

World 641

Chapter 641: Capturing the Lava Dragone

At the place where Jack and the others were fighting the young dragonet, the young beast's HP was finally down to below 30%.

"Finally!" Jack uttered as his beast form came to an end.

After his Storm Breaker's Overlimit state expired, the damage he caused to the dragonet plummeted. This beast's defense was truly astounding.

The Man and the others threw the runic ropes to restrain the young dragonet. Jack helped again with his Myriad Ensnaring Chains which was off cooldown.

Jack then took out the Giant Capturing Cage tool and threw it at where the young dragonet was immobilized. The cage quickly took form and trapped the beast.

When Jack was about to use the Tame Draconic Guardian scroll, he received a message from Jeanny.

"One adult dragonet is heading your way, we can't hold it! How are you going with the taming process?!"

"I'm just about to use the taming scroll," Jack answered.

"Hurry!" Jeanny replied.

As if to add to the urgency, everyone there was startled by a roar that came from the direction of the cavern.

"Shit! Is that what I think it is?" The Man asked.

"Yes. One of the adults is coming this way," Jack answered while activating the taming scroll. Fiery runes covered the cage. The young lava dragonet was visibly uneasy by the appearance of the runes. It banged and clawed at the cage viciously.

"We will buy you time as much as possible. Men! With me!" The Man uttered. The roughnecks that were here marched together with him towards the depth of the cave without fear.

Jack gave them one last glance before returning his attention to the taming wheel that had appeared. The blue and red area this time was larger compared to yesterday. Jack also felt that the needle was spinning at a slightly slower rate than yesterday. Probably because this time, the monster he attempted to tame was lower level than him.

He looked at the red area. Even though it was wider now, it was still a risk to attempt hitting the red zone. He decided to go for the blue zone.

He hit it once, twice, thrice. Even though the blue area was wide enough, Jack still took care to not be careless. He made sure to grasp and maintain the rhythm. He hit it the fourth time. Success! One more time.

Jack didn't let his concentration slip. This last hit will be the most crucial. He couldn't afford a blunder. He watched the needle intensely. When it was almost upon the blue zone, he let the needle hit.

ROAARRRR...!!!

An ear-splitting roar reverberated through the cave. Jack felt rattled just as he sent the instruction to hit. The interruption caused his timing to deviate by one-tenth of a second. The needle hit the yellow zone just a hair away from the edge of the blue zone.

The wheel broke.

Jack looked back. He heard the sound of incoming footsteps already. He looked at his radar, the adult dragonet was close. There were also clashing sounds and screams from The Man's team. Jack turned back to the cage. Its HP was just a quarter left.

This was the last cage, there was no more chance after this. Jack took out the last taming scroll and used it.

"Peniel, I will count on you!" Jack uttered.

Peniel understood Jack's meaning. She got ready behind the cage. Her eyes monitored the depth of the cave where the adult dragonet was coming from. Jack continued letting his back face that depth, he couldn't get distracted at this time.

He felt the ground trembled, the heavy footsteps were getting louder, but he focused himself, ignoring everything else. He only had one chance by targeting the red zone. There was no more time for the blue zone. This was like the repeat of his first-day attempt.

Jack took a deep breath. He then held that breath. 'This is it!' He thought.

At that time, the adult dragonet had appeared behind Jack. Jack was completely ignoring it. From behind the cage, Peniel saw the dragonet's throat shining. A split second later, a huge stream of lava burst through its mouth.

Peniel immediately cast Invulnerability. She then took cover behind the cage. She saw the overspill of that lava breath devastating everything on her left, right, and above. The cage itself received damage from the lava. Its already low HP went down exponentially fast.

She couldn't continue watching the cage's HP as the heat of that lava breath bothered her so much that she retreated to the ground, trying to be as far away from the breath as possible. She forced herself to not retreat into her hidden dimension, her invulnerability spell would stop working if she did.

When the lava breath receded. She opened her eyes that had been closing. The cage in front of her had disappeared, which was not weird. The cage was doomed already the moment the lava breath came.

However, another thing was also missing. The young dragonet.

Only Jack stood in front of her.

"Do we succeed?" Jack asked. He was also not sure. He thought that he had hit the red zone correctly, but then his entire vision was flooded by lava. By the time he could see anything, there was only Peniel on the ground in front of him.

"Yes! Success!" Peniel shouted excitedly. "If the young dragonet is gone, that means it has been transported to the Sky Garden Peak."

"Yeah!" Jack joined her shouting.

Then another roar joined theirs. They looked back and realized the adult dragonet was still there.

"Shit, run!" Jack uttered and used Shooting Dash.

The adult dragonet was furious. It couldn't sense the young one anymore. It was as if the young one had completely vanished. It lunged forward with its four legs. Its two wings tried to open in a reflex attempt to increase speed by flying. The act instead caused its wings to bump and scrape the narrow cave wall, causing the dragonet to stumble.

Jack used Charge after the shooting dash, putting even more distance. He sent a message to Jeanny. "Taming successful! Hurry up and run!"

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Jeanny who received the news immediately send her order for everyone to spread out and run. There was already an adult dragonet inside the cave they came from, so they couldn't escape from there. Jeanny asked everyone to spread out. There were multiple caves within this cavern. They didn't know where these caves took them, but it's better than being here with the dragonets. Once they were out of combat, they could use the Guild Return Scroll.

Everyone spread out. They used their expendable summons to try distracting the two dragonets while they escaped. Some, who are part of Men of Solidarity's gang, even offer themselves for sacrifice while the rest attempt their escape.

Jack's Ice Demon Fiend executed its ultimate skill, the ice spears rain. The countless ice spears rained down on the dragonets. The dragonets didn't suffer much damage, but it delayed them enough to allow the others time.

Arlcard removed himself from the confrontation by jumping away once he received Jack's mental signal. He was not without wounds. His HP was already down to half.

A companion didn't need to break off combat to be unsummoned, but the owner of the companion token had to issue the recall command via the token. Jack had done so after sending Arlcard the signal. Arlcard's body vanished mid-flight, leaving only the Ice Demon Fiend who intentionally rammed itself onto the mythical dragonet's body to buy time for the rests. It didn't matter if this Ice Demon Fiend was killed, Jack could still summon another one next time.

The two dragonets saw these intruders dispersed. They had also sensed the disappearance of the young dragonet. They were also furious. They wanted to destroy every single one of these ants, but these ants just ran in all directions, they couldn't chase every single one. Some even entered a cave too small for the dragonets' bodies.

Frustrated, the two dragonets unleashed their lava breath again, obliterating as many as they could.

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Near the mouth of the cave, Jack ran as fast as possible, he was almost out of the cave. The dragonet was still hot on his heel. Jack was fast, but the dragonet despite not a fast monster, had enough dexterity to keep up due to its high level.

When Jack was about to reach the exit, he felt danger from behind. He looked back and saw the dragonet's throat shining.

"Shit! Its lava breath is off cooldown!"

Jack cast Magic Wall, Barrier, and then put his Magic Shield to his back as he jumped towards the exit. The lava breath came. Unlike the young dragonet's lava breath, the lava breath this time completely melted Jack's magic wall in a short time. The lava breath then hit his magic shield. It was melted and Jack was smashed by the breath, his barrier was immediately depleted.

Luckily, Jack was already at the exit. Jack was pushed to the side by the force of the breath, so he didn't receive continuous damage. He fell to the ground and roll away. He saw the lava beam shoot out from the cave's mouth into the distance. His HP was only 40% left.

Chapter 642: Growing a Guardian Pe

When the adult dragonet chased out from the cave, it looked around trying to locate Jack.

There he was, the dragonet saw Jack who was running away in the distance. It uttered a furious roar as if saying, "Don't think you can escape from me!"

It unfurled its two large wings. The bat-like wings started flapping and its body was lifted off the ground. When it was high enough, it suddenly shot forward with high speed. Within seconds, it had arrived above Jack.

