as Jack thought he could relax for a bit, his radar picked up a red dot coming at him at high speed. Had Slim Blade finally gathered up the courage to attack him again? He thought as he spun around to receive the attack.

It was another Rogue woman, not Slim Blade. A slightly older woman than Slim Blade but looked to be physically fit, he could even describe her body as alluring for a woman her age. The Rogue woman was dual-wielding two unnaturally long daggers. Jack had no doubt the two daggers were at least uncommon if not of rare grade.

Jack used Swing at her, she ducked expertly and used Swift Stab at Jack's lower body, or more precisely aiming at his most private part. Jack was given the scare of his life, luckily his Magic Shield was on time to be activated and the blow was blocked. Even though this world follow game rules and his private part should be just fine after getting stabbed, he still was not keen on experiencing the pain of getting his pee-pee stabbed.

He used Inspect on the perverted woman. "F**k!" He couldn't help but cursed out loud after reading her alias. She named herself Lustful Ellie, and was a member of the guild Crowd of Sins.

Jack then heard a loud shout from his other side and was reactive enough to block a heavy blow using his Magic Shield which was still active. He was forced to backstep a few times from the force of the blow. He was surprised that someone could push him that way, and found that the person responsible was someone he knew. It was Goliath, The Real Man's right-hand man.

"We meet again," Goliath uttered. "I will restore my honor out of the shame you gave me last time."

"By ganging up on me?" Jack said. "That does not really sound like honor restoring type of thing."

"Don't waste your words on him!" Another voice came. Jack turned over and found another familiar face, it was Stonecleave from Death Associates.

Standing beside him were an Archer and another Warrior, Assistant Manager Ironhand and Supervisor Killmonger from Corporate United. There was also a slightly plump woman Mage, called Beauty Beholder from Gluttonous Despot. The woman was rather confident to have that alias, Jack couldn't help but think.

But it was the confidence of the girl next to her that made Jack speechless after reading her name. Jack had no doubt this teenage girl was somehow related to Queen Magenta, because her alias was Princess Purple. And she was also from Wicked Witches. She was using a Healer class.

Aside from them, several others were coming closer to Jack, all of them were of the advanced classes.

So, the real experts had finally shown up, eh? Jack thought.

Some of the experts that had attacked him before, the golden Knight, and the cautious Archer had also reappeared again. Perhaps they had finally shown themselves because they thought he had run out of his Disruptive Bombs? Oh, how they were in for a surprise, Jack thought as he smiled.

"You can still smile?" Bigarm came out from the crowd. "We will soon wipe out that smug smile from your face, don't you think you are so good just because you are able to fight us till this point!"

"What the hell! You are the only one still at a basic class here, why are you acting like a big shot?" Jack shot back. "And how do you even have the stomach to say 'just because'? How about we have all those people I killed, ganging up on you and see how you fare? Can you still be shameless enough to say 'just because'?"

"You...!" Bigarm's face was red with anger.

Chapter 283: Summoning

While they were quarreling, Goliath ran at Jack and brandished his two-handed heavy mace.

"Hey, wait! Are you not going to let us have a talk first?" Jack said as he sidestepped to the side to evade the blow.

"No talk!" Goliath uttered. His heavy mace stopped in mid-swing and changed direction to pursue Jack. "Die!" He roared.

"The hell! Wasn't that heavy?" Jack commented about Goliath's act of altering the trajectory of his mace. His hand, however, did not stop. His Storm Breaker met with the heavy mace and a loud clang was heard.

Goliath was forced backward. Despite his gigantic frame, his strength still lost to Jack. Jack didn't let the opportunity go as he fired standard range attacks at the giant. Goliath deftly smacked all the range attacks coming his way.

The others had also moved. Several arrows, Mana Bullets, and Energy Bolts came Jack's way. Jack used Flash Step to evade the straight traveling attacks while using his sword to slash at the ones that chased after him. A spell rune started forming on the tip of his magic staff.

"Stop! Move back! That was his ice spell!" Assistant Manager Ironhand shouted when he saw the rune forming on Jack's staff.

Jack had used the Ice Ring spell several times when he was slaughtering the guild members, so many had seen when he cast it. But still, the rune only lasted for a short moment before the spell took effect.

To be able to memorize the rune of this corresponding spell in those few exchanges was outstanding, not to mention to be able to recognize it while the rune was still half-formed.

The melee classes that were rushing at Jack, hurriedly back away again after hearing the warning. Nevertheless, some were still hit by the spell, they were either already too close or were too slow in acknowledging Ironhand's warning. Two rogues, one Knight and Goliath were the ones that were hit. Amongst them, one of the Rogues and the Knight were those unlucky enough to get frozen status.

Jack wanted to capitalize on their frozen status and took them out of the equation, but when he was about to approach, the ground between him and those two frozen opponents flared up.

Shit, the Arcane Turbulence spell! Jack recognized the effect as he retreated back. It was the plump mage, Beauty Beholder, that had cast the spell, effectively saving her comrades.

The ground where Jack had retreated to flared up again.

Another? Jack was speechless, but his body did not stop. His high speed brought him to the edge of the spell area before the spell took effect. However, as he was about to jump out of the spell effect area. The ground in front of him showed the same flaring effect.

These expert mages are good! He gave them his praise in his mind while also making a pledge to kill them soon.

Jack used flash step as the ground beneath him erupted. The spectators only saw his afterimage getting swallowed by the Arcane Turbulence. Common players would assume that he had been stunned still by the chained spells, and ended up not moving on his spot and was hit by the spell. However, these lots here were not common players. They had seen Jack's Flash Step move many times as well.

Assistant Manager Ironhand who had his arrow readily nocked on his bow, let loose of his arrow as it traveled directly to the spot where Jack appeared. Jack was shocked to find an arrow heading his way just as he teleported, but his reaction was not slow, probably thanks to his high reflex stat as well. He bent his body back as he narrowly dodged the arrow. However, another arrow hit him from another direction.

Spells and arrows continued to bombard him as he danced around the attack. His armor gave him reduced damage from ranged attacks, but these many attacks were still too overwhelming. Not to mention, the current attacks were made by experts who knew how to coordinate and positioned themselves well, unlike the haphazard ones from before.

The melee opponents no longer rushed over to him. They stood at the side and only attacked when Jack was trying to go after the range classes.

"This was troublesome," Jack muttered. He was not allowed the time to drink potions. His HP kept on decreasing steadily.

"All right, you guys are good!" He paused a bit before correcting, "Oh, I'm sorry, and gals also!"

His opponents glanced at each other. The fellow still had the mood to joke around?

"Now, I will be showing you folks my helper too!" Jack said and tossed three Disruptive Bombs around him in rapid succession.

The experts saw his move, three mages came out to receive each of the bombs while the other retreated. Spell runes were formed and the three of them were covered by Barriers. They blocked the bomb with their bodies as it exploded, keeping the rest of their comrades safe from the explosions.

So they had prepared a counter move in case if he still had bombs, Jack thought. But he had expected as much. No way these so-called experts relied themselves on the assumption that he ran out of ammo. However, Jack was not using the bombs as a killing move. They were only to allow him a breather.

He took out a small figurine from his storage bag. The figurine was of cat shape in red color. It was the Pyro Lynx Figurine which he had bought. He crushed that rare item and it broke into many tiny pieces. Fire erupted from the pieces and they were burnt to ashes before they could touch the ground. The fire from the broken pieces danced in the air, creating multiple flame tongues that rapidly converged in front of Jack, forming a four-legged silhouette.

