

World 521

Chapter 521: Thieving Quest

"It was taken from me involuntarily, so it might as well be," The merchant defended himself.

"Involuntary my ass! You owed someone and you don't pay, what do you expect will happen?" Jack cursed.

"Anyway, the offer still stands. I will pay you extra for the job. I will give you something outside of what the Adventurers Association pays you," Yilus said. His beaming countenance was front and center again.

"Let me get this straight. You are asking us to break into that house, a noble's house. In the middle of an upper-class neighborhood. To take something inside that house which said noble had legally obtained from you, and give it to you."

"I assure you, it is taken from me involuntarily."

"But it is legally his right."

Yilus shrugged. "legal is a bit blurry in this country."

"Are you asking us to be f*cking thieves?!" Jack was done being courteous with the guy. At the same time, he asked Peniel in his mind, 'Peniel, how the heck this Adventurers Association handed such a shady quest? I remembered you said before that I will receive a penalty for canceling a quest from the Gold hall, correct? How bad is this penalty?'

'Some deduction on your adventurer points. That should not be a problem for you. However, specifically for you, there is a penalty that you might not want.'

'What penalty?'

'You will lose your VIP privilege.'

"F*ck!" Jack cursed out loud. The VIP status had proven to be very useful. Not only did it allow Jack to no need to queue, but it also allowed Jack to invite lower-rank adventurers to join his quest.

"I understand you are upset, but there is no need to keep on cursing," Yilus said, thinking the curse was a response to him. In a way, though, it was. Jack gave him a side-eye with annoyance.

"What if we are caught inside?" Jack asked.

"You will be thrown in jail and I will deny any involvement," Yilus answered.

#\$%!

That's why the guy had worn that hooded cloak, he didn't want anyone to identify him near this place. Jack felt like beating this shady merchant for a bit.

"Here, take this," Yilus offered the two. In his hands were two sets of hooded cloaks and masks. The hooded cloak was uncommon grade but the mask was a rare grade.

'This a*shole has planned this from the start,' Jack thought.

"You are not seriously thinking we will go through with this, right?" Jack asked.

Yilus shrugged. "If you want to cancel the quest, go ahead then. I have made my request with special privilege, I put more rewards in the association but at the same time, the penalty is also doubled."

'That's why the exp points reward was rather high compared to the other A difficulty quests,' Jack thought. This was getting troublesome, but he just couldn't bring himself to do this despicable deed. Jack turned to Sinful and gave him an enquiring look.

"I will follow your lead, bro," he said. "The dude is right, though. Legal in this country is a bit blurry. We can always bribe our way through the guards if caught."

While Jack was contemplating, a jail wagon carrying several women went into the estate. Jack's Dragon Eye allowed him to see the women's expression. They were scared.

"What was that?" Jack asked. He was confused why the jail wagon only contain women and why it went into the estate.

"Those were human slaves for the vampire noble," Yilus answered.

"Slaves?" Jack asked, surprised.

"Slaves are legal in this country, especially if bought by vampire nobles," Sinful informed. "There is even a slave auction place near the ghetto. If you are interested, I can take you there to see."

"No, I am not," Jack said with disgust. "What do they use the slaves for?"

"Mostly for work, but everyone knows it is also as blood snacks for the vampires," Sinful replied.

"I thought being a blood donator for vampires is a respectable position in this country?"

"The official ones, yes. But you know, just as we eat our foods, we will get bored if we keep on tasting just one type of food. These slaves provide a cheap variety for them, vampires. The regulation still required none of the slaves die while being fed on. But, of course, sometimes accidents still happened. As I said, legal in this country is a bit blurry."

Jack felt relieved he was not brought into this country when he first set foot in this world.

"Do you know how tight the security of this place is? And how strong the noble who owns it?" Jack asked Yilus.

"The noble is very strong but he is not home at the moment," Yilus answered. "That's why I set the time limit for two days. He was away at this time. Don't worry, my information is accurate. There is, however, a level 40 special elite guard inside. Besides that, there were just a few weak maids and servants, and one weak vampire, a newly turned son of the noble."

"Only one guard to worry about?"

"Yes. This is inside the city and in a well-protected neighborhood. Not many nobles hire extra security inside their mansions. Another thing, I have people inside, once you enter. I can make it so all the maids

and servants hide away in their quarters and also deactivate the rune diagram that serves as an alarm to nearby patrolling guards. As long as neither the lone guard nor the son of the noble came out to call for help, no one should know what happened inside."

"You are very resourceful, I don't think you are any normal merchant?"

Yilus shrugged from the question.

"Do you have the layout of that mansion?"

"Yes. Do you agree to the job? I won't show you the map unless you agree first."

"Heh, Are you truly going to let us go if we say no? Are you not afraid we report your intention to the authority?" Jack asked.

Yilus smiled. "I have many friends in the authority."

"I'm sure you do. We will take the job, but I have a condition. You said you will give us additional rewards aside from the ones offered by Adventurers Association? We don't need that."

"We don't?" Sinful asked.

"What is your condition?"

"Considering your connections, you should have a way to help some slaves hide in the ghetto and live a semblance of decent lives."

Yilus frowned, "Are you thinking about saving those women? I hope you are not. Going in to look for my item and escape with it is still possible without you coming into contact with the guard. Saving the slaves, however, is not. They were locked in a basement below the mansion and the key was on the guard all the time. Engaging the guard will risk the whole operation exponentially. I prefer you do this undetected."

"Don't worry, we will prioritize getting your item. Afterward, my friend here will bring it out first."

"I don't know about this..."

"Do you think you will get many adventurers willing to do this f*cking thieving job?" Jack asked.

Yilus thought for a bit before saying, "Fine, I accept your condition. But if you took too long, don't blame me for leaving. See that house over there?"

Jack and Sinful looked at the house that was being pointed. It was also a large house but appeared less taken care of compared to the other houses in the neighborhood. The weeds on its courtyard were growing rather unsightly.

"That was one of my safehouses. You can bring my item or those slaves into the house once you got them. Just make sure no one sees you entering the house. Now, put this on!"

"I have my own coat," Jack said and he replaced his cloak of Shadow with the Concealment Coat he had gotten from Marquess Fernando during the royal auction. The concealment coat also got a hood. He then took the rare grade mask from Yilus and equipped it.

Now no one could inspect his info nor see his appearance. The corner where they were at was rather concealed and the street was quiet, so no one was watching them. Additionally, the sky was always dark so visibility was not clear. It was easy to sneak around under such an environment.

"Where is the map?" Jack asked.

Yilus took out a piece of paper with the layout of the mansion. "I've marked the places where my item was most likely to be."

Jack and Sinful studied the map. The mansion consisted of three floors and one basement. It was not as large as Duke Alfredo's one so it should not take long to search around.

"What does your item look like?" Jack asked.

"It is a brooch," Yilus said as he showed another paper. It was a drawing of an intricate flower-like ornament.

"What's so special about this brooch?"

"It holds sentimental value to me."

Jack doubted a noble would only take something that held a sentimental value to the person who owed him. He asked again, "What grade is the item?"

"Super rare."

Chapter 522: Breaking Into The Noble's Mansion

Jack looked at Sinful who had equipped the hooded cloak and mask, "do you want to do this? If you bail, I am fine with it. This quest is a phony, after all."

"I am still here, you know," Yilus said.

Sinful replied, "I'm already in costume. Don't worry about me, this is not the first time I did a shady quest."

"Really? Well, I did play thieving games before, but not my favorite activities," Jack said.

"If you are unsure, follow my lead then."

"Sure. I bet your Silent Step skill is perfect for this."

Jack looked at the map drawing again. He then asked Sinful, "There are two entrances. I guess the main entrance is not the best option. So, we enter from the back?"

Before Sinful answered, Yilus said first, "Well, I wish you two the best of luck. I will go and send the instruction for my people inside to start deactivating the alarm and have all the servants scarce. Wait half an hour before starting your infiltration." He then hurriedly scurried away.

Jack watched the merchant's departing back for a while before returning his attention to Sinful.

"It's not just two entrances. We can always try the windows," Sinful said.

"You think they will be unlocked?"

"With a house this big, usually there should be a few that were forgotten to be locked. The ones on the upper floors will most likely ones not locked. We can climb and check them if the ones below are all locked."

"Despite the darkness, there were many lightings outside the mansion. We will easily get spotted if we climb the wall. Another thing, you can still climb with those short arms and legs?"

"Don't look down at me just because I am a dwarf. I can beat you in mountain climbing anytime."

"I am sure you can. You know, I can't believe we are discussing breaking into someone's house illegally."

"Hehe, take it easy, man."

They discussed a bit more about their approach while waiting for half an hour to pass. Jack also used his spare time to eat Sweet Dumpling and applied Poison Salve as usual.

"You really plan to fight?" Sinful asked after Jack answered his questions about the salve's effect.

"If it is the only way to get the key," Jack answered.

Once enough time had passed, Jack looked on his radar to check his surroundings before giving Sinful the signal to go. During their talk, Jack had informed Sinful that he had a tool that detected others' presence in the vicinity.

The two of them crossed over the street and entered the courtyard. Jack took a low position as he walked. Sinful did not need to do that since he was already short despite standing straight. They didn't cross over the courtyard directly but took a roundabout way near the edge of the courtyard's where there were many trees and shrubs for cover.