Jack looked up. His eyes met with the dragonet's red eyes. The dragonet then swooped down with open claws. One of those claws smashed onto Jack. The strong impact cracked the ground, causing dust to fly everywhere.

The dragonet lifted its claw, expecting to see the remains of the human that had dared steal their youngster. Yet, there was nothing there. It huffed and cleared the dust. It then looked upon the ground. No body.

The dragonet turned around, looking everywhere. No human was seen. Was the intruder so weak that he died from just that one stomp?

After searching for a while, it finally concluded that the human had died and the body disintegrated upon dying.

The dragonet then flew back and entered the cave. There were still more intruders inside. It wanted to crush more to alleviate the rage due to losing the young dragonet.

After the dragonet disappeared into the cave, a figure came out of the shadow. There was a crack beside the cave entrance. And since it was nighttime, shadows were abundant. Jack had slipped into there and relied on his Cloak of Shadow's ability to hide.

The one that ran away and was trampled by the dragonet was Jack's copy using Body Double. When he saw the dragonet swoop down and stomp his copy, he canceled the skill, causing the copy to disappear. Making it seem as if the dragonet had killed him.

He opened his party page to check on everyone else. More than half the party had gone already, meaning they had died and sent back to revive point. They were automatically removed from the party since they were too far away. 'So many casualties?' He thought.

He saw that Jeanny and his grandfather were still alive though. He sent a message to Jeanny, "How are you people doing?"

"We scatter. I'm with Domon and Bowler here. Some are still getting hunted by the dragonets. But there are only two dragonets, many of us managed to slip into smaller caves to hide. Some have escaped using the Guild Return Scroll once they are out of combat status," Jeanny replied.

'Oh, so we don't lose more than half,' Jack thought in relief.

"Are the three of you still in combat status?" Jack asked Jeanny.

"No, we're out already."

"So, why are you not yet using your return scroll?"

"I have to make sure everyone is safe before I leave."

'This lady...' Jack admired the girl's responsible attitude, but at this moment, it would just bring her harm.

"Jeanny, use the scroll. There is nothing you can do anyway. The longer you stay, the more chance of those dragonets finding you. The third dragonet is heading back there already. Soon there will be three of them looking for you. Do not make me go in there to save you!"

Jack didn't receive a reply for a while. He was about to send another message when Jeanny sent a reply, "All right. We will return now. I'll let the others know. You should return as well."

"I'll return later. Don't worry, I'm already safe outside."

"Okay. Stay safe."

Jack then saw her message in the party chat. She informed everyone to not linger once they were out of combat. She would leave first. She asked everyone to report to her after returning, whether they have died or successfully escaped. She would hand out contribution rewards as well as organize help for those that had lost something. She then dissolved the party.

Jack looked into the cave. He could just pray for those that were still inside. They all wore Amulet of Rebirth anyway. Even if they died, they only lost one level, so there was nothing to worry about.

Jack looked out into the open. There were still three days until the World Tournament. It took some time to come to this Jagara region, so might as well use the chance to collect more draconic essences.

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For the next two days, Jack spent it farming draconic essences. At first, he planned to bully the flame drakelings like he did the days before. But when he summoned Arlcard to increase the farming speed, Arlcard expressed disdain for fighting these drakelings. He said that they should at least farm the flame drakes if Jack wanted to call him. The flame drakelings provided too few exp points.

Jack was speechless, this native vampire's desire to level up did not lose to outworlders.

Since Arlcard insisted so, Jack complied with his demand. They went to the flame drake's territory. Jack was worried at first whether the Grim Flame Drake was still hunting them. When they clashed with the first Flame Drake they encountered, Jack constantly watched his radar. Fortunately, the Grim Flame Drake didn't show itself.

Arlcard's speed at reducing the Flame Drake's HP was even faster than when they were doing it to tame the drake a few days ago. Maybe the vampire was unmotivated at the time. This time, he was going all out.

Jack also summoned Therras to allow it to share the exp points as well, all the while continuing feeding it high-grade pet food to boost its exp even further.

Jack tried his best to avoid the Grim Flame Drake. Before he initiated a fight, he went around checking the neighboring flame drakes first. If he spot the unusually large and dark red dot, he would move further away before engaging.

In terms of exp points, he had more gains if he spent his time inside the guild's Training Cave and Ice Throne Dungeon, mainly due to the bonus of exp pills. So none of his classes achieve level up this time. But his Therras did, it was now a level 41 beast. Arlcard also finally reached level 50. Jack saw a satisfied glint in the vampire's eyes even when his face showed no expression.

In terms of draconic essences, farming these flame drakes provided Jack with more essences compared to when he farmed the drakelings, even when he killed much fewer drakes in a day compared to drakelings. One flame drake gave him between ten to twenty essences while the drakeling only provided one to two essences. By the end of the second day, combined with his farming during the days they had attempted guardian taming, his Gold Dragon Bloodline had reached level 3. His attribute, HP, Stamina, and MP were now increased by 14%.

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On the night before the day they were scheduled to depart for the World Tournament, Jack used the Guild Return Scroll. He went directly to the Guild Hall.

When he entered, he was surprised to find Jeanny, Viral Cora, Salty Trade, Sweet Talk, Trinity Dawn, and Bowler standing around the guild hologram platform. John was nowhere to be seen. What were so many girls hanging around the platform for? And why was Bowler in the midst of that group of girls?

Jack came over and understood when he saw the holographic image on the platform. It was a zoom-in view of the young dragonet they had captured. Since they couldn't go to that Sky Garden Peak, Jack surmised they could only interact with this pet via this platform.

The dragonet was currently chomping on its food. Several bars were indicated at the corner of the platform. The bars were marked with descriptions: Growth, Hunger, Happiness, Health, and Training.

"What the heck?" Jack uttered after seeing the bars.

"Growing a young guild's guardian pet is more complex compared to growing individual pet. You won't have to go through this if you tame an adult guardian. But getting a young guardian and training it to adulthood has its advantages, its stats will be higher than a normal adult. There is also a chance that this guardian's grade might increase to mythical," Peniel said to Jack before she flew over to where the girls were.

'I remember you said the same thing about Therras and Arlcard as well, but they are still rare elite in the end,' Jack grumbled within.

"You are taking care of it quite well," Peniel commented after checking the bars. All the bars except for growth were more than half-filled.

"Her," Viral said to Peniel. "This dragonet is a female. We are even allowed to give her a name."

Jack looked again, there was indeed a name above the bars. "What the f*ck? Penny? This is supposed to be a fearsome monster. Why give it such a cute name?"

"Her! Not it!" The girls shouted in concert. Jack was rather taken aback by their passion.

"Hehe, you better show respect to Penny," bowler laughed. "She is their baby now."

"Yeah. We give her a name similar to Peniel. You have a sister now," Viral said to Peniel.

"Uh... No, thanks," Peniel replied.

"Come on, let's feed her again," Salty Trade said when Penny on the image finished her current food.

"Feed her? Lady, if my eyes aren't wrong, that hunger bar is filled up already," Jack said.

"You stay out of this! What do you know about taking care of the young?" Salty retorted.

Jack looked at Bowler with a wronged expression, to which Bowler simply shrugged.

Chapter 643: Familial Relationship

"Well, I understand about the growth and hunger bar, but what do we do about the happiness, health, and training?" Jack asked the girls.

"Happiness is increased by continuing to give her our attention. There is a function to pet it," Viral said as she pointed to a button with a hand icon. "We can also activate some of the Sky Garden Peak's facility, such as the whirlpool on the lake, the waterfall, giving her ball toys to play with. Anything, as long as we keep interacting with her regularly, she will be happy."

"I say you all got that covered. If she can get annoyed from being constantly handled, now that will be a problem," Jack commented, which earned him side-eyes from the girls. "What about the health bar? Can she get sick?"

"We haven't gotten into such a condition," Viral replied. "Hopefully, never," she added.

"She will have a chance to get ill if you feed it low-quality food," Peniel explained.

"Nothing to worry about then. We are giving her the best-grade food our cooks can make," Jeanny said. "Those food required rare ingredients but we don't mind using them for this sweetie."