The silhouette was fuzzy at first, but as all the flame tongues had seeped into it, the shape became more vivid. It resembled a large cat with a slender body, its ears were long with a pointy shape and pointing upward. When its eyes opened, which were two bright glowing orbs where the eye sockets should have been, its body was ablaze with a raging fire.

Jack's opponents were motionless as they were enthralled by the appearance of this elemental cat.

"Wha-What is that?" One of them blurted out.

The Pyro Lynx stared at the crowd in disdain, but it stayed its place, It didn't move without Jack's order. Jack made an Inspect on the summoned creature and it was indeed a level 20 special elite creature.

"Do not be discouraged! It was just one monster," Stonecleave shouted out to assuage the others.

Everyone agreed with his words. It was just one monster. They had traveled this world and fought countless monsters. Some much larger than the cat in front. This one small monster should not be a problem for experts such as them.

Assistant Manager Ironhand shot an arrow at the fire cat for a test. The cat nimbly jumped to the side, evading the arrow.

"If it is evading such a normal attack, there is no need to worry. It will just be another monster for us to kill," Assistant Manager Ironhand said, further motivating his teammates.

"Do you still have any toys left, boy?" Lustful Ellie spoke with a teasing voice, "take them all out, madam will play with you."

"I'm sorry, auntie, you are not my type," Jack replied. He shivered remembering where this woman almost hit him at.

Lustful Ellie did not appreciate her being called auntie, yet her teasing tone remained, "naughty boy, I will punish you for daring to call me auntie."

"Heh, let's finish this!" Goliath uttered.

As they were about to move, Jack gave the Pyro Lynx a simple command. "Go," he said.

The fire cat vanished from its position. Before anyone could register its disappearance, they heard yells from the side. They turned and saw several of their comrades were covered in blazing flame. They did not understand what had happened at first, but then they saw blurs of shadow speeding around inside the crowd. Wherever the shadow passed through, the players there caught fire. Their HP fell incessantly as their bodies burnt.

Damn, it was really fast! Jack said in his mind.

"That pyro lynx specialty was speed, other than that, it did not have many redeeming qualities," Jack heard Peniel explaining in his mind. "Its source of damage was mainly from its fire skill. Anyone it scratched will catch fire and suffered flame damage. It is a very powerful summon to use against outworlders at this stage because most of you are still without any elemental resistance."

"It is indeed so," Jack muttered under his breath as he admired the work of his summoned creature. The enemies were already in chaos at the time. And when he remembered this summon of his lasted for one hour, he felt slight pity for his enemies.

Chapter 284: Long-Awaited Message

While Jack was admiring the Pyro Lynx in action, he heard Assistant Manager Ironhand yelled out, "take Storm Wind down! His summoned creature will disappear once he is gone!"

'The heck did he get that logic from?' Jack complained in his mind when he heard the man's shout.

"He is right, though," Peniel answered even though Jack was not asking her. "If they kill you, that Pyro Lynx will get unsummoned."

"Crap!" Jack cursed as the experts were coming at him.

He threw another two disruptive bombs at the experts and ran at where the Pyro Lynx had cleared a path. That side was in such chaos that nobody on that side was paying attention when Jack dived into their throng.

Jack slashed at the ones who were suffering from the flame, relieving them from their sufferings, and sent them to the afterlife, which in this case, was the return to level 1.

When the mass of experts was gaining on him, he used Wall of Vines again, blocking those experts' advance. Too bad none of them getting caught by the vines, they were sensitive enough to be aware when there was danger. They still had to make a large detour, though. In the meantime, Jack continued to kill the ones on fire as he followed the trail of the Pyro Lynx.

Jack was just thinking that one thing was unfortunate. Why didn't that Pyro Lynx go pounce on those top experts? If he could kill those experts while they were busy with the Pyro Lynx, it would make this remaining battle much easier. Perhaps it was his own fault. He should have given the cat a more detailed command, like go bite that scary perverted auntie or something like that.

The Pyro Lynx was too fast, Jack could only follow the trail of fire it left in order to estimate its whereabouts. It was seemingly attacking at random. The surrounding was full of enemies after all, so it had no shortage of targets.

As he was still following the trail of fire and killed those with low health due to burning damage, his radar picked up something approaching fast. Jack turned and saw the perverted auntie again. He jumped back as his longsword danced and clashed with her daggers.

Ranger's Silent Step was really dangerous, Jack thought. He would have been backstabbed if not for his radar.

He cast Energy Bolts at Lustful Ellie, then saw another red dot attempted to sneak at him. He quickly turned around with a Magic Shield, Slim Blade's crimson dagger barely miss him as it scraped the surface of his Magic Shield. Then he suddenly cannot move as a rope of light tied his body. A strong force hit his back, he flew forward and saw his HP fell.

He planted his feet on the ground and skidded to a stop. Still bound, he turned back and saw Supervisor Killmonger. The guy had used Magic Bind scroll on him and then hit him with a Power Strike. The other experts started showing up as well.

When Supervisor Killmonger was about to lunge at him again, Pyro Lynx suddenly dashed out from the side and pounced at him. He barely managed to parry its attack. Because the lynx's attack hit his sword, he did not catch fire. Supervisor Killmonger quickly backstepped to put some distance from the cat.

"Good cat!" Jack called out. The Pyro Lynx might have automatically come when it detected its master was attacked.

"Restrain the cat! The others, finish Storm Wind!" Assistant Manager Ironhand started barking orders to get their group in coordination.

None dared to come near the fire cat, so instead, they threw ranged attacks at it. It was agile but still, it could not evade all the attacks. Good thing his special elite grade gave him a much higher HP pool compared to a normal monster.

Stonecleave and Goliath who had just arrived, went to Jack at once. Their hands glowed with red aura as they both activated Adrenaline Rush. Jack was under the effect of Magic Bind so they were prepared to deal him the highest damaging hits possible while he was still restrained. They lifted their weapons to attack.

Jack took out the Liberty of Movement again and used it. The energy rope binding his body was broken apart. Jack used Swing when the warriors' duo was still startled by the sudden change. He then jumped back to avoid the two's blows. His magic staff alighted with a rune.

He had trained a lot with the Ice Ring spell, and with each usage during combat, his familiarity with the spell increased. The rune was formed rapidly and a blue ring of ice exploded outwards. The two warriors and more others who were on their way towards Jack were hit by the spell, including Lustful Ellie and Slim Blade, who tried to sneak in and backstab him.

Unfortunately, only Stonecleave was frozen. Jack did not waste this opportunity. The range enemies were still busy dealing with his summoned creature. He used the Heal scroll to recover his health and then slashed rapidly at Stonecleave. As Jack was about to deal the finishing blow, a healing light saved Stonecleave from certain death. Stonecleave was out of frozen status and he retreated back with his weapon at the front ready to defend himself from further assault.

It was Princess Purple who had saved Stonecleave. The teenage girl even had the audacity to throw Jack an arrogant look. As if her preventing Jack from scoring a kill had somehow shown that she was a better player.

Now I'm sure that girl must have Queen Magenta's blood flowing inside her, Jack thought with annoyance and sent her a Sword of Light. A female Knight from Wicked Witches came forward and put herself in front of Princess Purple to protect her. The Sword of Light hit the female Knight's shield. She received damage but was not significant.

A princess was sure to have a bodyguard, Jack thought. He did not want to waste his time with them. He drank basic healing potion and basic energy potion while he had the chance, then turned to another direction to pick on easier targets.

He glanced at the Pyro Lynx's side. His summoned creature was faring better than him. Although it suffered some damage, its movement was too fast to be controlled. It had managed to dive into the range player ranks, burning some with his flame, and causing much chaos. Assistant Manager Ironhand was having trouble controlling the situation.