They arrived at the front wall of the mansion and started pushing or pulling on the numerous windows along the wall. They were locked. Jack even tried to open the front door. It was locked also. They then decided to split up. Jack went to the right side of the mansion while Sinful went to the left.

Jack continued checking the windows on the sidewall. All of them were locked. Jack sent Sinful a message, "any luck?"

"Nope. Heading to the back wall now," Sinful replied.

Jack looked up at the second and third floor's windows. 'Do we truly have to climb up?' He thought.

When they got to the backyard, aside from trying the windows, Jack still went and tried the back door. It was also locked. Jack thought about trying to use his lockpicks on the backdoor while Sinful continued to check the rest of the windows. When he wanted to tell Sinful about his plan, he looked up and saw one window that was in an open position.

Jack whistled to Sinful and pointed at the opened window. Sinful gave a sign that said 'good eyes'.

Luckily, the backside was not facing the main road so they were less likely to be noticed when they climbed, but Jack still checked on his radar to make sure there was no one at the backside of the estate

who could see them climbing. He also checked his radar to make sure no one was in the room with the opened window.

The mansion's wall was not flat but full of irregular surfaces, so there were plenty of handholds. Sinful was just about to climb them when Jack gestured to him. Jack made a low pose with his hands clasped together, indicating that he would give the dwarf a boost.

Sinful complied and put a foot onto Jack's hands and readied himself to jump. When he made a jump, Jack gave a strong boost. Sinful was a bit unprepared for Jack's enormous strength. He made a low yelp as the boost sent him flying all the way up onto the sill of the opened window.

Sinful grabbed tightly at the window sill while he looked down and gave Jack a stare, but Jack couldn't see the stare due to the mask.

As for Jack himself, he put a little distance away from the wall before he ran at it. When he was close, he jumped as high as possible. His foot touched the wall and he used the momentum to run a couple more steps up before he grabbed onto something. He was also close to the window already.

The two of them climbed into the room without difficulty. The room seemed to be some kind of a study room. They checked the map of the mansion again. This was one of the rooms where Yilus' brooch was probably being stored in.

Jack checked the map. There were two clusters of white dots and two lone white dots. Jack surmised that one of the clustered dots should be the servants while the others the slaves. The two lone dots should be the guard and the noble's son.

The layout showed that the staircase was right outside the room. Jack told Sinful to go search the rooms on the third floor while he searched the rooms on the second. This way they could cover the ground faster. It was not certain how long Yilus' people might keep the servants in check. The sooner they found this brooch, the better.

Once the brooch was found, Jack planned to ask Sinful to take it out and he would head down and try using his lockpicks to free the slaves. He had a large enough stockpile of lockpicks and he was pretty certain a basement lock should not have a higher difficulty than a gold treasure chest, right?

Sinful agreed with the plan. Jack also told him to pay attention to his message, Jack would let him know if anyone came near his position. Jack made sure that none of the two lone dots were nearby before he sent Sinful out. Afterward, he started searching around the room.

Jack had an easier time searching since his monocle would notify him if there was anything valuable. Yilus mentioned his brooch was super rare grade, so he just needed to pay attention to one marked with orange color. Well, if there was any, Jack would have taken it even if it was not the brooch. Who would leave super-rare-grade items lying around?

He still opened up any closed drawers and cupboards. There had been instances where his monocle didn't pick up anything when a valuable was inside such compartments. He finished checking the room not long after. Nothing of high value, there were a few items marked by his monocle, but only green color, signifying common items.

He went out and headed to the next potential rooms marked by Yilus. The mansion had a very large center hall which was open from the ground floor to the ceiling. Jack stayed low as he traveled. He saw a white dot moving in the direction of the center hall. He peeked out from the second floor and saw an armored man with two sheathed scimitars on his waist walking towards one of the doors at the side. That must be the level 40 special elite guard. Jack used Inspect on him.

Keiran Zango (Special Elite Human, Bodyguard), level 40

HP: 135,000

This bodyguard went to a door at one side of the hall. The door was a sturdy metal door with a huge keyhole. Keiran used the key which was hanging by his waist to open the door. Behind the door, Jack saw stairs going down. That must be the door leading down to the basement where the slaves were located.

Jack continued to watch until Keiran closed the door and Jack heard the door was being locked from the other side.

'Later,' Jack said to himself. He had promised Yilus that he would take care of the job first. He went to the next room and continued searching again.

After going through three potential rooms, he still had no luck finding the brooch. No report from Sinful yet so he guessed his partner in crime didn't have better luck. The next room he came into was a very large bedroom. He figured this must be the master bedroom. This place should have a good opportunity to find the brooch. He could see already a couple of items at the other side of the room marked with orange color in his monocle.

When he was about to start checking those items.. He noticed one of the white dots was approaching his direction.

Chapter 523: [Bonus] 523. Newborn Vampire

Jack quickly looked around. He found a couple of corners with heavy shadowing. He hurriedly went there as he replaced his Concealing Coat back to his Cloak of Shadow. He then stayed still in the shadow.

After three seconds, His cloak's special ability activated. His body dissolved into the shadow just as the door to the room opened. Jack saw a teenage man walk in. He was pale but his skin was fair and smooth, he could be described as pretty for a male. He was wearing an expensive-looking robe.

He walked towards a dresser with a large mirror on it. When he stood in front of the mirror, however, there was no reflection of himself. Inside the mirror, the lavish robe he wore was hanging in the air.

Jack saw the teenager's facial expression change. The teenager frowned heavily before he punched the mirror. The glass broke to pieces. Jack used his Inspect on this teenager.

Luther Solus (Elite Vampire, Newborn), level 25

HP: 48,000

This must be the newborn vampire son of the noble. It seemed that the vampire lore here had them unable to look at their reflection in the mirror. This newborn was still a Human not long ago and had probably yet to get accustomed to it. In fact, he was obviously upset about it. He was probably the type who enjoyed watching his own reflection on the mirror every day.

Jack stayed still while waiting for the newborn to get over his tantrum and leave. But what if he didn't? What if he decided to rest in this bedroom? Weren't vampires supposed to sleep inside coffins under the basement? Jack hoped that to be the case. He couldn't imagine just standing here waiting for hours.

Not long after, Jack heard footsteps as he saw three white dots approaching. Keiran, the bodyguard, came in with two women in tow. Jack could see the frightened expression on their faces. They must be two of the slaves from the basement.

Luther gave a brief glance at them before he walked to the enormous-sized bed and sat on its edge. His face was indifferent as if the other three didn't exist in the room.

Keiran made a sign for one of the women to go over to Luther. The woman shook his head, which was awarded a heavy slap from Keiran.

Jack almost jumped out of his hiding place.

The woman then walked over to Luther with heavy steps. After she arrived in front of Luther, then only the newborn lifted his head and studied the woman. He put a hand on her chin and lifted her head up, turning it around slightly as if looking at merchandise.

"Can't you find a better-looking one?" Luther said, clear dissatisfaction in his voice. "I need much blood to augment my blood growth, but sucking blood from such an ugly specimen will just taint my good look."

"I am sorry, young master. There were not many to choose from. The slave market is currently under heavy pressure. The third prince's policy had put a heavy limitation on its operation. Harassment from those participating in the abolitionist movement complicated matters even more. It was getting harder and harder to acquire good quality slaves now.

"Those self-righteous pretentious pricks!" Luther cursed. "Wait until I become a prominent member of the council, I will teach them a lesson!"

Luther's eyes never left the woman who was still standing in front of him. There was a trickle of blood beside the woman's mouth due to Keiran's slap. He came forward and licked the blood on her face. She trembled from the action.

Luther then said to her, "Turn around."

The woman had no choice but to comply.

"Sit," Luther commanded.

The woman looked back with fear and confusion. Luther was directly behind him. Did he want her to sit on his lap?

"Sit!" Luther said louder with an impatient tone.

The woman slowly sat on Luther's lap. Luther used his hand to move the woman's long hair which covered her neck. She had a smooth long neck. Luther exposed his two fangs from behind her, he then bite into her neck. She uttered a short cry of alarm when the fangs penetrated her skin, but she stayed still.

Luther closed his eyes as he sucked the woman's blood.

Jack was frowning as he forced himself to remain still. He said to Peniel in his mind, 'This country prohibited a vampire from draining his victim, right? Even for a slave?'

'The last I heard, that should be the case. They are called blood donators here, not victims,' Peniel said.

'She looks like a victim, not a donator,' Jack replied.

The woman slowly closed her eyes as if getting tired.

'A vampire's bite contains some kind of sedative ability to pacify the ones they were drinking,' Peniel explained.

The process continued for quite some while.

'Hey, how long does a vampire usually take when drinking blood?' Jack asked.

'... Shouldn't be this long,' Peniel answered.

'What?'

At that time, Luther removed his mouth from the woman. He looked up with an open mouth, it was all red inside. His face displayed extreme ecstasy. The woman on his lap still had her eyes closed. She was not moving.

'... Does the sedative effect persist after the feeding ends...?' Jack asked.

'... no,' Peniel answered.

Luther released his hold on the woman and she fell to the floor limply.

The other woman screamed from the sight. She tried to turn and run but Keiran held her. "Go to master Luther," Keiran ordered the girl.

"No... no...! Please..." The woman pleaded.

"Hurry up, woman! I am still not full!" Luther yelled.