"She can also get ill if you force her to eat too much," Peniel said.

"Hahaha," Jack laughed, which earned him intense glares from the girls.

"Environment also affects, but I see that this Sky Garden Peak should have no problem. You got a good base mountain when you constructed this structure. There is even a cave which is a lava dragonet's natural resting nest. You just need to make sure she takes enough rest. Don't work her too hard, and the health bar should be fine."

"Work her too hard? I guess that's where the training bar is for?" Jack asked.

"Yes, we can get him to do some exercises to increase that training bar," viral said. "It's sorts of like a mini-game. There are several exercises available. Here, I show you one of them."

"This really reminds me of those ancient pocket digital pets," Jack remarked.

Viral worked on the interface. Soon, the screen changed. It zoomed out and marked a circular track. Penny started running along this track. There were some obstacles on the track, when Penny was about to run into one of these obstacles, Viral pressed a button and Penny jumped over the obstacle.

'She can fly, right?' Jack wanted to comment but decided to just keep quiet.

Once Penny arrived at the end of the track, the mini-game ended. Scores were tallied, a report then appeared informing them that they had acquired a Good assessment. The training bar increased some more, to the maximum now.

"You can know that you work her too hard if you continue asking her to exercise even after the training bar is full," Peniel said.

"Oh..." Was the five girls' reply.

"I bet you have been playing with her non-stop. It is a miracle that she is still healthy," Jack criticized, which earned him another round of glares.

"Still, if you can continue keeping the training bar full but not having her overwork. She will have the maximum stats possible once she matured. Keep up the good work!" Peniel encouraged, which prompted the girls to do high-fives with each other.

"I can understand now why John is not here, but why are you here?" Jack asked Bowler.

"What do you mean why? It is fun taking care of Penny," Bowler replied.

"Oh... Well, ok then. I will leave you gals to it. Jeanny, don't stay up too late. Remember that tomorrow we have to leave for the World Tournament," Jack said.

"Got it. I have also sent messages to remind Domon and Giant Steve," Jeanny replied. "We will gather outside this Guild Hall first thing tomorrow morning."

Jack nodded before leaving. He visited the warehouse again to get the ore stock. There were not too many yet, but it was enough for him to level up his equipment by two levels. All his equipment was currently level 51, he could equip to the maximum of level 53 due to his Blade Dancer class which was level 43.

He went into the Time Chamber to save time on the upgrading since it was rather late already. He wanted a full rest for tomorrow.

Inside the time chamber, he used the Transformation Box to fuse a sufficient amount of copper and silver ores, before using his rare blacksmith tool to upgrade his equipment.

Even when it was only two levels for each equipment, it still cost him a large number of ores. By the end of his work, his magic staff and all his armors were at level 53. He didn't upgrade his Storm Breaker. It felt like a huge waste to sacrifice one super rare sword just for a two-level increase.

He went to rest after coming out of the Time Chamber.

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The next morning, the four who were qualified to the World Tournament gathered outside the Guild Hall. There were others as well who came to send them off.

John was among them. He went and peeked into the Guild Hall first when he came. When he saw the girls were still crowding around the guild platform, he didn't go in, he came to Jack instead and wish him luck on the world tournament.

"It must be depressing to have your toy taken over by others, doesn't it?" Jack said to him.

"It does," he replied.

"Well, we will be going now. You take good care of the guild."

"Of course. Don't you trust me?"

Jack's eyes narrowed to a slit. "You know, the last time after you said that phrase, I ended up hunting you to your father's guild. You are not going to try anything funny again now, are you?"

"Haha, you are funny. I'm not low enough to use the same ploy twice. Nor do I think our enemy stupid enough to fall for the same trickery."

"Whatever, just don't do anything that gives everyone a heart attack," Jack said.

"Where is the fun then?" John replied. "That being said. Maybe I should clear this up before you people left, lest you think I'm doing something behind your back."

"Hm?" Jeanny who was still talking to Trinity turned to John after hearing it.

"I'm meeting my father again later today," John announced.

"What?!"

"The hell?"

"Are you trying something again?"

Bowler, The Man, and the others who were here to wish Jack and the others luck were instantly agitated hearing John's words.

"I have expected strong reactions. You people truly don't disappoint," John said.

"Why are you meeting him?" Jack asked.

"He asked for a meeting. He had been asking for quite some time now, to be honest. I simply ignored him. But I guess I can't keep on doing that. He is still my father, after all."

"What does he want?" Jeanny asked.

"He didn't say. I have some guesses, but most likely he will be trying to negotiate for us to release Saint Edge's guild hostage token."

"Will you?" Jack asked.

"Oh? You let me decide? I thought you would have yelled that the guild hostage token is guild's property, under no circumstances that I have the right to let it go."

"You are right! You have no right!" Bowler exclaimed.

Jack, on the other hand, said, "The way I see it, that guild hostage token is all your effort, so I don't see the reason to object to what you decide to do with it."

Jack turned to Jeanny after his words. Jeanny nodded, "I have no problem with that. Do what you want with Saint Edge's guild hostage token. But mark my words, we will not let you off if you do anything that harms the guild. Jason and Michelle will follow you to the meeting."

"You people are too cautious of me," John complained, shaking his head.

"Well, can you blame us?" Jack said.

"I suppose I can't. But you have my words, I am absolutely loyal to this guild. Heck, I practically own one-third of this guild, so why do I want to betray it? Anyway, I won't be throwing the guild hostage token away. The bonus resources they provided are too good to pass up. I don't believe my father has anything that can persuade me to give up that token. I'm just meeting him to give him face."

"Well, whatever it is. I don't think family members should fight one another. You should try to reconcile with your father if possible," Jack said.

"Hm... difficult. The dude is too stubborn," John mumbled.

"Then he is the same as you," Jack said.

Jack then turned to Jeanny. "What about you? Have you talked to your mother? Maybe we will see her in the world tournament. She could probably be representing the Aurebor Dynasty."

"If she does. We will beat her without mercy," Jeanny declared.

Jack scratched his head. His two partners' familial relationship seemed to be much more complicated than he thought. He only had one remaining relative, his grandfather, and their relationship had always been simple. Although they sometimes bickered, they respected and cared for one another. So, he didn't understand his two friends' struggles enough to offer any advice. Hence, he decided to be mum about the subject.

Chapter 644: Departing for the World Tournamen

The four of them use the teleportation chamber to teleport to Thereath. Jack asked them to go ahead first to the palace. There was still some time left, he wanted to pick up two weeks worth of coins from both Ellie's Restaurant and Amy's Bakery.

Jack collected 136 gold coins from the two establishments. Feeling royal after receiving the coins, he hailed a carriage to take him to the palace.

When he arrived, he saw the other nine candidates had gathered in front of the palace wall gate. All of them had increased to level 46 already, which made him the lowest level in the group.

"You took a carriage and let your gramps walk on foot?" Domon said when Jack approached.

"Uh... I thought you needed the exercise," Jack replied.

"How dare you make us wait! Do you think you are the main character?" Princess Purple uttered with displeasure.

"Duh, isn't it obvious," Jack replied without any humility.

"Is everyone here? Follow me then," A kingdom official who was there said. He ushered them through the wall gate.

When they came into the palace courtyard, they saw many people had gathered there. They were the three princes, Royal Advisor Mason, and several other kingdom officials. Jack saw Duchess Isabelle, Commander Quintus, and Gruff amongst them. On the two sides of the courtyard, the imperial army stood in formation.

Mason came forward when the ten outworlders approached. The kingdom official that ushered the players arranged them so that the ten stood in a line facing the royal advisor.

Mason then launched a series of speeches. Jack had expected this kind of ceremony before they left. He thought it was a waste of time but one they had to go through regardless in this official event.

Mason thanked them for representing Themisphere and stressed the importance of this tournament. That the tournament was not simply just about glory and honor. If a country's participant won, the country would also receive a benefit. He explained that the Council of Virtus who oversaw the tournament was one of the most respected institutions in the world. They were a faction under the

divine protection from the God of Courage. Their warriors were the best in the land. Countries with winning participants would receive favors from the council in the form of blessings and training provided to the top officers of their army. The slots will be based on the number of champions from the country.