Jack rushed over to him, that chaotic situation was the best chance to try to kill him. The golden knight which gave him trouble in the past appeared to block his way.

"Move aside!" Jack said as he executed Power Strike. The blow hit heavily on the golden knight's shield. The golden knight had activated his Endure skill, but he still got pushed two meters away by Jack's Power Strike. The two meters gap was enough for Jack to dash past him.

Jack shot Mana Bullet at Assistant Manager Ironhand. Because he was distracted, the spell hit. Jack's Mana Bullet could directly take out a normal low-level Ranger or Magician, but Assistant Manager Ironhand was not your typical backwater player. His gears were all at least uncommon, and he was a level 20 advanced class. Still, Jack's single Mana Bullet took out more than half his life.

Realizing the danger, Assistant Manager Ironhand immediately retreated. A bunch of his subordinates came out to block Jack's advance.

F**k this guild players, did they always have to have bodyguards? Jack cursed in his mind.

He threw a Disruptive Bomb at this row of bodyguards, killing half in the process. The other half were immediately getting healed by healers. Jack shot range attacks at the healers and was about to run to them when his body was bound again by Magic Bind.

Lustful Ellie had appeared beside him and used the scroll, she then stabbed his side. Jack used Liberty of Movement and break free and then returned the favor by using his own Magic Bind scroll.

"Let's see how you fare!" He said as Lustful Ellie was rendered immobile.

"How do you break free?" She spoke out with unwillingness.

Jack slashed her instead of answering her question, but a healing light immediately brought her HP to safety again. Another green light followed and Lustful Ellie found freedom again. She immediately retreated.

'What's that green light?' Jack asked Peniel.

"It's Cure spell, Healer's gained this spell when they hit level 20. It removes all negative effects from the target."

Jack glanced and saw that it was Princess Purple again that had cast both spells. The girl was arrogant but she did have some skill. She had used her skills at the right timing.

Jack was about to dash over to wipe that smug smile off her face when he received a message.

Finally! It's about time, Jack said in his mind.

Chapter 285: Decoy

Jack was in thought about how he should proceed after receiving the message, while his enemies came at him again in drove. He was glad to have received the message. Otherwise, he would need to rely on the Themisphere Beacon Stone once his other magic tools were used up. He cast Barrier to allow himself more freedom to think about his approach while continued to trade blows with his opponents.

When his Barrier expired, his opponents suddenly backed away.

Hm? Jack was baffled by the act. His surrounding was suddenly devoid of players. His Pyro Lynx went on and chased over the retreating enemies. Since Jack was not suffering any damage at the moment, that summoned creature had free rein to do as it pleased.

The retreating players revealed another group of players lining up not far ahead. Bigarm was amongst that group. Jack had been wondering where the guy had disappeared to. He was planning to do what he should have done in the past when he had his first encounter with the fellow.

"This is the end for you!" Bigarm shouted out.

Jack chuckled at his threat. "Are you planning to do something? Have you not watched those old action TV shows? Mostly the villains failed to win because they tried to talk about what they are going to do before they actually do it. So are you going to tell me what you are about to do?"

"Hmph, I'm about to..."

Bigarm stopped his words mid-sentence because a disruptive bomb was flying his way. He hastily took out a scroll and activated it. A wide wall made of light appeared in front of him. The bomb hit the wall and detonated, shaking the wall in the process, but it remained standing.

"You..." Bigarm was trembling with rage. The guy didn't even let him finish his sentence.

Jack simply shrugged, "I was just trying to make my case."

Bigarm decided he was done talking, he gave the sign to the group lining up beside him. Each of them took out a magic scroll. Jack was surprised, there were twenty of them, each of them was holding a scroll. Those were extravagant spending considering guilds had high expenditure, and from their pose, they intended to use them all at the same time.

No wonder they were clearing the space, Jack thought.

The group proceeded to activate their magic scrolls. Runes were formed and spells were cast. All of those scrolls were Fireball scrolls. Rows of fireballs flew in Jack's direction. They advanced in a linear formation. Jack was positioned in the middle of the path they would be traveling. Jack calculated and surmised that even with his speed, either running to his left or his right, he would not be able to run out of the coverage of this linear fireball formation. The twenty Fireballs were also fired at an interface, making it two lines of Fireball. Each fireball had one more following behind. This was probably to counter his Flash Step skill.

No wonder I can't find any more Fireball magic scroll in that magic scroll shop, Jack thought.

As the fireball approached, he smiled and took out his own magic scroll from his bag. The same Magic Wall which had protected Bigarm from Jack's disruptive bomb was now protecting Jack from the fireball barrage.

"No!" Bigarm shouted unwillingly. "I have bought all the Magic Wall scrolls, how did he still have one?!"

The Magic Wall was broken by the combined assault of the Fireball, but the spells had completed their assault after clashing with the wall, so none of them reached Jack.

Jack had heard Bigarm's shout. So that's why there was only one scroll of Magic Wall left in the shop. That must have been coincidentally the single piece that got restocked after Bigarm bought them all. Jack thanked his luck stat again for that single piece. They had been waiting for him to use his Barrier before executing this tactic because they were confident that he did not have any other defensive method.

Bigarm was pulling his hair in frustration after seeing the magic wall appeared. They had wasted so many coins for these magic scrolls and they still failed? Wait, did they fail? He looked again to where the fireball had collided with Jack's magic wall. The flame was raging at that position. Since the fireball was shot in linear formation, it was like a fence of fire had been constructed at the place. The ground was still aflame and thick smoke was produced due to all the burnings. They could not see through all the smoke. The weird thing was, there was no activity seen. Jack might not be directly hit by the fireballs, but could he be burned to death already from all those flames?

Bigarm walked forward anxiously, he tried to peer through the thick smoke.

A shadow suddenly dashed out of the smoke from his right, Bigarm felt as if his heart almost leaped out of his chest. He ran backward frantically and ended up trip himself and fell.

He looked at the shadow that had scared the shit out of him, it was Jack all right. He was running away from here. Bigarm immediately rose and yelled to the others, "chase him!"

The others looked at him in disdain. He had shown such cowardice even though the opponent was not coming at him, now he still dared to bark orders.

The lower-level members of Death Associates did not dare to disobey though, so they still followed his command and gave chase immediately. However, those experts wind up intentionally pausing for a bit. Their pride made them intentionally do the opposite of this coward's command even though they themselves wanted to chase after Jack. So Bigarm's order had instead caused an opposite result. They just stood there and looked at him as if saying, 'what are you going to do about it?'

Bigarm was fuming with anger and embarrassment. But before he could say any more words, a commotion happened at the opposite side of the smoke where Jack had dashed out from. There was a second Jack there, hacking away at the players who gathered over there.

Everybody looked at the scene with stupefaction. They turned to the other side, there was the first Jack who was still running further away, some of the guild players at that side were trying to block him, others tried to catch up to him. They turned back again and saw the second Jack using Shredding Fang and killing players in droves. The Pyro Lynx had come back to Jack's side and aiding in killing those around him.

Another commotion happened at the side where the first Jack had gone to, they turned back and looked at that side. They saw the players at that side were pausing, their faces expressing surprise and confusion. They then saw the reason for those players' expressions. A group of Fighters with shields had linked together and formed a wall to block Jack's advance. There was no gap in their rank so they expected Jack to ram through them. They held up their shields bracing for impact, yet when Jack touched them, they felt no force. Jack's body went through them as if it was made of air.