"You heard the young master," Keiran said.

The woman shook her head, tears were rolling down from her eyes.

"Damn woman! Hold her down!" Luther exclaimed as he stood up and walked toward the woman.

A crescent sword light and a ball of light suddenly shot out from a corner. Luther was struck the sword light and received 4000 damage. Keiran had better reflex, he let go of the hands holding the woman and made it in time to block the ball of light. He still received small damage regardless.

A man holding a black longsword and magic staff on both hands suddenly appeared in front of Keiran, taking him by surprise. The black sword was suddenly ablaze as it was swung at him. Keiran hurriedly used his hand to block again. This time he suffered more damage and he was even getting pushed strongly and smashed onto the wardrobe behind.

Jack had used Shooting Dash to appear in front of Keiran in a flash. After sending the bodyguard back with Flame Strike, he grabbed at the woman and used the second dash of his skill. The two of them immediately arrived at the bedroom door. Jack kicked the door open and shoved the woman out.

"Hide!" He shouted.

Jack then stood before the door as Keiran and Luther got back on their feet.

"Who are you?!" Luther hissed. "How dare you intrude my mansion! Are you tired of living?!"

"You... you are a human outworlder?" Keiran made a better observation compared to the fuming newborn vampire.

"Human outworlder?" Luther said. He then licked his lips, "I wonder what an outworlder's blood tastes like. Never thought of it till now. You should atone for your sin of disturbing my meal by being one."

Jack didn't respond. He was looking at the native woman who was lying unmoving on the floor. He gritted his teeth. He cursed himself for not taking action sooner.

"You two bastards! Die...!!!" Jack yelled as his Storm Breaker broke apart.

'Peniel, invulnerability!' He yelled within.

Peniel was confused as to why Jack asked for her fourth skill, but she still comply. A translucent layer blanketed Jack's entire body. At the same time, numerous lightning balls filled the room.

The bedroom was large, but not large enough to allow much space to maneuver. When the twenty lightning balls detonated, everyone and everything in the room was covered with intense lightning energy, including Jack. No one escaped the detonation force.

Jack had also activated Life Burning Art and Adrenaline Rush before unleashing the Lightning God Barrage. Each of the balls detonated with over 5000 damage on Keiran and almost 6000 damage for Luther. When the electrical energy dissipated, Keiran was seen in a poor state, his HP was below 50,000. Luther was lying on the floor, the total damage had eclipsed his whole HP.

"What have you done...?!" Keiran howled furiously seeing the state of his charge. He tried to pull out the two scimitars on his waist, but he was having trouble. His body shivered and didn't listen. He was in a paralyzed state.

Jack didn't let go of the chance. He came forward with Whirlwind Falchion already replacing his magic staff. He then performed forty-eight burst slashes from Formless Flowing Sword style, while activating Runestone of Luck. This assault devoured the remaining of Keiran's life. The guard fell with unwilling eyes as great fatigue washed over Jack.

'Ugh... This move is still very draining for my body,' Jack thought.

He used his swords as props to keep him standing straight. While he was trying to catch his breath, Luther's body was suddenly enveloped by an unnatural red aura. The vampire's body floated up and Jack saw the HP bar above him regenerate at a fast rate.

"What the..."

Chapter 524: Ancient Blood Awakening Potion

Before Jack could react, a sudden explosive shockwave radiated out from Luther. Jack who was still having trouble standing, was swept by the force and slammed into the wall. He received 1515 damage, which was exactly half his HP pool. He was also afflicted with Dizzy status but his Purifying Pendant quickly negated that.

"What the hell was that?" Jack asked.

Peniel had phased into her hidden dimension when she saw what had happened to Luther. She phased out again after the shockwave passed.

"Someone had placed an enchantment on him, most probably his vampire father. A protective spell that took effect when his life was depleted. It replenished his HP and blasted away all those are around him."

Luther, who had come back to life, looked around. He realized that although he was saved, he was not out of the woods yet. His guardian, Keiran, had perished. The perpetrator was still around and was higher level. The vampire seemed to find what he was looking for and dashed at it.

Most of the furniture in the room had been reduced to rubbles due to Jack's Lightning God Barrage. The walls surrounding the room were surprisingly sturdy, except for the windows which had also been blasted to pieces. This mansion was situated rather far away from the street, but Jack still hoped no one had passed and seen the explosion when he used his skill. Otherwise, patrolling soldiers could be on their way at the moment.

Jack's body still felt numb, the effect of using his sword art's burst attack and the explosion from Luther's enchantment left his body sore. He could only watch as Luther dove into the rubbles and fished out a bottle. It was one of the things that had been marked by his monocle. The one in Luther's hand was marked with orange color, signifying a super rare grade potion.

"Oh no! Don't let him drink that potion!" Peniel shouted.

Jack tried his best to stand but was still having difficulty. He summoned his magic staff again and cast Energy Bolts. Eight Bolts flew at Luther, but he ignored it. He drank the potion even as the eight bolts stabbed at him. A native's high HP allowed him to tank through this basic spell's damage.

After emptying the bottle, Luther smashed the empty bottle onto the floor. An inhuman howl was released from his mouth. Jack saw his features changing. Cracks appeared on his smooth and clean skin, its color also turned brownish. The skin was now more like scales, hard and rough.

When Luther turned around, the human face was gone, replaced by some sort of a demonic aspect. His eyes were round and dark, his nose became larger and had its tip pointed upward. His ears also grew

longer and pointy. The teeth in his mouth were now sharp, not only his two fangs. The two fangs had become even longer and intimidating.

Jack felt like he was seeing a weird human with a bat-shaped face.

"See what you have done!" Luther yelled in a bestial voice. He was touching his face hysterically. He went over to where the dresser with the mirror was, forgetting that he had shattered the mirror before. There was even no longer a dresser there, Jack's Lightning God Barrage had demolished almost everything. Luther squatted down and scoured through the rubble, searching for something.

"What the hell was that potion he drank?" Jack asked Peniel as he got up.

"Ancient Blood Awakening Potion," Peniel answered. "It was a potion that only affects the Vampire race. When it was used, native vampires will gain an enormous boost to their power for a time. The effectiveness differs depending on the blood lineage of the users. Those with low lineage will even experience deformation to their appearances."

"I will say that qualifies as deformation," Jack said.

"Yes, but that can also be due to his newborn status instead of low lineage. His blood has not yet fully vampirized."

Jack wanted to ask, 'What the hell is vampirized?' But didn't, because Luther was now staring at him.

Luther had done scouring and found a piece of the broken mirror which he used to look at himself. Only to find that his reflection was still not there. He smashed that piece in rage and bellowed, before turning at Jack.

"See what you have done!!!" Luther yelled as he lunged forward.

Jack could feel that the newborn's aura had intensified, he didn't dare to be careless. He used Flash Step to evade before rolling away to put more distance with the raging vampire. He used Inspect at the same time.

Luther Solus (Rare Elite Vampire, Newborn), level 40

HP: 41,000/48,000

"What the... His grade and level had increased!" Jack exclaimed.

Peniel said, "Be grateful, his HP stayed the same even when his level had increased by fifteen. If his lineage is any better, his HP will increase as well, and his level might increase even more. Still, the grade increase should have increased his attributes by a lot. He should also have access to skills and spells that he should only get when he becomes an older vampire. Stay sharp!"

Luther lunged at Jack again. He was not using any weapon, but the nails in his fingers had also deformed and formed long claws that easily left marks on the sturdy wall that had resisted the lightning explosion.

Jack moved away while casting Myriad Ensnaring Chains. Luther's speed had obviously increased, but there was not much space to move around inside this room. The chains easily covered the whole room. The eleven chains wrapped around Luther's body and kept him in place.

Jack didn't waste time. He cast all ranged offensive spells and skills. Shredding Fang, Mana Bullet, Mana Beam, Arcane Turbulence. Throughout the bombardment, there was spell formation being formed on Luther's hand.

Luther's two little hands suddenly enlarged disproportionately. Their sizes were now larger than his own head. He could easily grip a grown man's head in those hands and they seemed to be able to easily crush one as well. There was a swirl of sinister aura accompanying each hand.

"That is one of Warlock's spells, the Demon Hand spell," Peniel said. "It not only increases his strength. It inflicts a portion of Chaos Damage, so it will bypass your high defense. It will also absorb your HP to heal himself with every hit."

Hearing it, Jack cast Barrier spell for insurance.

Luther's gargantuan hands each grasped at two of the chains which were entangling his body. He gripped hard and pulled. Sounds of cracking were heard. The two chains were soon shattered. He then went to the next two chains.

Jack took out his Companion Token. "I'm not wasting time with you. You are angry? Well, same here!"

Heathcliffe appeared next to him. He was already level 47, two levels higher than when Jack accepted his companion Token. It seemed Heathcliffe didn't waste time to utilize the benefit of becoming an outworlder's companion. The Knight was ready with his large two-handed mace. He looked around to appraise the situation, then focused his attention on Luther who was in the process of destroying the chains.

"Finish him!" Jack gave his order.

Heathcliffe nodded. He then made a praying pose. The opponent was restrained so he could afford to make preparation. His hammer was alighted with a blue flame.

"That is Sacred Flame, a Paladin's skill. You are lucky your companion knows the skill. It inflicts extra damage to demon, undead, and Vampire race," Peniel explained after seeing it. Heathcliffe never used this skill in the raids during their journey. He used it now because their opponent was a vampire.