Mason didn't forget to mention that the Council of Virtus would also bestow prizes directly upon the participants who won. He informed them that he was not privy to the prizes but the council wouldn't grant simple rewards. Aside from that, those who were part of Themisphere kingdom among the ten would be granted merit points for every win. Those who were not would be granted the opportunity to join the kingdom faction. If one chose not to join, one would be rewarded with coins instead.

Mason also stressed the importance to watch their attitudes when they arrived at Daminos Square Garden where the tournament took place. This sacred place rested atop the summit of Mount Audacias didn't usually accept visitors. This tournament was a special event where selected visitors were allowed entry for a limited time. The place was within the territory of Hydrurond Dominion, yet they were not under its control. The Council of Virtus was an independent faction that hold its own rules. If anyone dared to show disrespect in this place, they could be captured or even executed on spot. No country would dare to challenge their authority within that place unless they wanted to face the wrath of God of Courage.

'Too bad that God is no more,' Jack thought within.

Mason informed that the second and third princes with their retinues would be following the participants to Daminos Square Garden. The ten participants should stay with the princes' entourage and not wander around to avoid unnecessary incidents.

Finally, Mason ended the speech by again thanking the ten participants. He asked them to now followed the second and third princes' entourage, who would now travel to Daminos Square Garden using the palace's teleportation chamber.

Commander Quintus approached Jack when Jack came to the third prince's side. His hand was holding a book.

"Is that...?" Jack asked.

"As promised," the commander said, handing him the book.

Jack accepted it with glee and inspected the book.

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Technique Book: Hundred Shadow Strikes (Unique Consumable)

Grant the skill: Hundred Shadow Strikes

Restriction: Any Elite class branched from Warrior class

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'Unique-grade!' Jack exclaimed in his mind. He had known the skill Commander Quintus exhibited was not simple, but after seeing the grade now, he could be sure.

The kingdom official that ushered the ten came and asked the outworlder representatives to follow him again. The second and third princes also started moving, they followed after them. Commander Quintus said he was not joining the group to Daminos Square Garden, so Jack thanked the commander for the technique book before following the official.

The second prince was accompanied by the cloaked man that Jack had seen before in the throne room. Prince Alonzo was accompanied by Duchess Isabelle. The first prince didn't join, but Garland came with the entourage. Gruff also followed after them.

"Why do you think the first prince not joining?" Giant Steve asked in a low voice.

"I can think of two reasons. One, because this is an event mainly for outworlders. Second, he has the fewest participants representing him, he probably just feel ashamed to be behind his two younger brothers," Jack answered with a not-so-low voice, which prompted Garland to turn and glare at him.

They were taken to an open garden in which at its center was a teleportation device similar to the one in the city's zone portal. One of the guards there operated the device. It then come to life, a large silvery portal appeared before them.

The second prince with his cloaked confidant entered first, followed by Prince Alonzo and Duchess Isabelle. Garland entered next with Gruff. The kingdom officials then gave the sign for Jack and the others to enter.

"Let's go then," Kill Order said as he strutted forward.

"I'm interested to see what this sacred garden looks like," Yellow Death uttered and followed.

The rests went in one after another.

When they came out, they were greeted with scenic views. Before them was a large expanse of gardens decorated with trimmed plants and trees. They could feel that they were currently in a very high elevation. The temperature was cold and the air thin. They could see the mountain tops some distance away. The white clouds were also especially close.

They saw many natives tending to the garden. They came from every race. Humans, Dwarfs, Elves, Orcs, Ethereals, even Vampires who wore hooded cloaks to protect them from excessive sunlight. Then there was the last race to which Jack finally laid eyes on, the Draconians. They basically looked like lizardmen, except their maws were slightly shorter, making them more human-like. They were still covered with scales though. They also possessed a tail, not as long as the lizardman. While lizardman had a slight hunchbacked posture, these draconians had straight frames. They were also generally larger than the other six main races. These natives simply ignored the newcomers that had appeared here, as if they were of no importance.

Another interesting thing was that around the place were statues of giant heads. Seeing them reminded Jack of the stone head statues on Easter Island in their real world.

Jack turned back and saw a series of buildings with roman architecture. Large columns surrounded the buildings, larger than the columns from their real-world counterpart. At the highest terrain was an extremely large building. An extremely tall statue depicting a tough-looking man in armor stood towering within that large building. The building seemed to be built around that giant statue. Jack figured that large building should be the base of the Council of Virtus.

A draconian in a priest's garment came to them and greeted, "Welcome. I assumed you must be the representatives from the Themisphere Kingdom?"

"We are," Prince Rhemos replied. "I am Prince Rhemos of Themisphere Kingdom. We come to join the Outworlder World Tournament. Those ten are the participants."

Prince Rhemos had intentionally ignored the existence of Prince Alonzo, which drew displeasure from the third prince. But Prince Alonzo didn't show any expression, he simply saluted the draconian priest and introduced himself, "I am Alonzo, the third prince of Themisphere. We will be troubling you to guide us in this place."

Prince Rhemos made a silent snort.

Either the draconian priest was oblivious of the two subtle rivalries, or he chose to ignore it. He said, "the tournament will start tomorrow. But we will have an introduction ceremony late this afternoon, followed by a feast to welcome your visit here. You can mingle with the other contestants during this feast. Please follow me. I will take you to your resting quarter. You can stay there until the ceremony started."

The draconian priest then led them away.

Jack used Inspect on the draconian priest during the walk. The priest was a level 60 special elite. There were also several natives in armor standing guard around the place. Jack scanned them and found them to be level 60 to level 70 rare elite. They were not kidding when they said this place was home to the strongest warriors. Even the guards were almost as strong as Garland here.

The draconian priest stopped after arriving at one of the many buildings around this place.

"You can rest here. You are free to walk around the public gardens, except for the ones behind our Temple of Courage," the priest said while indicating the largest building with the giant statue. Jack assumed that the statue would be an imitation of the God of Courage. "And do not enter any other buildings without permission. We also expect you to behave yourselves and do not create a disturbance. Any violation will be dealt with strictly."

The draconian priest left them afterward.

Prince Rhemos went into the building first, probably to take over the best room before Prince Alonzo.

Chapter 645: Other Participants

Everyone entered the building. The building was divided into two sections, with a beautiful garden at the center. Prince Rhemos and other natives took one of the sections while the players took the other

section. Each section had several bedrooms. Each of the bedrooms had two beds, allowing two people to stay together. Jack and Domon took the same room.

Almost everyone rested inside the building, except for Jack, Giant Steve, Gruff, and David. These four decided to go out for a walk. This was not the first time Gruff came here, so he knew the place better. The old warrior offered to be the tour guide.

Jack and Giant Steve agreed, David said he preferred to explore by himself. Gruff reminded him to return before noon.

They then walked around the place, enjoying the beauty and tranquility of the landscape. Jack could see a lot of care was given to every plant and tree in this place. It was truly a magnificent garden.

Gruff also took them to one of the traversable edges of the place, where they could see the scenery below. When they were there, they realized how high they were. They were truly on top of a steep mountain. Jack wondered how they built this place up here.

Gruff took them to a bridge made of wood and rope that went across a ravine. When Jack looked down from the bridge, he couldn't see the land. There was a white cloud covering the view down there. Giant Steve refused to walk over the bridge, afraid that the fragile-looking bridge couldn't bear his heavy frame. Gruff assured him that the bridge was sturdy, but Steve was adamant about not crossing. He ended up taking the long roundabout way to reach the other side.

When they came to the giant face statues. Jack marveled at the details. He knocked on the surface, it was very hard. There was no visible mark on the surface. Jack asked Gruff how long had these statues been built. Gruff replied they were as old as this place itself. Hearing that, Jack understood the material used to construct these statues must be special, considering that he couldn't see any defect despite them being ancients.