"It's just a decoy!" Assistant Manager Ironhand exclaimed after witnessing the scene. He then pointed to the second Jack who was still fighting, and said, "that's the real one, get him!"

The experts rushed over, weapons ready and determination on each of their faces. This was the first time they had to work together and still had difficulty killing a single player. For their honor, they could not let him live.

Scarface and the other guild leaders were still watching from over the small hill. They were silent as they watched the battle. Depicting a thousand people fighting against a single person as a battle was perhaps not appropriate. It was more proper to call such an act an execution. It was indeed a slaughter, yet it was the other way around. One person was slaughtering through the thousand people.

Every each of the guild leaders was having difficulty trying to accept this fact. Not just one of them that subconsciously pinched their arms several times, trying to make sure that they were not currently in a dream.

While they were all looking at Jack continuing his massacre, one among them was looking the other way. Scarface had his eyes on the first Jack that had turned out to be fake. That fake Jack was just a mirage where none of the players could touch, yet it continued to run through the guild members.

At first, Scarface thought that it was just the aftereffect of a unique spell that Jack owned. The doppelganger was just created as a temporary decoy to distract their experts, and that fake image would continue to move in a direction until the spell expired. But then the doppelganger changed direction. In fact, it changed direction several times.

Hm? Scarface slowly noticed that the doppelganger was inching closer to the small hill where they were standing at.

Chapter 286: Reinforcement Arrives

Scarface continued to pay attention to the doppelganger. That fake Jack was now running straight at them.

"Something is wrong," Scarface told the others.

"You bet something is very wrong," Fat Gregory said. "I won't have joined this plan of yours if I know you are making us go against that monster. My guild lost a lot of good men down there!"

"I'm talking about that fake one!" Scarface explained to them while pointing at fake Jack who was coming closer.

"What about it? It is just an image," Fat Gregory replied, his tone was completely undermining the alarm that Scarface was trying to indicate.

"He is right, why are you concerning yourself with a spell's after effect? We should be discussing how to defeat that real Storm Wind over there," Queen Magenta expressed her thought.

"Leave it be, Scarface. It was harmless," Manager Steelhand said.

"Let him waste his time as he like. Anyone else has called for reinforcements?" Prideful Josh spoke.

"I have one group that was doing hunting quests not far from here, they are on their way as we speak," Manager Steelhand informed them.

"I have some people on the way as well," another guild leader added.

Scarface saw no hope in relying on them as he heard their conversations. His eyes had never left the fake Jack, who was now at the foot of the small hill already.

Scarface walked away from them towards the path that doppelganger was going at.

"Hey, where are you going?" Manager Steelhand called out to Scarface.

"Leave him be, he had probably lost hope already about how to deal with this mess," Prideful Josh uttered.

Scarface did not comment on their words. His attention was fully at the incoming doppelganger. He cast Mana Bullet at it. As everyone expected, the Mana Bullet went through fake Jack as if there was nothing there. He even used his best spell, the Entrapping Mana Claws, hoping that this unique spell of him had the effect of affecting the doppelganger.

"He has gone nuts," Fat Gregory commented on Scarface's action. Prideful Josh laughed at the comment.

Scarface ignored them. He put himself in front of Jack's doppelganger as it approached. Scarface cast Barrier to protect himself and used his body as an obstacle. Yet the doppelganger still passed through him as everyone had expected.

"Fool," Prideful Josh insulted him on his latest antics.

Scarface turned around and looked at the back of the doppelganger, who was now moving away from him. His eyes then landed in the direction where the doppelganger was heading at.

A realization came to him as he yelled to warn the others, "he is going to save his friends!!!"

The guild leaders were not putting much importance on Scarface's suspicion. Hence when he yelled, they did not really consider it to be serious and continued to ignore him. Not that it mattered anyway, because at the time when Scarface was yelling to warn the others, Jack's doppelganger was already very close to Bowler and the others. The three hostages were also confused by the scene of Jack's image coming towards them.

At that moment, the Jack which was fighting with the others a distance away, suddenly vanished, leaving only the Pyro Lynx in combat. The experts thought that he had used another unknown skill or spell again. They frantically looked around as they tried to locate where he had disappeared to.

After Jack activated his Body Double ability to change location with his doppelganger, he immediately took out two of his remaining three Disruptive Bombs. He threw the first one at the guards who stood behind Bowler and the others, for the second bomb he threw to the unsuspecting guild leaders.

Scarface who from the start had his suspicion on Jack's doppelganger, immediately put himself between Jack and the guild leaders. His Barrier was still active, he had no problem taking damage from the bomb.

That second bomb detonated after hitting Scarface's Barrier. Scarface was knocked back from the explosion but otherwise, he was fine. The other guild leaders did not suffer any damage as well. They had finally turned around after the sound of the explosion and saw Scarface who was stumbling towards them.

The first bomb that Jack threw at the guards also exploded. The guards were mostly oblivious, so they did not react at all to Jack's bomb. Jack had thrown the bomb a little bit away so as to not damage his friends. Most of the guards were killed by the explosion, only two survived, but Jack's slashes soon took away the survivor's remaining health.

Jack then made a fast swing and cut at each of the magic ropes that restrained his friends. Thankfully, the ropes were not so hard to cut. One slash was enough to take away the bindings.

The three immediately rose and took out their weapons. They stood behind Jack, ready to back him up.

"Are we going to continue this?" Jack asked Scarface and the others.

Fat Gregory's eyes were wide with disbelief. "How did you..."

"It doesn't matter!" Scarface cut him mid-sentence. "An enemy is standing in front of us, ready your weapons!"

"So we are still doing this?" Jack asked again.

"Do not flatter yourself, we still outnumber you! Wait till our reinforcement arrive, you still won't be able to escape us!" Queen Magenta uttered.

"Not if mine arrives first," Jack replied with a smile as he pointed in a direction.

They turned to where he was pointing at and saw a group of people coming over. It was the group from White Scarfs. There was also another guild on their side, Saint Edge. They numbered almost three hundred people.

"How...? Why are they so fast? It was not yet two hours," Manager Steelhand said.

Scarface was also in disbelief, but what he did not understand was why his mole was not informing him that White Scarfs group was nearby already?

While Scarface and the others were watching White Scarfs and Saint Edge groups, Jack asked Bowler and the others, "why can't I send you messages?"

"That bald dude got something that can jam messaging function," Bowler replied, referring to Scarface.

Jack nodded, Peniel did mention an item like that before, so he did not find it strange. What he found weird was why Scarface jammed their message. If they sent him messages about them being caught captives, wouldn't it be more convincing that Bowler and the others were indeed in Death Associates' clutches?

While Jack saved his friends on that small hill, Silverwing and the others had just arrived on the battlefield. William of Wellington, an elder of Saint Edge, who was also the current acting leader of Saint Edge guild because the other leaders' whereabouts were unknown in this new world, was standing beside Silverwing. The two acting leaders watched the scene before them with disquiet.

"Where are the powerful force that is battling the coalition?" William of Wellington asked.

"There are many corpses though, so a fierce battle was fought here, and still ongoing since the corpses have not vanished," Silverwing said. "Look over there."

He pointed at a place where they could see a portion of the coalition army in battle with a seemingly small monster. It was not so clear from the distance and also because the monster moved at high speed, but the monster looked like a fiery cat. Many of the players that were fighting with that monster were also on fire.

"Did that single monster do all the killings?" William of Wellington asked

"I told you not to trust that fellow," a level 20 female Knight spoke. She was William's aide, her alias was Radiant Phoebe.