Jack was not paying attention, he was already moving after summoning Heathcliffe. He circled to Luther's back, intending to attack the vampire from two sides, all the while throwing burst ranged attacks from his Rapid Dazing Staff.

Luther made a hard yank and shattered the remaining six chains with one pull, just as Jack and Heathcliffe were approaching. The vampire spun around, two arms extended. Both Jack and Heathcliffe who were delivering their melee attacks at the moment were repelled by the demon claws. The rotational force threw Jack and Heathcliffe in two opposite directions.

Luther didn't bother with Heathcliffe, his rage was solely on Jack. He chased after Jack just as Jack was balancing himself after hitting the wall. Luther slammed down with both his claws. Crashing Jack's Barrier, but the two claws were stopped, one by Jack's Magic Shield, the other parried using Storm Breaker. Jack still received damage though, he was the one tasting the chaos damage now.

Seeing Luther's back was wide open, Heathcliffe threw his large hammer using a skill. The hammer was wrapped in spherical energy that left some trails as it flew, making it resemble a meteor. It struck the vampire's back. The vampire howled in pain as a blue flame burned his back. Even after the hammer left his back, the flame was still burning.

Jack took the chance when Luther was distracted by the pain to move away. Jack's fleeing caused Luther's rage to ignite again, enough for him to ignore the pain.

Luther chased after Jack and clawed again and again. Jack had seen the claws needed to be evaded, not blocked, so he executed Eight Diagram Illusory Steps as best as he could. Combined with Flash Steps, it allowed him to keep on dodging long enough for Heathcliffe to pick up his hammer and come to his aid.

The two of them alternating in the offense. When Luther had his attention on Jack, Heathcliffe struck his back. When Luther turned around to deal with Heathcliffe, Jack's stabbed.

Frustrated, Luther made a loud growl. His eyes suddenly glowed with eerie red light. Luther stared at Heathcliffe with that glowing eyes. Heathcliffe immediately found himself unable to move. Luther punched out and the native was sent away with a devastating force.

After sending Heathcliffe away, Luther now turned to Jack. Intending to focus his attention on this pestering outworlder.

Chapter 525: Lootings

Luther's eyes were still glowing.

"Don't look! You will get mesmerized!" Peniel warned.

Jack had paid attention when Heathcliffe turned stiff by Luther's stare, so he was already aware. Luckily, he had mana sense ability, he didn't need to directly look at the attacks to dodge them. Still, without Heathcliffe's interference, Jack could only dodge without fighting back. After becoming a Rare Elite, Luther's strength and speed were indeed troublesome.

All of a sudden, Luther vanished. Jack looked at the empty air in front of him. Luther did not only turn invisible. If he did, Jack could still sense his mana. His mana had also disappeared as if the newborn vampire had suddenly gone from this room.

But it was only an instant before Jack felt Luther's mana again, directly behind him. He wanted to move away but too late! He felt a sharp pain in his neck. Luther had sunk his fangs from behind. Jack felt his life draining and weakness overcame him. Jack heard a notification that he had been afflicted by Paralyze.

Jack's HP decrease while Luther's HP increased. The vampire continued to suck the life out of Jack. Peniel used Fast Heal on Jack, bringing Jack's HP back up and removing the Paralyze effect. Jack quickly cast Ice Ring once he could move.

A ring of ice exploded out and interrupted Luther's feeding. Jack immediately used Flash Step without hesitation. But the skill didn't bring him far enough, he felt an incoming attack and shifted his magic staff

with Mana Shield active to his back. He felt the hard impact as chaos damage depleted his HP again. The impact was hard enough to send him flying.

Peniel used Group Fast Heal, bringing Jack and Heathcliffe's HP up again. This skill also relieved Heathcliffe of the hypnotic state. This companion hurriedly ran back to engage the vampire, but one stare from Luther caused Heathcliffe to be mesmerized again.

"Why did you stare at him again?!" Peniel scolded.

Luther was already in front of Jack. When he was about to claw using his Demon Hand, His body jerked as damage number appeared. Sinful suddenly appeared from Luther's back, he had used Phase Strike to backstab the vampire.

"Peniel, Healing Field!" Jack shouted.

The skill was laid. The area affected almost covered the entire room, so Jack, Heathcliffe, and Sinful were within. Heathcliffe was again freed from the hypnotizing effect. As long as they were within Healing Field's area, they were immune to all negative effects.

Jack threw a bottle of Holy Water at Luther. Since Vampire was considered undead, Luther received Weakened effect. His HP which was still slowly regenerating after sucking Jack's blood had now stopped increasing.

With their adversary weakened and with no fear of getting mesmerized due to the Healing Field, the three attacked with abandon. Jack cast some magic spells before going back to using two swords and utilizing his sword art in conjunction with his two aides.

Although Luther had received a boost, his power was not originally his so he could not fully utilize it. His three opponents were also not weak. He was overwhelmed and his HP kept on dropping.

Luther tried using his vanishing move again to escape when his HP was critical, but Jack had seen this move before so he was not as flustered. He waited for Luther to appear again and immediately sent Cross Slash in that direction. The move finally devoured Luther's last thread of life. Jack tried to summon runestone of luck again, but when nothing came out, he remembered that runestone had a one-hour cooldown.

Luther's body fell to the floor, near where the woman he had drained was lying.

Jack waited for a while, afraid that the vampire had another enchantment in place. Sinful wanted to say something but Jack gave him a sign to wait. Luther did not rise even after some time had passed, Jack could finally relax.

He turned to Sinful. "Thanks for the assist! You could have left," he said.

"Do you think I'm the kind of man that leaves a friend behind?" Sinful asked with a grin. "But we shouldn't stay here, someone will notice that broken windows sooner or later. Soldiers will come to investigate. Who is he, by the way?"

"My companion," Jack said. Then to Heathcliffe, he said, "Thank you. I will call you again if I need help."

"Anytime," Heathcliffe said with a bow.

Jack then unsummoned him.

"You even have a companion token. Color me impressed," Sinful commented.

"So, you know about companion token?"

"Yeah, saw someone use it before. Can we leave now?"

"We still need to find that brooch."

"I got it," Sinful said as he showed something in his hand. It was a brooch that looked exactly like the drawing Yilus showed them.

"Great! One other thing. We need to loot as many things from this house as possible."

"What for?" Sinful asked.

"A noble's son has been killed. If they only found out the brooch is missing, who do you think is the first person they will suspect? If they get to Yilus, I do not doubt the merchant will give up our identities to save his hide. We have to loot this place to make it look like it is done by robbers."

"Hm... you are right. I did see some valuables upstairs, there should be more."

"Go and take as many as you can. I will take the loots in this room. After you are done, go directly to the house Yilus mentioned. I will free the slave girls and bring them there."

"Are you sure you want to take the risk?" Sinful asked.

"After what happened, I don't think they will be safe if I leave them here," Jack replied.

"Okay. Let's meet up at that house. Be careful, mate!"

"You too."

After Sinful left, Jack go to where Keiran was lying. There was a large metal key there, the one he saw was used on the heavy door with the stairs going down to the basement. Jack took the key, his monocle picked up another thing near the body beside coins and mana cores. It was a book.

Jack picked it up.

Technique Book: Wind Slash (Super rare Consumable)

Grant the skill: Wind Slash

Restriction: Any Elite class branched from Warrior class

'Wasn't this the technique book I failed to get during the royal auction? How lucky!' Jack said in his mind.

He pocketed the book and went to Luther's body next. Aside from the usual coins and mana cores, there was only a rare-grade medium armor arm piece. Considering this newborn was originally only elite grade, he guessed he couldn't expect the loots to be impressive. Jack stored them all in his storage bag.

The equipment on him that was still rare grade were arm-piece and belt. Despite fusing a lot of rare armors from using the Guild Headquarters stock, he not yet had enough for merging them into a super rare grade arm-piece and belt. With the addition of this rare arm armor, he needed another two more. He wondered if he could persuade Haestus to craft for him again.

After done with the bodies, Jack went searching around the rubbles. He had seen at least two orange color items before all hell broke loose. One was the potion that Luther had used to buff himself. There should be another one.

It was not difficult to search because his monocle easily marked valuable ones. He also took the ones marked in green and blue. Mostly had descriptions as junk items, even for the blue-marked ones, but these junk items could be sold at high prices in the market. He was not planning to sell them here though, maybe after he returned to Thereath. Selling them here would easily lead the investigators to him when the noble of this mansion identify the sold items.

Jack finally found the orange-marked item.

Ancient Blood Awakening Potion (Super rare consumable)

Usage on player: Add 15 days to age

Usage on NPC: Draw the hidden potential of blood lineage.

Duration: 10 minutes

Cooldown: 90 days

Restriction: Vampire race

"Hey! This is the same potion that jerk vampire used," Jack said. "It had a different effect on players."

"Yep. It can make outworlders faster in gaining their race skills," Peniel said.

"Ah, so pity. This can only be used on the vampire race... Hey, Peniel. Is there also a potion that adds age to the human race?"

"There is, it's called Thousand Year Wine. But these age-enhancing items were not easy to find. I'm rather surprised to find two just lying here in the room."

"Hehe. Lucky me for getting one," Jack said with a grin and stored the potion.