They also saw David during their walk. The guy just walked around and looked at things. Steve pointed out that he must be a guy that enjoyed traveling and visiting scenic places. Jack reminded Steve that the guy came from a mercenary guild. Bowler had also informed that David was an ex-soldier. Jack said it was more likely that David was scouting this place out, trying to understand the terrain, just in case.

Jack chatted with the natives hanging around the garden. Steve did the same, but the natives' reaction was generally more friendly to Jack. Steve wondered why it was so. Jack chuckled and told him it was most likely due to his Diplomacy and Influence skills being higher. Although both of Jack's skills were only at Advanced Apprentice, they were still higher than most other players. Most others still had the skill at Basic or Intermediate Apprentice, especially their Influence skill. Most players didn't bother communicating with natives.

While they were walking, a group of people with loud noises walked the same street from the opposite direction.

"Move aside! Move aside! Our goddess wants to pass!" One of the people at the front uttered.

Jack had known this group to be players from his radar. Additionally, only players will be this obnoxious. The street might not be large, but it was still wide enough for their two groups to walk on each side. What's the need for asking others to move aside?

When Jack made no attempt to move, the guy who had made the demand threw a hostile glare. Jack noticed that this group was all of the elven race. Five men were crowding around one woman. Jack assumed they must have been the players representing Aurebor Dynasty.

The other four men, when seeing their authority being challenged, came forward and put on antagonistic postures.

"Don't make trouble, you might cause us to get disqualified," the woman said.

"Goddess, these people are being unreasonable. They don't want to move aside even when you are in their present," one of the men said.

'What the f*ck! Who is being unreasonable?' Jack thought. These people were asking for a beating.

"There is enough room to walk here, step aside!" The woman said.

The men moved unwillingly as the woman came into view. Jack could see now why they called her a goddess. She was indeed stunning. She had long black hair framing the most beautiful face Jack had ever seen. Her figure would no doubt cause lewd men to start whistling. She was wearing a tight-fitting medium armor. Jack thought that her suit was too tight for her, especially around the chest area. The girl might be a supermodel in the real life.

The woman gave Jack a glance, whose eyes just happened to fall upon her chest area. Jack didn't mean to be improper. He was simply observing the woman and when she glanced, it was just unfortunate that Jack's eyes happened to be there. His eyes didn't even stay there for half a second.

"Lecher!" The woman scolded.

"What the...! Hey, lady, give me a break! You might be used to getting stared at, but don't just assume everyone who looks at you has improper thoughts!" Jack scolded back.

"How dare you talk that way to our goddess!"

"Insolent! Apologize immediately!"

The men were immediately outraged after Jack's words. They berated while making a gesture as if about to attack Jack.

"Stay back! Do you want to get thrown off this mountain?!" Gruff exclaimed. He asserted his presence between the groups. "If you people want to tussle, do it in the tournament!"

The elven men were about to retort, but when they found out that Gruff was a native and that they couldn't inspect his level, they shut their mouths. They might be love-struck fools, but they were not common fools. Otherwise, they won't get selected to join the tournament.

"Are you in the team battle or individual?" The woman asked.

"Team," Jack answered.

"Hmph! Then we will meet in the tournament. I will teach you a lesson then, lecher!" The woman said.

Jack was irked. "Call me lecher one more time and I will really touch you improperly during the tournament!"

The woman's followers were about to scold Jack back for his words, but Gruff was glaring at them which made them shrink back.

"What's your name? I can't use Inspect on you. I will remember it to make sure you get the lesson you deserved," the woman asked.

"Heh! I would love to see how you give me a lesson. My name is Storm... Willow," Jack uttered.

Giant Steve and Gruff turned to him at the same time. Storm Willow?

Jack was actually about to say his name, but he changed midway because he had used Inspect on the woman.

*

Unequaled Grace (Inquisitor, level 46)

HP: 3,090

*

"Hmph! Storm Willow. We will meet in the tournament then," Grace uttered. She then walked away.

Her followers hurriedly followed after her. They didn't forget to throw Jack a killing glare when they walked by.

"Storm Willow? What the heck kind of name is that? Why did you lie?" Giant Steve asked.

Jack didn't answer. He was still staring at Grace's back who was at a distance already.

'She couldn't be that Grace, right...?' Jack thought.

While Jack was still deep in thought, he heard someone tapping his shoulder and called his real name. "Jack!"

Jack finally took his eyes away and looked back. Paytowin was standing behind him.

"I've been waiting for you ever since I saw your name in the tournament registry," Paytowin said. "I went to the house they assigned to the Themisphere Kingdom but they said you are out for a walk. I have been searching around for you."

"George?" Jack was still having trouble believing his eyes.

"Yeah, it's me," Paytowin came over.

"Your friend?" Giant Steve asked.

"Uh... Yeah. Hey! How do you get here? You are a human player. You can't be representing the human team, right? Because that's our team!" Jack uttered.

"Hehe, I know you will be surprised. Come! Let's sit and talk," Paytowin said.

"In that case, I will leave first. See you, Storm Willow," Giant Steve said.

"Haha. Bye, Storm Willow," Gruff said.

Ugh, these guys were using the name to make fun of him now. Jack was morose, he didn't know why he changed his name. Even if the girl just now was the Grace he knew, she would still not recognize his current name. He had changed his name out of reflex.

"Don't get in trouble!" Gruff said again. "Remember the bet! I won't forgive you if you get disqualified because of stupid acts."

"Damn! So that's what you were worried about when you stepped in to deter those elven men?" Jack asked.

"Of course! I have to protect my benefit," Gruff replied.

"Benefit my ass, go away!" Jack uttered.

After the two left, Paytowin gestured for Jack to follow him. Jack followed but his gaze went again to the elven group in the distance.

"I tried to find you so that I can warn you, you know. But it seems that you two still meet before I give you the heads-up," Paytowin said when he saw Jack's gaze.

"Are you saying... Do you mean, that is really Grace...? Our Grace?" Jack asked.

"The one and only," Paytowin replied.

"But..."

"I told you already, right. She is a pretty one."

"Why didn't she just scan her real look to use on her past game's avatar? That's weird. Normally, people would try to make their in-game avatar as best looking as possible. At least better-looking than their real looks. Why does anyone make their in-game look less attractive than their real one instead?"

"That... Well, come sit. I will tell you," Paytowin said.

Chapter 646: A Familiar Face

Paytowin brought them to an agora. Some natives were hanging out there. The two of them sat down on the floor covered by a soft carpet.

"What do you mean you tell me? Do you know about her?" Jack asked Paytowin.

"I know because I have talked to her. Her group came here before yours. We recognized each other since we used the same alias in our past games. She and I had a long chat. She asked about you, you know."

"What did you tell her?"

"I told her that I don't know where you are, as you have asked me to."

"By the way, I see you are familiar with this place. How do you happen to be here anyway?" Jack asked.

"Which one do you want to ask first? About Grace or me? I can't answer two different questions at the same time!" Paytowin said.

"Um, okay, Grace first then."

"As you must have guessed, she is one of the participants from the Aurebor Dynasty and will fight in the tournament for the elven country. She continued being an independent expert until now. Wicked Witches has tried to recruit her a few times, but she always turned them down."

"Isn't my question about why she didn't use her real look for her past game's avatar?" Jack said.

"About that... I'm surprised you didn't recognize her when you saw her," Paytowin replied.

"Of course, I don't recognize her. I don't know her real look."

"You must be not up to date with the popular stuff. I also don't know her real look, but I still recognize her when she first appeared in this place."

"What do you mean by that?" Jack was confused.

"She is Gigi Hsu," Paytowin said.

Silence followed after. When Paytowin didn't elaborate, Jack gave him an expression saying, 'was that name supposed to mean something?'

"You are hopeless," Paytowin said. "Gigi Hsu is one of the current most well-known idols! Well... Before we all got pulled into this world, that is. She had like millions of fans, man. Because she couldn't change her look in this world, she got recognized easily. She practically developed a cult in Aurebor cities. She did not need to join a guild, she already has lackeys doing things for her. Those clowns that followed her just now are part of her fans. It took me an effort to chase those flies away just to have a conversation with her."