"Saint John might have his flaws, but I don't believe he means us harm," William said. "And the coalition does seem to have suffered quite a loss here. If we can capitalize on it, we can put a dent in their growth."

"They still outnumber us by at least twice though," Phoebe said, as she tried to estimate the number of players that were still alive. Jack did have killed a lot of players, but he was still only one person after all. There were still more than six hundred of the coalition players on the field.

"Look over there," Bluedaze pointed at a small hill not far away. "There were some players there, they seem to be fighting."

"It's just a couple of people," Radiant Phoebe snorted. "I still don't see the powerful force that was mentioned by John."

"So, should we do this?" Silverwing asked. "We have come all this way."

"We will announce ourselves openly as the enemy of the coalition if we do," Radiant Phoebe warned.

"Are we not already?" Silverwing countered. "When we decided not to join their coalition, they have already seen us as adversaries."

"Brother Silverwing is right," William said. "The coalition has been growing stronger by the day. We need to clip their wings before they become too strong for us to handle. This is one of our chances. Their formation looked to be in chaos, most are still focusing their attention on that monster. We should be able to take advantage of their disorganization."

Silverwing nodded, "yes, we should strike from the other side, less we get entangled with that monster as well. Saint John had also promised reinforcement, he should not be far away. We can do this."

"Let us ride to battle then!" William of Wellington gave the signal for his guild to charge.

Chapter 287: Dust Cloud

The two guilds who had just arrived slowly get into formation. They moved steadily as they approached the coalition army. The players of the coalition had seen the new troops approaching, but most of the top players who they took command from were at the other side dealing with Jack's Pyro Lynx. The ones that were slightly higher in rank hastily organized the players to face the newcomer troops.

Both parties soon clashed. Both sides started with range spells and attacks before their melee class charged into each other.

Scarface watched the two sides clashed with trepidation. It was true that they still outnumber the enemy force by twice. If it was only facing against the two guilds, their current state should still be more than fine. After all, most of their top experts were still alive and kicking. But what if they still had to face Jack? When Jack was alone, they had already barely managed to cope with him. Now another force had shown up, their situation was actually more precarious.

With great unwillingness, he finally uttered the words that he thought he would never say today, "let's retreat."

"What? Are you kidding?" Prideful Josh immediately showed his disapproval.

"Yes, we still have many members. There is no reason for us to yield!" Queen Magenta exclaimed.

"Retreating now will severely hurt our reputation, how will we gain more members if everyone heard of this?" Fat Gregory chimed in.

The other guild leaders also expressed their objection to Scarface's suggestion.

Manager Steelhand was silent, he glanced at Jack who was still standing behind them. Although they were observing the coming of White Scarfs and Saint Edge groups, half their attention was still on Jack. After all, how could one relax when such a frightening opponent was standing not far away?

Manager Steelhand's thought was the same as Scarface's, he would choose to retreat under the current situation. However, most of the coalition leaders had opted to continue fighting. He couldn't sway the

group's decision with just the two of them, even if they were two out of the three main leaders of the coalition.

Scarface was also feeling helpless, the situation had indeed turned to the worst. Leaving now would indeed be very bad for the coalition's reputation. Perhaps they should bet on fighting till the end.

"Very admirable show of valiance, you lots," a snarky comment was spoken amongst them. It was Blackjack, he did not go down there with the other top experts because he did not consider himself under the coalition's order. He was only here to watch the show.

"You are here just a guest, I suggest you watch your words," Prideful Josh said.

Blackjack simply smirked at the remark.

"What's that?" One of the guild leaders pointed out at the distance.

It was the direction of the forest where Jack had come from. There was a low but dense cloud of dust on top of the row of trees in the forest. It was still far behind the forest, but it seemed to be moving closer.

They observed the phenomenon for a while before someone gave his opinion, "it looked like something was moving behind the forest."

"Not something, a lot of things," Another guild leader said his piece.

"It couldn't be..." A realization came to Manager Steelhand, before he said with a serious tone, "we have to leave!"

"What? Not you too? But..."

Manager Steelhand interrupted Fat Gregory's objection crudely, he said, "do you remember about the message I received about Saint John?"

Fat Gregory was confused at first, he tried to remember what they have talked about before his eyebrows raised in realization, "wait, you are not suggesting that dust cloud to be..."

"I think that is what it exactly is," Manager Steelhand again cut off Fat Gregory's sentence. "I don't know how he managed to rile up so many independent players, but looking at that dust cloud, their numbers were not small."

The others who were still oblivious, came to understanding after hearing his last words. They looked again at that cloud of dust. A force that could produce such dust cloud upon their marching, would indeed be not minuscule.

"Let's retreat," Manager Steelhand repeated Scarface words, but this time none were showing objection.

Scarface turned to Jack and said, "we will settle this another time."

Jack replied with a shrug.

"Let's go," Scarface said to the others. They started walking down the hill.

All the leaders sent out messages to their subordinates in the army below as they walked. Most were not aware of rapid footsteps from behind them. Scarface was in the middle of typing his message when his instinct warned him and he made an abrupt turn.

Jack was already nearby, his sword lifted, and was about to cut down. Scarface did not have enough time to react. However, another person suddenly appeared in front of him and clashed with Jack's downward swing. The person was sent flying and bumped into Scarface as he was sent tumbling away again.

Scarface quickly rose after the fall and saw that the person that had saved him was Blackjack, who quickly took out a potion to recover his health.

"You...!" He snarled at Jack.

"Damn, if only I have Silent Step skill like Ranger," Jack uttered, lamenting his failed ambush.

"What's the meaning of this? Do you have no honor?" Manager Steelhand exclaimed.

"You have the guts to talk about honor after kidnapping my friends?" Jack retorted.

"So you plan to continue fighting with us?" Manager Steelhand brandished his weapon. The others followed suit.

"Never intending to stop actually," Jack admitted. "Just thought I can get a free kill this way. Also, I never said anything about stop fighting, I simply ask you the question. You don't think I'm a nice guy now, do you? I'm nice to my friends, but I can be nasty to my enemy. I still regret the time when I let go of Bigarm, I thought he could really die at that time. I guess I'm not ready to be a murderer yet then."

"Are you ready now?" Scarface said as he readied his magic staff.

"Oh, I'm not sure. Since you don't really die here in this world no matter how many times I kill you. I will never really know now, won't I?" Jack replied.

"Then there's nothing further to discuss!" Scarface said as he cast Energy Bolts.

An arrow flew past Jack aiming at Scarface as he cast his spell. One of the guild leaders who was a Knight, saw the arrow attack and went forward to receive it using his shield. Fierce Flame continued to fire her arrows at random targets amongst the guild leaders.

Bowler aided by casting his range spells as well. While The Man charged forward targeting one particular guild leader, who at the time was actually continuing to retreat towards the coalition army. The Real Man was running, ignoring the other guild leaders who had engaged in combat with Jack and the others.

"You coward! Where are you running off to?!" The Man called out to the fleeing The Real Man. No one could blame the cowardly guy though, he was still a Fighter at level 14 after all. He would stand no chance in the fight back there, so all he could do was run to where his subordinates were.

"We can't stay!" Scarface called to the others as he continued to throw range attacks. He briefly glanced at the dust cloud that still lingered above the faraway forest.

"Tell that to these a*sholes!" Queen Magenta replied. She fought as fiercely as her male counterparts.

"We will continue to fight as we retreat, I've called for a division to come to face them," Manager Steelhand said.

"I don't think one division is enough for that guy," Fat Gregory remarked.