"You can consider it lucky if you can use the potion," Peniel reminded. Jack's grin vanished.

Jack then continued looting as many things as he could from the room, but nothing worth mentioning apart from that Ancient Blood Awakening Potion. He then went out of the room. He looked around and called for the woman he had sent out. She was hiding in another room. She came out after hearing Jack's call. She peeked inside the master bedroom and gasped when she saw the destruction and the bodies.

"Come with me," Jack said as he went to the main hall downstairs. The servants were still in hiding. Jack was thinking Yilus' inside man should be at least the head servant to be able to keep the others in line after the commotion he caused.

He used the key on the heavy door, revealing the stairs behind. The basement under the stairs looked dim.. There was not much lighting.

Chapter 526: Saving The Women

Jack turned to the woman that followed and asked, "the other slaves, are they down there?"

The woman nodded. She then said, "I'm not going down there."

"That's okay. Just wait here. I will bring the others up, then I will take you all somewhere safe," Jack said and descend into the dark basement.

The basement was not as large as the mansion up there. It was just one room after Jack came down the stairs.

Jack saw five more women in that room. They were terrified when they saw Jack, huddling together into one corner as they hugged each other. Jack felt pity in him. These women must have seen many of the others taken up but never returned. Even a fool knew what happened.

"It's okay. The vampire asshole has been taken care of. You are all safe. I will take you out," Jack said.

Jack gestured for them to follow as he walked back to the stairs. But when he heard no footsteps, he looked back. Those girls were still huddling in the corner. Jack didn't see any chains constraining them, which meant they didn't trust him.

Considering he was covering his face with a mask, it was no wonder. But Jack didn't plan on removing his mask, he didn't think these women would rat on him, but better safe than sorry. Jack looked up the stairs. If the woman upstairs came down with him, the sight of her could probably soothe these women.

"Hey, the woman up there!" Jack called out. "Yell something to the others down here, will you. Tell them it's okay to come up."

Not long after, her voice could be heard. A little soft at first, but it grew louder as she spoke, "It... It's okay! He is okay! He had killed this house's owner and the guard... He said he will bring us to a safe place!"

The five women looked at each other. They recognized the voice of the woman from above. She had been with them down here not long ago. After long consideration, one of them finally stood up.

"I... I will follow you," she said.

The others soon follow her lead.

"Let's go," Jack said. He then walked up the stairs as he saw the women were following.

Jack made sure first from his radar that the street outside was deserted before he led the women out. Probably because it was night already so no one came out much. Though Jack wondered how the citizens of this country got used to their daily schedule, it was no difference between day and night because of the constant dark sky.

He continued heading towards the house that Yilus had mentioned. Thank goodness it was not far.

On the way, Jack asked Peniel, "Can a native uses the zone portal?"

"Of course."

"Can they use it to teleport to a place that they had not yet visited before?"

"Unlike outworlders, they can teleport to any town within the country, even if they have not visited it yet. But if you pay using mana cores, you can send them to a place that you have registered, even if it is out of this country."

"So, I can send these women to Heavenly Citadel?"

"If you pay the mana cores, yes."

Jack contemplated about it as he paid attention in leading the women away from any passerby. When they reached the house, Jack saw Sinful was waiting there with the door opened. Sinful was also still wearing his face mask. He hurriedly ushered for them to go in.

Once inside, Sinful closed the door.

"You really took them here," Jack heard Yilus say. The shady merchant was there waiting for them. He was also wearing a mask now aside from his hooded cloak. It seemed that he also had the same thought in case Jack truly brought the women here.

Sinful went to the merchant and gave him the brooch. "This is your bloody brooch," he said.

Yilus received it and caressed it as if it was the most precious thing in the world. He then put it inside his pocket and said, "now, about these women..."

"Wait! I want to ask them something first," Jack said. He then turned to the six women. "This guy here could arrange for you to live in the ghetto, but you will have to live in hiding for the rest of your lives. People will be looking for you, considering the noble's young son has been killed."

"Wait! What?" Yilus uttered.

Jack gestured for Sinful to fill the merchant in while he continued to speak with the women. "I have another proposition for you. I came from the Themisphere country. I can arrange for you to teleport to a city in this country using the zone portal. You will not live a slave life there. I can arrange for you to work in a place I know, if you are willing. You will be paid for your work. What do you think? Do you want to go there or hide in the ghetto of this city?"

"Let me stop you there first," Yilus came over. Sinful had informed him of what had transpired inside the mansion. "With the noble's son dead, the investigation will be ruthless. This has changed the situation. I can't have them hanging around this city, much less provide them protection. If they wanted to remain in this city, I will have to kill them myself."

The women gasped hearing that.

"They had seen this house. It's pretty easy to link it back to me if they are captured," Yilus said to Jack.

Jack did think about that on his way to this house, that's why he had checked with Peniel if there was a second option. He spoke again to the women, "You heard him. It seemed that your only choice is to go to Themisphere. Does any of you object? Do you have a family member that you need to inform?"

"We... We are all alone..." One of the women said. She was the one Jack had saved when Luther was about to drain her.

"The slave traders usually targeted men and women without relatives. Or take someone who was sold by their own families to pay for their debts, so in a sense, their families had disowned them," Yilus explained.

"So, will you let me send you to a safe place?" Jack asked the women again.

"I... I will go... I trust you!" The same woman said. The others then nodded in agreement.

"Good, I will arrange for someone to receive you six at the other side. We should go over now."

Jack then turned to Yilus, "I guess this concludes our business?"

"Yes. By the way, are you planning to save all the slaves in this city like you did these women?"

"I am no saint, but I can't just turn away when it happened before my eyes."

"Heh. All right, you can go and take your rewards from the Adventurers Association," Yilus said.

"Speaking about rewards. Since you are no longer helping these women, shouldn't you give us that extra rewards you promised?" Sinful said.

Yilus laughed, "I can't quietly elude now, can I? Fine. I know you outworlders covet strength above all else. Now here is a skill book, one for each of you."

Sinful accepted the book. Jack instead asked, "do you have a rare medium armor for arm piece?"

"I don't. I can find an uncommon one if you want to follow me back to my shop," Yilus answered.

"This is fine then," Jack took the skill book.

"I will leave you gentleman, then. It has been a pleasure dealing with you. Please don't get captured. If you do, please don't mention me at all. Oh, and before I go," Yilus went to a drawer and took out several folded dresses. "Have them wore this. They will attract attention if they walked around in those tattered clothes. They can use the bathroom in this house to clean themselves as well."

"You have prepared," Jack said.

"Of course I am. I am out!" Yilus then went out of the house.

Jack said to Sinful, "You want to go cash in your reward at the Adventurers Association, or do you want to go with me to the Zone Portal. I already know my way, so it is okay for you to leave."

"I can't leave my brother before this is over. I am with you till the end, man!" Sinful declared.

"Appreciate it," Jack said. Then he asked the women to take a bath and change their clothing while he and Sinful waited outside.

With the women in clean clothes, they did look like any regular pedestrian. Jack and Sinful had no problem arriving in the Zone Portal. Jack paid the required mana cores and input Heavenly Citadel as the destination. He had sent a message to Jeanny to receive them.

Jack had asked her to arrange someone to accompany these women to Thereath and brought them to Ellie's Restaurant, thinking that Ellie might give them works until they could live on their own feet, but Jeanny said she might have them work in the Guild Headquarters instead.. Jack was not sure what kind of works she could give these women, but he let her organize that.

Chapter 527: Magic Weapon Imprinting

Finished dealing with the slave women, it was time to report the completed quest in Adventurers Association. Jack finally became a level 35 Archmage after he did. He also received 500 adventurer points. He spent the 3 free attributes on Endurance again. For the free 3 skill points, he left them first while checking on the new spell he received.

Magic Weapon, level 1/20 (Active spell, requires magic weapons)

Transform equipped magic weapon into a selected melee type, deal 110% magic damage in melee.

Duration: 10 minutes

Cooldown: 25 minutes

Mana: 150

"This is the skill you said allowed me to cast spells while still wielding a sword?" Jack asked.

"Yes, try casting it," Peniel replied.

Jack equipped his magic staff and did. It used three-runes spell formation. The spell asked him to choose a melee weapon type. Jack chose a longsword type. His magic staff then transformed into a translucent blue-colored longsword which seemed to be made out of light.

Jack swung the sword around, testing it. Jack tried using his melee skill, Flame Strike. Flame enshrouded the magic sword as he swung. He was in the VIP hall which was empty, but the guard of that hall still looked at him with a frown.

"I can cast magic as well?" Jack asked.

"Yes," Peniel answered.

Jack tried casting a non-aggressive spell. He had seen the guard's stare, wouldn't want to have the guard throw him out because he wrecked the hall's furniture. He cast illumination. A small ball of light floated above him.

"I can still shoot standard range attacks?" Jack asked.

"You can," Peniel answered.

"Cool," Jack said. "But why does a magic user need a melee weapon anyway?"

"For versatility, so an archmage can deal with melee encounter while still casting spells. The damage still using the magic staff's stat, but it is increased if it is melee contact. It is not described in the skill, but archmage also gains the ability of standard parry if they block an attack using that magic weapon. Of course, in your hands, this skill is elevated to a whole new level, because it allows you to use your Blade Dancer skill as well."