"Are you saying we have been playing games with a well-known idol in the past?"

"Yeah. She said games are her only escape from her stressful life and she truly enjoys hanging out with us. She said the two of us are her real true friends who didn't just approach her for her looks and fame."

"Ah... That's why she didn't use her real look."

"So, will you be introducing yourself to her?"

"... Maybe not. Let's see the situation first."

"Why? Are you still worried about what she said to you the last time? If I get that from a girl as beautiful as that, I will be over the moon already."

Jack gave Paytowin a side-eye and said, "Why does she need me for? As you said, she practically has millions swooning over her. I'm just a nobody gamer. She is totally out of my league."

"Well, I can't disagree with that. Status-wise, I'm more worthy of her," Paytowin said.

"Do you want to get punched?"

"Haha. Okay, joke aside. Do you know that idols are not allowed to date?"

"They aren't?"

"Yeah. She had a stressful and competitive job and was not allowed to have a personal relationship. That's why her time in virtual games is so important to her, and we just happened to be there. After spending so much time with us, I say we are very much her emotional anchors even without us realizing it. We are practically the only ones who treat her for what she is and not for the idol she is, and she kinds of enjoys that. She probably sees her time with us to be as close to dating as she can possibly get. But why she choose you over me is something I will never understand."

Peniel, who had been listening, chimed in, "Are you saying that stunning girl has affection on this buffoon? Now, that's surprising."

"You be quiet!" Jack chided.

"You can talk?" Paytowin said with amazement. "I thought you are just a simple familiar."

"I'm not!" Peniel said with her head held high.

"Her name is Peniel. You can now forget about her, let's get back to Grace. All her restrictions are gone now after the world turns. She is free to date whoever she likes."

"But her impression of you has buried deep inside her. I can notice, it was rather obvious when I talked with her. You should let her know that you are Lone Wind."

"Not now...", Jack said.

"You are hopeless," Paytowin shook his head. "By the way, why do you say that the world turns? Didn't we all get transferred to a different world?"

"Ah! About that. I think you will be rather surprised about this..." Jack then told Paytowin about what he had learned. About Wilted, about Apollyon and his device, about his scheming to change the world and succeeding in doing so. About how he was working on a goal towards divinity, and what it would bode for all the other people, players or natives, if that happened.

"That... is not good," Paytowin said, and then added, "You have three classes?"

"Yeah, Blade Dancer, Archmage, and Beastmaster."

"No wonder you have a familiar then. I did wonder why you can become a participant despite being so low-level. Well, those other participants are in for a surprise when they go up against you."

"Yeah, I'm bound for getting the first place!" Jack exclaimed, he then realized something and asked, "Hey, how do you know my level? You can Inspect me?"

"I can't. I saw your level in the participants' registry. You have the lowest level amongst the participant. Kind of very eye-catching due to that, if you ask me."

"Registry? Okay, back to my question about you. How do you seem to know this place so well? How do you even be here in the first place? I thought they don't allow outsiders who are not tournament guests to enter this place?"

"They don't. I am here because I am part of their faction," Paytowin answered.

"You are in this faction?" It was Peniel who responded.

"This is a faction as well?" Jack asked.

"It is. Technically it is a league faction," Peniel answered. "But since this faction is under the God of Courage, it is a bit special. You can call it a divine faction even. Not anyone can join it. Even more so for an outworlder. How do you manage that?"

"I must say it was pure blind luck," Paytowin said. "Last time after you invite me to join your guild, I resolved to continue being independent. After all, I will just be chasing after your shadow if I join your guild. So, after I get my elite class, I went out to explore the wilderness."

Upon hearing, Jack used Inspect on Paytowin and found that he was a level 46 Technocraft.

"Well, long story short. In my travel, I happened upon a native. The guy seemed to be in wounds and needed help. So I offered one, which turned out to be a quest. I needed to fetch some herbs to help him cure his wounds. I did so. After that, he offered me to accompany him on his journey, which turned out to be another quest. Then I realized the quests were actually a chain quest. So I followed along since I had nothing better to do. We became close upon our travel. He had lots of things he carried in his saddlebag, but very messy. He allowed me to sort through the goods, made them neat. Impressed by my organizational skill, he offered me a job in his faction. Which turned out to be this one. I'm now a junior treasurer of the Council of Virtus."

"Wow! I'm impressed," Peniel commented.

"I know you are always good at arranging things," Jack said. "Your past experience of buying too many high-grade items and so have to organize them and learned to use each on different situations is now paying off."

"You are saying as if that is my only good point..."

"Too bad you don't join my guild. I would have loved it to have you as the treasurer of my guild's warehouse."

"Why would I want to be a treasurer of a lowly guild when I can be one in this divine faction?" Paytowin mocked.

"Who do you call a lowly..." Jack's words were cut when he noticed a familiar face.

On a street not far from where they were sitting was a group of orcs walking by.

"Those must be the participants from Verremor Nation," Paytowin said. "What's wrong? Do you recognize those orc players?"

"One of them," Jack said. "Remember what I told you just now about World Maker guild? That orcish Battle Monk is one of their heavenly enforcers, Wong."

Chapter 647: More Familiar Faces

When Jack returned to the building where the human guests were assigned, he saw David had also returned. He looked for Jeanny, Domon, and Giant Steve before pulling them to a secluded corner and telling them about Wong.

Actually, Jack also saw another familiar face in the orc entourage. Abasi Raretooth, the warlord who had clashed with the Themisphere army during the expedition to the Temple of Divine Squall, but his presence was not as alarming as Wong who was most likely joining this tournament as a participant.

"The World Maker is joining this tournament? I thought you said they don't have time for this tournament?" Giant Steve asked.

"It was only an assumption," Jack said. "Probably there is something here that interests them. But I only see that Wong fellow. I had inspected his other orc teammates, none of them is from World Maker guild."

"Wong? I know that fellow. I remember Chloe said that she studied under him after going abroad," Domon said.

"She did?" Jack asked.

"Yeah, I haven't told you this?"

"You have not."

"How strong is he?" Jeanny asked.

"Not bad," Domon answered.

"I never see him in action. But he had defeated a person who is strong in my opinion, so I supposed he is really strong," Jack answered. He then turned to his grandfather, "Can he be stronger than you?"

"You must be asking for more training to dare ask that question. Do you think there is any martial artist that is stronger than your gramps?"

"Have you fought him before?" Jeanny asked.

"No," Domon answered.

Everyone rolled their eyes at him.

"I would have fought him if I joined the world championship for the eleventh time. He is the world champion a year after I stopped participating," Domon said.

"Well, anyway. You won't have a chance to decide who is better. You are a Weapon Master, he is a battle monk. You two share different categories. But if he joins the team battle, it will be me who fight him," Jack said.

"Why do I need a chance to decide? I already know I am better than him," Domon said.

Jack ignored his grandfather, he said, "If that Wong is alone, he probably joins this competition for himself, not for the World Maker."

"What about the participants from Liguritudum? Is Master joining as well?" Jeanny asked.

"George said there is no participant with that alias," Jack answered.

"George?"

"Oh, he is my old friend. He goes by the alias paytowin. He is a member of the faction in charge of this place, so he can check who the other country's participants are. I've asked him to check if there is any other participant that is from World Maker. He is currently checking. He will let me know later."

"The council here is a faction?" Giant Steve asked.

Jack then told them Paytowin's tale. Giant Steve expressed his desire to join as well. Peniel advised him not to put his hope up. Such a chance was very rare. Paytowin was extremely lucky to have gotten the opportunity and had done everything right to impress the native member of this faction.

They rested after. No use to worry about something they couldn't control. They will just have to wait for info from Paytowin before discussing further. They all rested by meditating, training their mana sense.

*

When it was late afternoon, the draconian priest came to pick them up. They were brought towards the largest building at the top, the one that was called the Temple of Courage. But they didn't go in. They went instead around the building to its back. There were more beautiful gardens there.