The Man had come back, he could not continue chasing after The Real Man. He joined in the fight against the guild leaders. The guild leaders themselves weren't pushovers, all of them were experts in their own right. Most notable were Scarface and Prideful Josh, both of whom were level 20 Mages. Though they did not seem to be on good terms with one another, their expertise allowed them good coordination. Their spells had managed to put a level of restriction upon Jack's movement.

The fact was, it was not only the two mages' good coordination that restricted Jack. At the moment, he did not dare to just charge recklessly like before. He could move freely when he was fighting alone, but now he needed to protect his three friends as well.

He had chosen to save them at the last moment after he received the message that reinforcement was near, precisely because he did not want to get bog down by them. If he rushed over and the guild leaders decided to focus their fire on one of his friends, it would be really difficult for him to keep them alive. It would be a shame to let them die after going through the trouble of saving them.

Chapter 288: Fighting The Guild Leaders

The guild leaders continued to retreat as they fought. During the fight, there was one leader who overestimated his ability. It was the leader of a guild called Six Rings of Prosperity. The guy was a level 20 Rogue. He was brave enough to try for an opportunity to backstab Jack, something that even Blackjack chose not to attempt at this time. Jack used Magic Bind scroll on him and then had him buried to the ground. The guy's name was Luck Holder. Not so lucky though, Jack thought.

When Jack killed his first coalition's guild leader, Scarface took the chance to cast his Entrapping Mana Claws again. Jack had learned from Peniel that the cooldown of that spell was only three minutes, so he had prepared for that spell, and he had a much easier way to counter it than using Barrier like last time. When the claws formed around him, he executed Flash Step. He was gone already before the claws could hit him.

But then he saw Manager Steelhand took out another magic Scroll. Jack did not take chance this time. He cast Barrier before a bolt of lightning shot from the scroll and struck at him. It was not the Chain Lightning spell he noticed. This Lightning was slightly weaker and it did not continue to jump at his friends. It was still strong enough to break his Barrier though and caused him around 200 damage afterward.

Four guild leaders who were melee class, including Fat Gregory, came near him at the time. One of them used Magic Bind at Jack, and they attacked at the same time from four sides, trying to deal lethal blows to Jack while he was incapacitated. Jack immediately countered the Magic Bind using Liberty of Movement.

He then used this chance to catch the guard leaders off guard. He drank the Reset Potion, and activated Life Burning Art and Dragon's Eye. The guild leaders' movement around him became slow motion. He easily evaded the simultaneous attacks from all of them. From an outsider's point of view, Jack suddenly

exhibited inhuman martial expert's reaction and movement. He dodged all the attacks with slight shift and minimal movement, passing through their weapons at a hair's breadth.

Storm Breaker's Overlimit skill was activated at this time, together with Adrenaline Rush and Heightened State. Jack's offensive was at its top condition at the moment.

In such a close range, the four guild leaders had no chance to break away. Jack could see their responses to be as slow as a snail in his eyes. His transformed Storm Breaker, augmented by the Life Burning Art, slashed through their bodies with one fluent swipe. Even though it was only a normal attack, out of the four guild leaders, only one who was using Knight class, survived his attack. But Jack's second's slash still took his life.

Out of the eleven guild leaders in the coalition, only four were remaining there. Boulder of Weary Wolf had died first in battle. The Real Man had run away, an irony to his own name. Then just a few moments ago, Luck Holder, Fat Gregory, and three other melee guild leaders which Jack did not have the time to look at their names, had perished. Leaving only Scarface, Manager Steelhand, Queen Magenta, and Prideful Josh. Blackjack was standing behind them, he had wisely chosen to not engage Jack when the other melee guild leaders tried to have a go at Jack.

Jack rushed at them, now that their numbers were almost equal, Jack did not need to worry about his friends' safety too much anymore. His main target was Scarface. His speed after being boosted by Life Burning Art was even scarier. The Man engaged Manager Steelhand for a melee fight, while Flame assaulted Queen Magenta, Bowler supported them both from the rear. Jack shot Energy Bolts and Mana Bullets to the remaining others to distract them.

Prideful Josh still managed to cast Arcane Turbulence despite the range attacks. He placed the spell on the path that Jack was rushing at, but Jack used Charge and managed to cross through the spell effect area before the spell successfully came into effect. The extra speed boost from Jack's Charge added with Life Burning Art had thrown Prideful Josh's calculation off.

Scarface took out a scroll and used it right at the moment Jack appeared before him. A Magic Wall was erected between him and Scarface. Jack continued to swing his sword down, executing Power Strike. The transformed Storm Breaker crashed at the wall hard. The Magic Wall shook from the impact, cracks were seen on its surface. Scarface's eyes went wide, this was the first time he saw this elite defensive spell cracked after a single attack by a player.

His shock had caused him to pause, which Jack exploited by sending triple rapid slashes at the Magic Wall. The defensive wall crumbled soon. Scarface snapped out of his daze and was barely in time to cast Barrier. Jack used Sword of Light. The Barrier which was erected in an instant, crumbled with the same speed, leaving Scarface devoid of defense.

When Jack lunged at the now defenseless Scarface, he noticed a red dot came behind him. It must have been Blackjack. However, Jack chose to ignore it this time. His Overlimit was nearing its end, and he did not want this golden opportunity to get rid of Scarface to be wasted. The Sword of Light had already caused high damage to Scarface despite his Barrier, he only needed one more slash to finish him.

Jack felt a stab on his back as he sent his slash at Scarface. He suffered critical and increased damage due to Rogue's Backstab skill, but because of his high defense and high HP pool, this damage was not

life-threatening. Jack's sword cut down at Scarface unobstructed. A damage number eclipsing Scarface's remaining HP appeared on his head.

It's finally done! Jack exclaimed in his mind.

But then he saw Scarface's arm was still moving, he pointed his staff at Jack's face. Jack glanced at Scarface's HP bar with confused feeling. The number on it indicated that he still had 10 HP left. Jack was still puzzled about it when a Mana Bullet exploded on his face at point-blank range. Scarface's Mana Bullet was an evolved version that had a strong knockback effect. Jack was thrown away by this effect. He rolled backward several times on the ground before getting back up.

The surviving guild leaders and Blackjack took this chance to break away. Manager Steelhand used another Magic Wall scroll to protect them from Bowler and Flame's range attacks. The Magic Wall also served as a hindrance for The Man and Jack in chasing them. Jack's Storm Breaker had reverted to its original state, he could not destroy the Magic Wall as easily as before anymore, he had to go around the Magic Wall in order to chase after the guild leaders.

A small part of the coalition army came to the guild leaders to protect them. Jack knew then that he had lost the opportunity to kill those remaining guild leaders. That doesn't mean he would just pull back though. With Flame and the others, he continued to go forward again and engage the coalition army. He chose to approach Silverwing's troop which was not far away.

"Hey, Peniel. What's the deal with Scarface just now? My damage clearly should have killed him," Jack asked the fairy as he proceeded.

"He probably equips or carries something that takes over the lethal hit," Peniel answered.

"There is something like that?"

"There are several things like that. Most probably it was a Sacrificial Dummy, it was a tool that takes over the lethal hit of its owner. Keeping the owner alive with barely a sliver of HP. It breaks after usage, and you can only keep one inside your inventory. It is a pretty rare drop, he must have got it from a quest or a boss kill."

Scarface drank recovery potions as they fled. He looked behind at the surviving guild leaders. He did not believe that so many guild leaders had been killed. This would seriously put a dent in their development. He gritted his teeth as he looked over to the man who was the source of this all. Jack was still killing his troops at the back. He could not help to think that he had still greatly underestimated the man, despite all this ploy which his comrades had thought to be excessive and even mocked him for it.