"Hehe," Jack still admired the blue light-colored sword. Its appearance was a standard longsword. "You mentioned before that we can use the magic furnace to do something for this spell?"

"Yes, let's go to one," Peniel said.

While waiting for Sinful to finish his queueing, Jack asked Peniel what effect increasing the level of Magic Weapon spell could do. Peniel said it would increase its duration by 30 seconds per level. If he max-leveled the spell, the spell's duration would last 20 minutes.

Jack thought about this. He thought using this spell for 10 minutes should be okay. If the duration ended, he could just get back to weapon-swapping as he did before. He decided to use the free skill points to level-up Myriad Ensnaring Chains.

He also used the skill book he got from Yilus. Aside from that, there were 119,000 souls. Courtesy of three-week travel from Thereath to this town, including the players he had killed and the two natives earlier today. Luther was not originally rare elite so his death didn't provide as much soul as the other rare elite he had killed before.

Altogether, he could level up an elite skill five times. But after thinking for a while, he only used the 4 free skill points, from level-up and skill book, to upgrade His Myriad Ensnaring Chains leveled up to level 9. At level 8, another chain was added. There would be twelve crimson chains now if he cast the spell.

For the soul points, instead of upgrading an elite skill, he used 100,000 souls to max out his Body Double skill. He had a plan to use this skill tomorrow. At level 20, this skill lasted 25 minutes long and also added another copy. There would now be three copies of himself when he cast this spell.

During those three weeks on the road, he had also still diligently practiced his battle skills, hence several of his skills and spells had increased again in their grades.

Natural Body Recovery, Swing, Charge, Energy Bolts, and Heightened States had increased to 4 stars. Superior Body Recovery, Shredding Fang, Magic Bind, and Body Double had increased to 2 stars. He had continuously cut himself while riding Pandora to allow his body recovery skills to take effect, thus increasing their proficiencies. He learned this method from Suicide Prayer.

Myriad Ensnaring Chains also got its first star. One star upgrade increased duration by 4 seconds. If this skill was fully upgraded, the chains would stay in the field for a full one minute.

When Jack received a message from Sinful telling Jack that he was done, Jack went down to meet him. Jack asked him the direction to the mage academy. Arriving there, he went inside and saw the interior was also very similar to the one in Thereath.

He heard Sinful calling from the back. Jack turned back and saw Sinful at the door, banging on some sort of an invisible wall.

"Hey, I can't go in!" He said.

"Oh? Weird. I have no problem going in, evidently," Jack said, confused.

"Only a mage or its branch classes is permitted entry," a voice said from Jack's side. Jack turned to see a middle-aged woman in magician garb.

'Huh? Where did you come from?' Jack said in his mind. He did not sense anything prior.

The woman mage came before Sinful and shooed him away. "Assassin waits outside," she said.

Sinful had no choice but sat in the foyer outside, Jack could hear him grumbling. The woman mage then turned to Jack and asked, "what is your purpose coming here, young archmage?"

Jack tried to inspect the woman but failed. Same as when he did it with old Janus. He was actually expecting to see another version of Janus in this mage academy. Wait, could this woman be the female version of Janus? But if she was, she should have recognized him.

"Forgive my intrusion, ma'am. I came here to ask permission to use the magic furnace. Is there such a facility here?" Jack asked with a polite tone.

"There is. Do you bring magic stones?"

"I do... If you don't mind me asking, may I perhaps enquire as to how I address madam?"

"You can call me Evanor. As you can see, I am the caretaker of this place."

'Oh, not a female version of Janus,' Jack thought.

"Follow me," Evanor said.

The building layout was roughly the same. The room that housed the magic furnace was also in the same position as the academy in Thereath. Evanor stood beside the magic furnace while waiting for Jack to work on it.

Jack looked at her for a while.

"Is this your first time using the magic furnace? Do you need me to give you instruction?" Evanor asked after seeing Jack's stare.

"No, no. It's not my first time," Jack said. He was just wondering. The old Janus had always left him to work the device by himself. This Evanor is more like the young Janus, not as chatty, but helpful.

"Peniel, what am I doing here?" Jack asked.

"Put in rare magic stone inside the furnace to activate it. Then take out your Rapid Dazing Staff and Whirlwind Falchion," Peniel answered.

Jack did as told.

"Now, cast Magic Weapon near the magic furnace, an interface should appear," Peniel instructed.

"So, you want to do Magic Weapon imprinting?" Evanor commented.

An interface appeared asking which weapon that Jack wanted to use to imprint onto the spell. Jack put his Whirlwind Falchion forward. The sword floated up by itself. Numerous runes swirled around the sword and started to blanket it with layers upon layers. The process stopped not long after and the Whirlwind Falchion disappeared.

"Hey! Where is my sword?" Jack asked.

"It has bound with your spell. Try casting the Magic Weapon spell," Evanor said.

Jack did so. However, after imprinting, the spell now used four runes instead of the previous three runes. The translucent blue-sword that appeared was no longer the dull longsword like before, the shape now was exactly the same as his Whirlwind Falchion, although the sword still looked like it was made of translucent blue light material.

Jack swung it around. "What's the difference apart from the shape? It does feel lighter."

"That's because melee weapon attack speed is usually higher than a magic weapon," Peniel explained. "The stats of the weapon will follow whichever is higher. If the sword you imprinted has a higher damage number, it will use that stat. If it is your staff, then it will follow the staff."

"So, what's the benefit? My Whirlwind Falchion was only a rare grade. It is lower in damage compared to my super rare Rapid Dazing Staff. So other than getting an attack speed bonus, there was no other benefit from imprinting a weapon?"

"I won't bother to ask you to imprint if that is so," Peniel said. "Remember that both your staff and falchion had their own abilities?"

"Yes, my falchion increased my attack speed whenever I hit an opponent while my staff can do burst standard shots. Oh, wait! Do you mean now both weapons' abilities are available at the same time?"

Chapter 528: Leaving Tranviste

"Yes, that's exactly it," Peniel answered.

Jack nodded, then it was worth it. He then asked, "So, I have to sacrifice a sword every time I do an imprint?"

Evanor was the one who answered, "No, you can decide to break the imprint using the magic furnace or change to imprint another weapon. When you do, the old weapon will be returned to you."

"Yes, and now while you are here. Let's imprint another thing?" Peniel said.

"Imprint another? What for?" Jack asked. "Whirlwind Falchion was my best second sword at the moment. We should wait until I get a super rare sword first."

"I am not saying for the magic weapon. Now that you gain access to this spell and unlock imprinting, you can also imprint your magic Shield spell."

"Magic Shield? Are you saying I can imprint a shield equipment into that basic spell?"

"Yes."

"Why didn't you say so before? I could have fused a super rare shield from headquarters stock. I have left many rare shields in the warehouse. Now I only have a couple which was loots during the journey here."

"You are quite knowledgeable, high fairy," Evanor praised. "Magic Shield imprinting is some sort of secret knowledge, not many archmages know that they can use that feature."

Jack looked inside his bag. He only had two rare shields in his bag. He compared the two then took out one that he thought was superior. He then took out his rare mobile blacksmith tools. The shield was at level 35, he could upgrade it to level 46, the limit where he could still use it. If only for upgrading one equipment, he still had enough materials.

Evanor just watched Jack work in silence. This outworlder didn't even ask for permission to do this blacksmith work inside the room.

Jack used Runestone of Probability constantly with every upgrading attempt. When he reached level 45, every attempt required 5 iron ores, 3 steel ores, 2 copper ores, and 1 silver ore. The material requirement had increased again. It even needed silver ore now, lucky his Transformation Prism had yielded him a number of this ore.

Reprisal Knight Shield, level 46/55 (rare medium shield)

Physical Defense: 88

Magical Defense: 69

Durability: 60

Endurance +10

10% chance to return 50% damage to the melee attacker

Damage under threshold is nullified when block successfully, Damage above the threshold is reduced by 60%

"I do it like the Magic Weapon Imprinting?" Jack asked. Both Evanor and Peniel were close to each other so he just stared at the space between them, waiting for either of them to answer.

The both of them ended up answering at the same time, "yes."

Jack put in another rare magic stone, then cast Magic Shield near the magic furnace. The interface came up again. Jack offered the Reprisal Knight Shield. It soon underwent the same process.

"Wait! Does it add a rune to the spell after imprinting?" Jack asked. The Magic Shield had been great even though it was a basic spell because of its instantaneous casting, Jack could summon the shield in an instant when he needed to block. And most of the time, the need to block was very sudden, he couldn't afford one second casting time. He would have to cancel the imprinting if so.

To his relief, Peniel answered, "no, this basic spell doesn't add any rune after imprinting."

The shield soon vanished. Jack cast the spell. A shield made of light with the same appearance as Reprisal Knight Shield appeared. This shield was larger than the standard magic shield spell, so the size increase also added to the benefit.

Finished with his business here, Jack thanked Evanor and left.

After Jack left, a man slowly materialized beside Evanor. His feature was like Janus, with his neatly-combed long purple hair and handsome face. However, his face was more mature, not as young as the one Jack met at the Order of Magi.

"I wonder, why is your interest in that outworlder?" Evanor asked.

"He has the mark of the creator," this mature Janus said. "So are that high fairy and his black sword."

"Isn't the report said they were bestowed to him by the Goddess Serenity? Perhaps that's the reason."