They continued following the draconian priest until they came up to an outdoor stage that looked very much like the real world's Roman Theater, except on a larger scale. Its fan shape stone seats came down to a large arena. Many people were sitting on these stone seats while several groups were standing in the arena.

The draconian priest informed everyone other than the tournament participants to take a seat on these stone seats. Jack could see Prince Rhemos' displeasure for being asked to sit at such a common seat. The draconian priest didn't pay the prince any heed.

Jack noticed two familiar faces from the seats occupied by other country's native representatives. One was the vampire prince, Horatio, who sat not far away from the human ones. Another was from the orc's group, warlord Abasi Raretooth who he saw earlier. The orc noticed Jack and was glaring at him. Jack simply replied with a smile and a friendly wave, which earned him a sharper glare from the warlord.

After everyone was seated, the draconian priest led the players down to the arena below

Everyone noticed that the group was divided by race. Each group consisted of ten people. There were already four groups down there. The orcish, elven, vampires, and dwarves. While another group, the ethereals, were walking down the stairs from the opposite side.

Jack saw several familiar faces in the groups. Leavemealone in the vampires' group, Anotherday and Handsome Joe were in the elven group. Jack waved at them. All three either pretended not to see or were completely ignoring Jack.

'A*sholes!' Jack grumbled. Waving without getting a reply made him look silly.

Jeanny also saw someone he recognized in the elven group. Her sister, Jennifer. Unlike Jack, Jeanny made no attempt to greet her.

When the human and Ethereal groups took their positions in the arena, they saw the draconians group coming down. Now all the groups representing the seven countries had arrived.

Suddenly the area around them transformed. The roman theatre where the players were standing and where the natives were sitting remained, but all the others vanished. The beautiful gardens that surround them turned into a void.

Before they could make sense of the sudden change, a loud voice boomed, "Thank you for having come, mighty outworlders."

A flash of light and a figure appeared before them. It was a towering draconian in full crimson heavy armor. He wore a centurion helmet that had a crest made of red plumes.

His voice continued to boom, "I am the overseer of this tournament, Pallas. You have all been selected to represent the glory and honor of the country you reside in. I expect you to show honor in this place. For the virtue we respected the most in this place other than bravery, is honor. Any of you dare to show dishonor in this sacred ground, then you show dishonor to our God. You will be punished! Do I make myself clear?!"

Most gulped, everyone nodded.

"This goes for you spectators as well!" Pallas declared. He didn't look back to those sitting behind him, but it was clear who he meant. Jack again noticed Prince Rhemos' disapproving expression.

Jack could feel an intense aura from Pallas, he used Inspect on this armored draconian.

*

Pallas (Mythical Draconian, Divine Champion), level 90

HP: 2,400,000

*

Jack gulped again after reading the description. Now he believed Gruff when he said this place was home to the strongest warriors. No wonder Pallas treated the royalties behind him as nothing.

"What's wrong?" Jeanny sent Jack a message. "You look pale."

"Whatever the reason, do not challenge the authority here," Jack replied.

"I will now outline the rules of this tournament!" Pallas announced. "Each of you has been separated into six categories: Knights, Warriors, Rogues, Archers, Mages, and Team. Each of the participants in these categories will be matched with the others of the same category in an elimination match. There will be six matches to decide the winners among the seven representatives. Six participants will fight in three matches to decide the top four, while one participant will enter the top four without going through a match. These four will then go through semi-final to decide the top two for a final match."

One of the elven players raised his hand, attempting to ask a question.

"Do not disrupt me when I'm talking!" Pallas thundered out, which caused the hand in the air to spring back down promptly.

"Now, individual matches will last twenty minutes, while team matches will last two hours. Each participant will only fight one time a day. So the entire tournament will last for six days. Individual matches will be carried out in this arena, while team matches will be carried out in a separate dimension. The space inside team matches will be large and the terrain will change from one match to the next. These terrains might have peculiarities, you are free to utilize them.

"Winners will be decided when their opponents died. Do not worry about dying, enchantment had been placed in both this arena and team battle's dimension. You will not die for real and you will not lose any item or level. In the case that no one falls after the time's up, the one with the lower HP will lose. There will be no draw. A clear winner will be decided! In the case of team matches, the number of team members surviving after two hours will also determine the winner.

"No tools are allowed in this tournament, only your skills! Any tools you possess will be disabled once the match starts."

'Well, I have expected this. I guess Arlcard and Ice Demon Fiend is out then,' Jack thought, then he asked Peniel, 'My Lightning God Barrage is still valid, right? It is a skill, not a tool.'

'It is. But if possible, don't exhibit that skill here,' Peniel answered.

'Why?'

'That skill is a divine skill, which is considered sacred to this God-worshipping faction. Most here should be reasonable, but there can also be irrational fanatics. If they deemed you unworthy of this divine skill, they might do something to you secretly.'

"Now, you!" Pallas boomed and pointed to the elven group.

The guy getting pointed at felt as if his heart had stopped.

"What is your question?"

"Uh... Um..."

"Speak up! I don't have all day!" Pallas thundered out.

"How... How do you decide wh... who amongst the seven that... do not need to fight to enter the top four?" The elf man stuttered with difficulty.

"Lucky draw!" Pallas replied. "Luck is part of your ability. I will not be accepting complaints after the lucky ones are decided. Understand!"

"Yes... Yes, sir!" The elf man uttered.

"Good! The order of matches as well the lucky draw to decide the lucky seventh participant will be informed before the matches tomorrow morning. Now, our head priest will give a speech!"

Another flash of light, this time an elderly Orc in a priest robe appeared.

Chapter 648: Feast under the Stars

Jack used Inspect on this new arrival.

*

Callan (Mythical Orc, Divine Priest), level 85

HP: 2,000,000

*

'Damn! This place is truly a nest of monsters,' Jack thought.

The other players couldn't inspect the two persons in front of them because these two's levels were too high, but they could still feel the pressure. They knew these two were not someone they could mess with.

Callan gave a warm smile to the players standing in formation before him, as warm a smile an orc could show. Everyone immediately had the impression that this orc looked more friendly compared to the militaristic Pallas.

"I thank you, outworlders, for have come to our humble home. You are welcome here to join the world tournament, something that we hope can be a new tradition for us going forward. We are truly looking forward to seeing each of your endeavors. Whether you win or not, your names will ring throughout the world. Your matches will be broadcasted to all the main cities, not to mention the rewards we will provide for you. Even those that lose their first match will still receive rewards. As long as you are here, you are already a winner. Of course, those who become the grand champions will receive the greatest rewards."

Everyone was visibly excited to hear about rewards.

"That being said, I have to tell you though. As I'm sure our good Pallas here had mentioned, you have to behave yourself. Do not come into confrontations outside of the matches. Follow our rules, don't wander around where you shouldn't be. If you make trouble, you can forget about getting any reward. And I won't mind throwing you out of this mountain myself, literally throwing you from the top of this mountain."

Callan was still wearing that warm smile, but no one thought him to be any less scary than Pallas now.

The head priest continued with his speech, mainly to give further motivation to the participants and explain the virtues and rules of this place. He even started rambling about the history of this place. How the God of Courage saved a young draconian warrior who ended up dedicating his life to the God. Seeing his dedication, the God took him under His wing, teaching the warrior His virtues before the warrior went on to teach the others. They developed into some sort of religion. The warrior and his followers then built a monument in the form of a giant statue at the top of the tallest mountain in Hydrudond Dominion, Mount Audacias, which many had believed to be the home to the God of Courage. In time, more and more followers came to this mountain and they ended up building this place and staying here.

Jack was feeling bored from all this speech, but he didn't dare show any disrespect. He forced himself to put on his best behavior and stood still.