The Pyro Lynx that Jack left behind had finally been killed. The top experts who had fought with Jack were not pushovers after all. Even though they lost many subordinates, and many of them were wounded, they managed to corner it and chip away at the summoned creature's HP until it died. They felt like they had just battled the big boss of a dungeon, despite not receiving any experience nor loot.

The force of White Scarfs and Saint Edge were also gaining on their confrontation with the coalition's disorganized troops. The coalition themselves was a loose combination of eleven different guilds. They were a newly formed coalition, their coordination was not yet tempered. Combined with how they had

been wrecked by Jack beforehand and the lack of instruction from the top, it was no wonder that they had difficulty in coping with the assault.

Chapter 289: Betrayal

After Scarface and the others joined their coalition army, they slowly retreat while enduring the joined assault from the two guilds and Jack's team. Strangely though, as observed by White Scarfs and Saint Edge's members, the coalition seemed to prefer avoiding Jack's side rather than theirs.

Silverwing saw Jack when they got closer with each other, he immediately came over and greeted him, "brother Storm Wind! What are you doing here?"

Jack turned to him with a confused expression and asked instead, "aren't you here as my reinforcement?"

Jack looked around and then asked another question, "where is John?" He had received the message from John so he thought the guy was with Silverwing's group.

"We came separately," Silverwing answered. While they were conversing, they did not stop their fighting with the slowly retreating enemy troops.

Scarface was at the back of the coalition army, he had Silverwing on his sight. He went over to him. He had tried to send messages to his spy in White Scarfs, demanding why he was not informed of their approach. He got the system reply that his message could not be delivered. He immediately understood what was the problem. Just as he had jammed the message system of his hostages, someone nearby his spy had used a jamming tool as well.

There was only one reason he could think of why such an incident happened. Someone in White Scarfs already knew about the existence of the spy. Whether they knew who the spy of or not, that was unknown. In any case, the spy's worth to continue hiding within the guild had been decreased. It's better to just fully use it one last time.

When the spy came to him with the interest to join his guild, Scarface gave him a condition to prove his loyalty, which was to continue to stay inside the guild and feeding him information. After all, how did he know if that person did not come asking to join because Silverwing had asked him to? To spy on Death Associates? Even if Scarface thought that the spy had proven enough, he would still need to do one last task before joining Death Associates, which was to murder Silverwing. He gave the spy the sign at this moment.

"Do it! Kill him!" Scarface yelled.

Everyone was confused at first. Especially Silverwing, because Scarface was looking and pointing at him when he yelled. He then felt a heavy force from behind. He could not endure the force and fell hard to the ground.

Silverwing was a level 20 Archer, although his gears were good, he did not have as high an HP as the Warrior or Knight class. He only had a total HP of 400. The blow from the back just now had scored a critical. Even with the high defense of his gear, he still suffered over 300 damage, which put his life at critical.

He had the chance to turn around and saw Grimclaw standing behind him. Grimclaw was a level 20 Knight, but he didn't use a shield. Instead, he used a large halberd which enhanced his offense. That halberd of his was currently lifted high, ready to be brought down to impale Silverwing, giving him a killing blow.

"No!" Bluedaze did not have the time to react, she wanted to cast heal, but her spell rune had not enough time to form before the halberd was brought down.

Sinreaper was too far away, he had pointed his staff and cast Mana Bullet when he heard Silverwing pained shout. However, the Mana Bullet disappeared after traveling its maximum distance without hitting Grimclaw.

Grimclaw's large halberd rushed down. Silverwing could only look helplessly.

A crescent light suddenly came flying, colliding with the halberd that was about to impale Silverwing. The force brought by the impact pushed the halberd swerving a large distance away. Grimclaw who was holding the halberd tightly, got pulled by the force. He staggered a few steps. When he finally regained balance, he looked at the source of that crescent light.

"You!" Grimclaw had already disliked Jack from the start. The bet where he was embarrassed and lost his rare sword during the Tutorial Period had caused him to hate the guy even more. In fact, Jack was largely the cause why he had decided to join Death Associates. He could not stand his leader becoming somewhat chummy with the person he hated and looked down upon.

Scarface did not just stand there. He had started casting after he gave Grimclaw the order. Three runes were forming on his staff. It was the Entrapping Mana Claw. He prepared it in case something went wrong, and something did go wrong. However, when the third rune was about to form, an arrow came over. He gritted his teeth to just suffer the damage and maintained his concentration, he had to finish the spell in order to make sure Scarface was killed.

Yet, when the arrow hit, the spell formation that was about to be completed still broke apart. He looked at Fierce Flame who had taken the shot in consternation. "Impossible! I'm fully concentrating!"

Jack also turned at her with an inquisitive look.

"I learned a new skill from a technique book for Archer," Flame explained. "It's called Disruptive shot. It can interrupt a magic user's casting."

"Rather wise of you to keep this trump card hidden," Jack gave her a compliment.

"Actually, I had used it when I fought with Queen Magenta. You and Scarface just didn't pay attention to it," she replied with a bland look.

"Oh...," was all Jack could say. But how could he pay attention to other people's fights when he himself was in an intense battle?

"Grrh.." Scarface was growling in frustration. Nothing was going as planned today. With unwillingness, he said to Grimclaw, "retreat!"

After Jack's hit pushed Grimclaw away, other members from White Scarfs had come swarming at him. Bluedaze had also finished casting and used heal on Silverwing. His opportunity had gone already. But at

least he had proven his loyalty to Scarface, and from Scarface's order for him to retreat, Scarface had already considered him as his man.

Without any hesitation, Grimclaw repelled his former teammates' attacks and went over to where Scarface was. Scarface took out a scroll and used it. It was not an offensive spell, however, the scroll enveloped the legs of Scarface and his underlings around him, including Grimclaw, with soft green light. They turned and ran away. Their speed was faster than normal. The scroll's spell was to increase their movement speed.

Scarface rejoined Manager Steelhand, they urged the army to retreat faster after they saw that the dust cloud was getting nearer. The dust cloud was moving beside the forest now, but they still not yet saw the force that created that dust cloud. They could not afford to get assaulted by another large force again. It would be a disaster. They hastened their speed, thus leaving the slower classes, like magicians and fighters who were at the back of their troop, to fend for themselves.

They had truly suffered a huge loss in this encounter. None of the guild leaders could have predicted the outcome to be like this. They were basically only targeting a single player, with a possible one or two guilds in addition. If they could see this outcome now, they would have gathered their full forces from the start. It was too late for regret now. One thing for sure, all eleven guilds now engraved Storm Wind's name at the top of their lists as the enemy that they needed to vanquish.

Jack watched the retreating army, they did not continue on their chase. As the battle ended, the corpses of the players started disintegrating, items were dropped from them. Jack was admiring the incident when he heard a voice notification, "congratulations, for successfully killing 100 non-basic class players of the same level within three hours, you have gained the title of Outworlder Slayer."

'Title?' Jack asked in his mind after listening to the notification.

"Check it out, it should be in your status window," Peniel replied.

Jack opened the window without further ado. He looked for a while and found the description.

Outworlder Slayer (Title)

Increase damage by 15% against players. Reduce damage by 15% from players. Reduce the chance of getting status effect from players by 30%.

Jack whistled in delight. Bowler and the others looked at him, they thought he was whistling because of feeling happy after winning the battle. They smiled and felt good themselves, except for Fierce Flame who was still annoyed because she was being helpless and had been used to lure Jack to this place. Bowler and The Man felt no such guilt.