"No. I said the mark of the creator, not the mark of the divine. Even the Gods and Goddesses can't produce such an aura. Notify the other branches. Give him assistance when he needs it. I believe the creator sent him here for a reason."

Jack spent the rest of the night in an inn. Sinful introduced him to an inn at a business district where he had been staying. Sinful said the room next to his was empty, Jack could take it if he like. Jack said he was in the mood for luxury, so he took the most expensive suit, the penthouse.

Sinful was speechless at Jack's extravagance. Sinful said he was curious about the penthouse and asked if he could be allowed to stay together in the room, considering the room should be very large. Jack replied he was tired, he wanted to spend the night alone. He could show Sinful the room tomorrow morning.

Inside his room, Jack took out the Wind Slash Technique Book and learned it.

Wind Slash, level 1/20 (Active skill, range, requires melee weapon)

Sent a wind sword that travels in an arc, dealing 300% wind damage to all in the path.

10% chance to inflict Bleed.

Range: 30 meters

Cooldown: 3 minutes

Stamina: 100

"Thirty meters, it was almost the range of a proper range class," Jack commented. "It even hit multiple targets."

"If you increase this skill to level 5, it will add a second wind sword. At max level, you can send out five slashing energies," Peniel informed.

"Impressive! In a group fight, I can cut down a large number of enemies with this skill. This is a good addition to my arsenal."

Jack finished the night with meditation training before taking his rest.

Early next morning when Jack was doing his morning martial art training, Sinful came knocking. Jack let him enter. He admired the large room while Jack continued his training.

"I will be leaving Tranviste today," Jack said without stopping his training.

"You will? Where will you go?" Sinful asked.

"Back to Themisphere. I have a quest that takes me back there."

"Do you already have an idea where we should go?" Peniel asked.

"I have a couple of ideas, we can talk further once we are back in Themisphere."

"Do you mind if I follow?" Sinful asked.

"Oh? Are you not going to miss this place?" Jack asked.

"I have been here for a while. I will very much like to see what the human country looks like."

"Hm..."

"Are the method you used to cross the border cannot allow you to bring another person?" sinful asked.

"I can, but..."

"If you find it hard to say, let me do it," Peniel uttered, then to Sinful she said, "If you follow, you will just slow him down unless you also have a unique grade mount."

"U—Unique grade...? So that's how you manage to cross over," Sinful said. "Well, I'm not a person who wants to slow others down. I will just go to Themisphere when my level is high enough. But at least allow me to send you off then. I will follow you until the border of this country."

"Okay. Let's go get some breakfast and then we can go," Jack said, finishing his training.

After having a meal, the two went to the city gate. Before they stepped out, Jack said, "wait! I forget something. I will be back soon. Wait here!"

Jack then dashed off at high speed, leaving Sinful who was confused. He wanted to chase but Jack had disappeared behind a building. Not even a minute had passed, Jack was back again.

"Sorry, sorry. We can leave now," Jack said.

Outside, both of them summoned their steed.

"Damn! So that is a unique mount. I'm truly embarrassed if traveling beside you," Sinful said. His mount seemed to agree as it was uneasy being too close to Pandora.

"Let's go," Jack said.

Jack slowed down Pandora's pace to match with Sinful's steed. Jack didn't stop despite seeing new monsters, which puzzled Peniel. The city soon disappeared from their view. Twenty minutes later, they reached a rocky area with little vegetation.

From his radar, Jack saw there were some monsters but they moved away and kept their distance from Pandora. There were, however, some white dots that came from different directions to where they were. These white dots soon showed themselves.

Jack recognized their attires, he had met and clashed with such natives before. They were the Cult of Phobos. As Jack observed the approaching group, he sensed something from his back. But before he could react, his body had already been entangled by a rope with its surface covered by runes.

Jack looked back and saw Sinful was holding the other end of the rope.

Chapter 529: True Nature

Before Jack could react, Sinful threw something to the ground. An invisible shockwave exploded out. Both Pandora and Sinful's mount vanished.

"What was that?" Jack asked.

"A precaution. I have seen your companion. That steed of yours is also worrying," Sinful said. "It is called Disbandment Charge. It forcefully unsummons every summoned creature in an area and kept the immediate surroundings sterile from any summoning for a short period."

"You don't seem to be too surprised," Sinful said.

"I was hoping I am wrong," Jack said.

"Are you saying you are expecting this? Haha. Even if you pretend to be calm, there is no use. You can't escape. This rope is a super rare-grade tool. Once captured, not only does it restrain your movement and messaging, you can't use any skill nor access anything from your bag. So, you can't take out any tool that might break the binding."

The Cult natives, numbering ten. Seven level 35 basic Acolyte of Phobos and three level 38 elite Priest of Phobos, were circling them, forming a perimeter.

"Where is Arlstraxx? He is not joining this party?" Jack asked.

"That Cardinal is too unpredictable, he might end up killing you instead. This cult people is not exactly fully controlled by World Maker, so I am just given some helpers around your level. Not that they will make a difference, though. I alone am enough for this job."

"You are not part of World Maker?"

"I am... a freelancer, you might call."

"A mercenary?"

"Hm... not the one you think. I didn't just do their bidding for payment. They provide me with an avenue that caters to my needs and I provide services for them once in a while."

"This is one of it?"

"Yeah, I specialize in tracking people down and ambushing them."

"That makes me curious, how do you track my position? You are in the town before me. Did those racist goons who bullied you were just an act?"

"Yeah," Sinful laughed. "You chivalrous type is easy to predict. I pity those goons though, I told them they might get threatened and they can pretend to not want a confrontation and leave before things get messy. Who expected that you will just go ahead dealing them lethal blows right from the start. They have been sending me cursing messages once they are revived. I have to promise them hefty compensation to assuage them a bit, which of course, I do not intend to keep."

"You are truly good at covering your true nature. So, how do you know I am coming to Tranviste?"

"I actually had come to Thereath looking for you. Being the only dwarf in the town does get its perks. I made lots of friends who then told me where you use to stay. I even make friends with that bakery girl and her mother. We have a meal together and they told me all about where you are heading. I just teleported here two days ago to prepare everything before you arrive."

"How do you know when I will arrive?"

"You clashed with Rawprocessor near the border. It is easier to estimate from there."

"I thought the World Maker supposed to know everything? There is an easier way to track, you know? Considering your class."

"Are you talking about Assassin Guild's VIP target marking? That shit is too expensive, even for World Maker people at this stage."

"So, what now? You will take me back to the World Maker?"

"Yes. We will do that. After that, I will go back to Thereath and visit that bakery girl. Who is her name again? Oh, right... Amy," Sinful said with a wicked grin.

Jack frowned seeing his expression.

Sinful continued, "I am getting bored playing with player girls. Yes, they can't die, so I can play with them indefinitely. But I do miss the time when they do die. It gives you a sweet sense of loss. The sense as if you will not get such a wonderful play doll again. Now, maybe with a native, I can experience that again. I would like to start with that sweet Amy."

"Let me repeat. You are truly good at covering your true nature, I never imagine you to be such a sicko. And here I hope I was wrong and you are truly a friend."

"Hahaha, pretend tough all you like. Why do you think I am so good at tracking and ambushing? I have had a pretty good experience doing it in the real world, especially on little girls."

"Seeing you laughing like that really disgusts me. I guess we should end this conversation. My skill is about to reach its time limit anyway."

"What skill?" Sinful asked, confused.

"You said this rope prevents someone from activating a skill, right? Well, it doesn't matter if the skill is already activated before I am tied by this rope."

Sinful didn't understand, yet his experience told him that Jack wasn't bluffing. He readied his dagger.

"Time's up," Jack said, and then he vanished.

The rope that was holding Jack dropped to the ground. Sinful stared at it with befuddlement. Not long after, he heard a galloping sound. One of the cult acolytes pointed to his back, Sinful turned and saw Jack riding atop Pandora heading at them in high speed.

The ten cultists moved forward to protect Sinful. Jack jumped from Pandora's back once he was near. Both his hands were holding swords, the right one was holding a black longsword while the left was holding a blue-colored translucent falchion, a spell formation was forming on the tip of the falchion.

Myriad Ensnaring Chains was cast and twelve crimson chains bound the ten cultists and brought them close to one another. Sinful was further away, so he managed to move back avoiding the chains from catching him.

Jack then cast Mana Beam, the beam lasted one second. Jack had learned that he could move his arm while the beam was being fired during that one-second interval, thus allowing the beam to hit more targets as the beam was being swung, similar to how Wilted Tree's Mazin had done it with its laser eyes' beam.

Jack then used blitz Slash on the clustered cultists, hitting multiple targets at the same time again. He then dove into them and swung his two swords around without reservation. He used the Formless Flowing Sword style as he danced amongst the restrained cultists, slicing one after another and then back again, fully utilizing his Blade Dancer's inherent skill as twenty blade orbs swirled around his hands.

Sinful had been trying to give aid but one of the chains came at him whenever he entered the area. He could only watch as Jack bullied the ten cultists until they lost their lives and fell to the ground.

Jack leisurely picked up the loots that they dropped as Sinful watched. The chains had disappeared already as the spell duration ended, but Sinful didn't rush over.

After picking up the loots, Jack walked over to Sinful casually.

"How... how did you escape?"

"I have this spell that is called Body Double. I can create an exact image of myself and change position with that copy."

"When did you cast...," Sinful stopped himself when he realized the answer to the question he was about to ask. "You did it before we left the gate.."

"Yes. When you toss that recall token, I have changed position with a copy that was following from behind on foot. I didn't know what that thing you tossed does, so I just change position at that moment."

Now that Sinful thought about it, he did notice something strange at the time. The fairy that followed Jack around had vanished a moment faster than Jack's and his mounts. He didn't think too much about it at the time and thought that the fairy's disappearance was due to the token, but now he knew that the fairy had moved position following Jack because Jack's real body was too far. Jack had then resummoned Pandora and rushed back here while Sinful was still talking with Jack's copy.

"Why do you suspect me?" Sinful asked.

"Mainly two things. One is the tale you tell. You said you have many native friends in Doghbarum and you called them by dwarf."

"What's wrong with it?"

"If you truly have native dwarf friends, then you will have known that calling them dwarf as an individual is an insult."

Sinful frowned.

"You don't know about that, eh? I guess you never make any native dwarven friends after coming into this world."

Jack was not wrong. In fact, Sinful hadn't made any friends at all. His cautious nature had made him avoid everyone. He was caught by one of the World Maker people when capturing a female player. The Master learned about his real identity and gave him an offer.

"What is the other reason?" Sinful asked.

"You are not surprised when I use magic spells during our fight with Luther," Jack answered.. "You didn't even mention it at all after the fight was over, as if it is a natural thing."

Chapter 530: Amulet Of Summoning

Sinful realized his blunder. He was indeed already aware of Jack's dual-class from World Maker's data. The fight with Luther had been abrupt. He had heard the commotion and immediately lent a hand because he didn't want Jack to be killed. The order was to capture Jack alive. Jack might not die for real but that was also an opportunity to further gain Jack's trust. He didn't realize that one misstep had blown his cover.

"Hm, you are not wearing Amulet of Rebirth?" Jack said. "Good! Save me the time from hunting you down. This should teach you, disgusting psycho, from threatening my friend."

Jack swung his sword down. A puff of smoke burst out when Jack's sword hit Sinful's body. No, not a body. It was a piece of wood!

"What the..."

Jack's surprise was cut short when he sensed an attack from his back. He quickly activated Flash Step. When he appeared somewhere else, the sense came again at his back. Jack made a complex pose by crossing his two swords at his back just as he felt an impact.

Jack jumped away, turned, and looked back at Sinful, who was wearing an ugly face. Sinful had hoped his two backstabs to have hit at least once, he never expected Jack to be able to escape both stabs. He had used a rare skill, Substitution Escape, to avoid Jack's attack and then backstab Jack. When Jack evaded that, he used Phase Strike, but Jack still managed to block the second stab.

"You are not kidding when you said you are good at ambushing," Jack said. "Even your fighting style reflects that. But that ends now, those World Maker people should have sent someone strong to accompany you. Even if you managed to track me down, it is useless if you can't win against me."

"You are too full of yourself," Sinful countered. "Do you think I have no reason to not wear an Amulet of Rebirth?"

Some mana cores appeared in his hand, he then hold them near his pendant. The pendant sucked the mana cores in and started to glow.

"Oh! Is that...?" Peniel uttered.

Sinful's pendant suddenly exploded with black light before the black light formed a large shape. Before Jack knew it, a monstrosity stood between him and Sinful.

The monster looked like a large humanoid frog. Its body was covered with hard carapaces filled with sharp horns. Its large froglike head had two frills jutting from its skull to the back of its neck. Jack used Inspect on the creature.

Thorny Toadfolk (special elite, magical), level 45

HP: 142,000

"That is an Amulet of Summoning," Peniel said.

"Well, it's pretty obvious now, ain't it?" Jack commented. "So that Disbandment Charge's effect has run out, eh? Or are we out of its effective perimeter? Well, anyway, if you can summon, then so can I!"

Jack used his Companion Token and summoned Heathcliffe. Although the two summoned creatures' levels were similar, the knight was an entire grade lower.

Sinful was gleeful enough to point it out, "Hah! Do you think your elite grade companion can go against my special elite one?"

"Who said they are going to contest on who will win? He only needs to hold that ugly monster of yours for a few seconds," Jack said.

Heathcliffe received the command and immediately clashed with the toadfolk.

"You won't get past it!" Sinful cried as he hid behind his summoned monster.

"Cute," Jack said before he used Shooting Dash, making an L-shaped turn and arriving before Sinful who hid behind the Toadfolk.

When Jack was about to slash at him, he suddenly felt a strong pull on his leg. His body got yanked in the air. He looked at where his leg was and saw a long red tongue was gripping it. The tongue had shot out from the Toadfolk.

The toadfolk swung his tongue and smashed Jack onto the rocky ground. The ground cracked and Jack received damage from it. Heathcliffe used the chance when the toadfolk saved its master to smash the monster's head with his two-handed mace. The monster reeled from the hit, the thorns on its carapace shot out and stabbed at the knight.

"Ugh," Jack grunted as he stood back up. The damage from the throw was not high, but to be denied victory in such an unexpected way was frustrating.

Jack looked at Heathcliffe fighting the Toadfolk. The thorns on the monster's carapace kept on stabbing out every time its opponent came into melee range. Heathcliffe who was a pure melee unit wouldn't last long against such an opponent.

Jack was thinking of reversing the roles. He dealt with the toadfolk while Heathcliffe went after Sinful, but this would drag the battle longer. He didn't want that. Another reason was, this Sinful was rather crafty. He might have prepared something to flee if forced, he probably didn't use it yet because he was still hoping that he could still catch Jack and complete his objective. Jack didn't want to let him have a chance of fleeing, he needed to finish this psychotic backstabber to avoid trouble in the future.

Sinful was now stealing his chance and threw his dagger at Heathcliffe while he was preoccupied with the toadfolk.

Jack cast Arcane Turbulence and placed it in between Sinful and Toadfolk, forcing the dwarf to separate from his summoned monster. Jack then rushed at the dwarf. Sinful gave an order for the toadfolk to come to his protection.

Jack activated Charge, attempting to reach Sinful before the monster arrived. Heathcliffe understood Jack's intention and did his best to hinder the toadfolk. Seeing that it could not make it in time, the toadfolk opened its mouth and again shot out its long tongue.

After getting caught the first time, Jack had been ready. He canceled his Charge and jumped sideways just as the tongue rolled past. He then used Flame Strike. The burning sword sliced through, cutting the tongue clean in two.

'Awesome! This should mean it can't use its tongue attack again, right?' Jack said in his mind. But while he was celebrating, a shadow suddenly came to his side.

Jack was surprised. He slashed to that side but the shadow had ducked away and stabbed at him. The ranger's first skill, Swift Stab, had been fast. Sinful's dagger dug into his waist. Jack counterattacked with a slash but Sinful rolled away, back to where Toadfolk was at.

Jack was notified that he had been afflicted by Poison. That was from Assassin's skill, Poison Mastery. Jack used his Golden Noble Headband's ability to dispel the poison status effect. At the same time, he cast Energy Bolts that chased after the fleeing Sinful.

The dwarf managed to hide behind the toadfolk's back and let the monster receive the eight energy bolts.

'That sneaky bastard!' Jack cursed.

But now that the toadfolk had lost its tongue, it no longer could save Sinful during a critical time.

Sinful who was aware of this fact, was alert as he watched Jack. He was sure the guy would be gunning for him again. But Jack instead moved until his line of sight was covered by the toadfolk. When Sinful was puzzled by this, a thick beam suddenly pierced out from the toadfolk and rushed at him. Luckily, his reflex was high enough that he still managed to dodge the beam.

Jack who had cast Mana Beam, cast another spell immediately after. It was Magic Bind which locked the toadfolk in place.

"Heathcliffe! Meteor throw!" Jack shouted.

Heathcliffe understood Jack's order. He threw his large two-handed mace. The mace was blanketed by spherical energy as it flew at Sinful. Sinful who was unbalanced after dodging Mana Beam, still managed to jump, evading the throw. This spoke to the dwarf's tenacity.

Jack, however, was ready for it. He swung his sword. Green-colored thin energy flashed forward at an arc, it was so fast that it zipped past Sinful's body who was still in the air. The flash of energy caused critical damage of over 3000 damages. Sinful whose full HP was only 1760 was immediately depleted. Jack's Wind Slash had made its fatal debut.

But instead of falling to zero, Sinful's HP hung stubbornly at one. Jack who had encountered such a scene numerous, was ready for it. He already fired a Mana Bullet after executing the Wind Slash. The bullet hit Sinful and took out that remaining 1 HP.

Jack used the Runestone of Luck. He never used it before on a player and was interested to test it.

Sinful fell unwillingly, he was glaring at Jack as he fell.

The Thorny Toadfolk dispersed following his master's demise. Two items dropped near Sinful's body before it disintegrated.

Jack clapped on Heathcliffe's shoulder as a compliment, to which Heathcliffe nodded in return before going to pick up his mace. Jack went to the items dropped by Sinful.

"Yes! It works!" Jack exclaimed after seeing one of the things on the ground. He picked it up. It was the Amulet of Summoning that Sinful had worn.

While he was admiring the pendant, the other item on the ground shone and hummed. Jack was taken aback by the event.. He looked at the item, it was a small rectangular metal plate.