'This is good,' Jack was commenting on the title he had just gotten. 'I will be more deadly now when fighting players.'

"You need to equip it first," Peniel said.

'Equip?'

"Yes. A title is different from talent. Only one title will take effect, which is the one you equipped."

Jack looked at his window page again, there was indeed a title option under his name. He clicked on it, there was only one option since he only had one title. He equipped that title.

Chapter 290: Do Not Test Me

He closed his status window after the process was done. He was still grinning for have gained the title. Bowler and The Man were grinning as well beside him. Flame looked at them and shook her head.

Jack was about to go pick up the dropped loots when he saw that White Scarfs and Saint Edge's members were picking up the loots themselves. His grin vanished as he shouted at them, "hey! Hey! Yours are over there. These here are mine!" Jack was pointing at the spot where the two guilds had done battle with the coalition members.

The two guild members were looking at each other. Their faces said, "who is this fool?"

Radiant Phoebe who was standing not far away, looked at Jack with contempt. "Who do you think you are? Commoners should step aside. Do not blame us if you are hurt when you tread where you don't belong!"

When Jack was about to scold her back, Silverwing came in first, "Mister Storm Wind! I have not thanked you for saving my life. I am in your favor. I will return it when I have the chance. For now, please allow me a simple handshake to show my gratitude."

Jack accepted his handshake. His eyes though were still on the woman who had been rude.

Silverwing then turned to his people, "everyone! Go pick up the loots from players you have killed. Do not pick those which you have no right to."

The White Scarfs members were clearly dissatisfied by this order, but they did not dare to disobey. They walked back reluctantly.

Radiant Phoebe frowned at Silverwing's action. William of Wellington approached Silverwing and said, "brother Silverwing, is this your acquaintance?"

"Yes, this is my friend, mister Storm Wind," Silverwing answered. "I have no doubt that what has caused so much chaos within the coalition rank before we arrived, was due to mister Storm Wind here."

"That's right, I've already killed around four hundred people from that coalition," Jack said. "And if your people still don't stop picking up the loots that are not theirs, I won't mind adding them to the numbers."

"Hahaha. That was so absurd it's not even funny!" Radiant Phoebe mocked.

"If it was not funny, then why did you laugh just now?" Jack asked.

"I was just making a statement!" Radiant Phoebe exclaimed with a fluster.

"And I was just messing with you," Jack shot back.

"You... Ignore him! Just pick all the loots up!" Radiant Phoebe gave up talking to Jack and gave the order to his men.

"Lady, for the sake of your men, do not test me..." Jack warned.

Radiant Phoebe acted as if she did not hear his warning.

"Brother William, can you give me face and help mediate this?" Silverwing said to William of Wellington.

William stayed silent, he did not look like he intended on interfering.

Silverwing sighed. They had just secured a victory together against the coalition. This should be the chance for his guild to come into a formal alliance with Saint Edge for future confrontation with the coalition. If he came into conflict with Saint Edge at the moment, they would lose the momentum in pushing against the coalition. Even if his guild boasted the largest community at the moment, he knew his guild would not survive fighting the coalition alone. The combined manpower and experts in the coalition were not something to look down upon. Therefore, he knew he needed to forge an alliance with the other top guilds in order to have a chance. And due to this incident, an opportunity to ally with Saint Edge had presented itself. That's why he was in a dilemma, should he choose to support a friend? Or should he choose the welfare of his guild? Such was the burden of a leader.

As Silverwing was contemplating, Jack took out his magic staff and without hesitation shot a Mana Bullet at one of Saint Edge members who was continuing to pick up the loots. The guy was a level 19 Ranger with an HP pool of 290. The Mana Bullet caused 283 damage, leaving the poor guy with only 7 HP left. The guy fell down in shock. The others around him were also stunned.

Radiant Phoebe did not pay attention to the damage Jack's Mana Bullet had caused. Once she saw Jack attacking her men, she brandished her weapon which was a large two-handed broadsword.

"You cocky mage! You will pay for that!" She rushed to Jack lifting her broadsword high.

When Jack used his magic staff and cast Mana Bullet, Silverwing and his cohorts were similarly shocked. Not by the damage the spell caused, but due to the fact that Jack was casting a spell! In their knowledge, the guy was supposed to be a Warrior.

Their astonishments were understandable, since they did not pay attention to Jack's fight on the small hill. When Jack came near Silverwing's team during his pursuit of the fleeing coalition members, Jack did not use any of his Mage spells. He was killing the fleeing players using his sword. Even when he saved Silverwing, he was using his Warrior skill.

Hence when they saw Jack casting Mana Bullet, it took them a while to process the incident. Saint Edge people, on the other hand, had no knowledge of Jack. They simply saw him as either a Mage or Magician, no one bothered to use Inspect on him.

That's why when Jack took out his longsword when Radiant Phoebe got near, it's Saint Edge members' turn to become bewildered. What's that mage doing holding a sword? Was the thought on their minds.

Radiant Phoebe swung her broadsword at Jack who was still standing there unmoving. Jack's arm moved when the broadsword was about to hit. His longsword struck at the female Knight's body. To Saint Edge members' surprise, the result of the confrontation was Radiant Phoebe being smacked away.

Both of them were using Power Strike, but Radiant Phoebe had come at Jack with a large swing, Jack could easily see her attack trajectory. Hence Jack easily dodged her slash by a simple swift in footings.

She must have underestimated Jack for thinking him to be a range magic class which usually had low Dexterity stat.

Radiant Phoebe was known as the melee class who possessed the strongest strength. Most of Her equipment also boosted strength stat, therefore no one had ever seen her getting sent flying during a clash, not even when she was fighting a Warrior, not to mention a magical class. Was the guy even a magic class? Why was the guy using a sword? None of Saint Edge members could make sense of the scene. What they didn't know was Jack used a Power Strike which was at level 10 with two stars grade. Not to mention his high strength stat, it was no wonder that the female Knight was thrown away violently after suffering a hit.

"This..." William of Wellington was similarly speechless.

Bowler and The Man were grinning like fools. They had expected this outcome.

Due to the unexpected reprisal, Radiant Phoebe lost control of her balance when she was sent flying. She crashed hard to the ground on her back and rolled further a few times until the force of the momentum ran out. She forced herself up once she was able to. Her look was completely miserable, her armor and face were full of dirt and her hair was disheveled. The shame that she felt was far worse than the pain.

"I will kill you...!!" She yelled as she rushed forward again.

But someone came and stood in front of her path.

"Move!" She shouted with agitation and was about to shove the one who dared to block her path away.

Before she could do it, another force ram at her from the side. She staggered and almost fell. She lifted her broadsword and was about to attack when she recognized the person who had rammed at her.

"F—Felix?" She called out.

"Looked at who you are about to attack!" The guy who she called Felix, who was also a Knight, said.

She turned her attention to said person and found out that it was her leader, William of Wellington, who had stood in her way.

"I... Forgive me!" She immediately said. She almost did a most terrible offense.

"Look at your health," William said without expression.

"My health?" She was puzzled at first, but when she paid attention to her HP. She was dumbfounded to see she only had 62 HP left.

"H—How...?"

"The damage you suffered when he hit you," William told her.

"B... But... He only hit me once...," Radiant Phoebe stuttered with disbelief.

"Exactly," William said. "Now, stay back."

William then turned to Jack, and said, "was it truly you who killed all these coalition members before we came?"

"I did," Jack replied flatly.

William was silent as he stared at Jack. After a while, he finally spoke, "then we will not touch your loots."