Callan went on to explained in detail the tournaments' broadcasting. How the matches would be broadcasted in all main cities. It was similar to how Themisphere had done during the selection tournament, except it was free and much grander. The matches would be played out in the form of 3D projection right on the sky above the main cities. Some establishments or even player guilds could pay a sum of coins to gain the privilege to have the matches projected inside the establishments or guild headquarters, so they could watch the matches from the comfort of indoor.

After a lengthy talk, Callan finally ended his speech. Jack noticed lots of other players showed relieved expressions.

"Now lets us join together to offer a prayer to the God of Courage, may He bless us all with bravery and honor..."

Callan started praying while the others lowered their heads.

After ten minutes had passed, Jack asked Peniel in his mind, 'exactly how long this prayer lasts?'

'Shortest version is usually half an hour. If the priest felt inspired, it can be more than one hour.'

'#@*\$'

After a long and restless one hour, Callan finally ended his prayer. The sun had set and evening had arrived by then.

"Tomorrow we will begin the world tournament. For tonight, we have prepared a feast to welcome you, our honored guests. Please be so kind as to follow the priests over there," Callan said as he gestured at several people with priest robes that stood by the side.

Everyone started following the priests. Many walked rather stiffly due to standing for a long time. The native guests also followed.

They were brought to another beautiful park with artificial lighting, trimmed plants, and tables filled with food and drinks. There was even a small stream passing through the park, several wooden bridges crossed between two sides of this stream. When Jack walked by the stream, he saw fishes swimming

inside the clear water. One side of the park was the edge of the mountain, where people could see the expansive sceneries below. A metal fence served as a safety rail on that side.

Everyone admired the beautiful view. This outdoor atmosphere under the starry sky was truly enchanting. There were even some cute small critters running around the place. The young girl players immediately took a liking to these critters and tried to play with them.

After some time, some people grabbed the food and drinks. Some started talking to each other. Everyone grouped up with their original races at first, but slowly, everyone started mingling up, especially the players. It was easier for the players, since they were all originally the same race, coming from the same world.

The natives were more reserved. When they talked with the other natives, it was mostly out of political agenda. Prince Alonzo took this chance to talk with the other native royalties to build his influence. He was accompanied by Horatio. It seemed that the vampire prince made good on his promise.

Horatio noticed Jack gazing at him, the vampire prince only nodded slightly, but otherwise pretended as if he didn't know Jack. Jack did the same. From what he saw, the native groups didn't bother to mingle with the players, even when they were from the same race.

Warlord Abasi was there as well, he was again glaring at Jack when Jack was looking over at where the native royalties were hanging out. Jack again smiled and waved at him, which seemed to annoy the warlord greatly. The warlord seemed to be accompanying another orc who should be royalty if judged from his fancy clothes.

As the players started mingling among themselves, Jack looked around and saw Wong. The orc just stood at one corner ignoring everyone else. Jack was curious about his purpose here. He was just about to go over to ask the person directly when he saw Red Death approach Wong. Even when Wong was wearing an orc face now, it seemed that Red Death still recognized his teacher. The two started talking.

Jack canceled his attempt to go talk with Wong after seeing that. He didn't want to intrude on the teacher and student's moment. He went to one of the tables with refreshments to get a drink while waiting.

While he stood there and drank, he heard conversations. Nearby was a group of Ethereal, Draconian, Orc, and Dwarf players who sounded like all of them were women. Jack didn't mean to eavesdrop but his beastmaster's hearing allowed him to hear their conversations clearly.

"Look at those human, elf, and vampire girls. How they strut around. F*cking lucky pricks!"

"Yeah. F*ck them. They don't know how lucky they are. If only they know our hardship."

"Yeah, look at me. This f*cking deformed body. These stupid shorts hands and legs. I used to be a model, for goodness sake! Now I'm stuck with this ugly dwarf body!"

"You want to talk about ugly? Look at my face! Try finding a pretty orc face!"

"An orc face is still better than my draconian face. Shit! You can't even differentiate a draconian man from a draconian woman with this face full of scales."

"You people want to compare? How about you take a look at me. No mouth, no pupil, our faces are almost the same with one another. Heck, we can't even differentiate who is who amongst the ones we travel with. The differences are so subtle. We have to literally use Inspect every single time before we start a conversation, just to make sure we don't talk to the wrong person. F*cking annoying! Whoever is responsible for bringing us here, wait until I get my hands on the person."

"I'm with you, sister!"

Hearing their chitchat, Jack secretly celebrated for getting a human body. He could sympathize with those girls. If this was just a game, it was probably still fine, because it was only temporary. But to permanently transform into the other races, especially those four races with physical traits so different from humans, it is certainly difficult to accept.

Jack could empathize with them, but there was nothing he could do. Even Wilted didn't mean for this to happen when she designed the game. If she knew her game would be changed into reality, Jack bet she would have just used the human race for all players. Jack took another drink and then walked away, lest he became depressed from continuing to listen to those poor girls.

He was heading over to Jeanny and Giant Steve when he heard his name being called. He turned and saw Paytowin come over to him.

"Do you find out anything?" Jack asked him.

"Yes," Paytowin nodded. "You asked me to check if any other participant is registered under the World Maker guild, right? There are. There are two other players aside from that Wong fellow over there."

"Two?"

"Yes, one is named Ronald Dreary, a level 46 gunner from the Ethereal representatives, over there," Paytowin pointed. True to his class, the guy was wearing matching light armor that looked like a cowboy costume.

"That is a set equipment," Peniel said.

"Set equipment? I guess it provides bonuses when one equipped the complete set?" Jack asked.

"You are correct."

"As expected of World Maker, they really can get the best of equipment. Who is the other one?" Jack asked Paytowin.

"You should know his alias. He is over there. A level 47 Weapon Master. His alias is Spring Crown."

"Spring Crown? The one people called the number one gamer in the world?" Jack exclaimed with surprise.

Chapter 649: Secret Features of the Tournamen

"I never saw his real appearance, but I think he is the genuine Spring Crown," Paytowin answered.

"Why does he join World Maker?" Jack asked.

Paytowin shrugged. "Power maybe? Probably that Master fellow you mentioned offered him a high position when he rules this world? Maybe this number one gamer we know is someone with the ambition to stand above others."

"By lowering himself to another person? I am disappointed. I used to look up to him."

"Yeah, I know. We watched a lot of his gameplays together."

The two of them were silent as they watched the one that was called Spring Crown. He was of the vampire race. His face looked young, but if he was the real Spring Crown, Jack knew that the man was in his mid-thirties. This supposed number one gamer never let his real face photo be shown in news articles, but his other data were known to the public.

"All three of them are from different races, which means they can't fight in the team match. Are they participating in individual matches?" Jack asked.

"You are correct," Paytowin answered.

Which meant he won't be meeting them in combat, Jack thought. A weapon master, a battle-monk, and a gunner. He looked around for the persons he knew who would clash with these three. Kill Order and David would clash with them, but he didn't know them well enough. He was not ready to share the reality of this world with them yet.

He couldn't find Leavemealone anywhere. F*cking loner. The guy might have left and gone someplace else to be alone.

He then saw his grandfather who was talking to a dwarf, rather intimately at that. How did his grandfather know a dwarf player? He was about to go over when he noticed Anotherday and Handsome Joe. These guys would clash with that World Maker's gunner and Weapon Master. Additionally, these two were Wilted's lackeys. They were sure to have a better idea of why the World Maker's people were here. Probably they were here for the same reason. So, Jack went to them instead. Paytowin trailed along behind him.

"Yo! Wilted's lackeys, how are the two of you doing?" Jack called out when he approached.

"Who the f*ck do you call lackeys?!" Joe said, clear annoyance in his expression.

"I'm just joking," Jack laughed. "Seriously, where is Wilted? Why is she not here?"

"She has some other duties to attend," Anotherday said.

"I see. By the way, this is Paytowin," Jack introduced.

"Yo!" Paytowin imitated Jack's greetings. Anotherday nodded, while Joe intentionally looked the other way.

"I guess you two are here because those three World Maker's people?" Jack asked.

"So you've found out about them," Anotherday asked. "But no, we are here for another matter. But seeing them here, we can hazard a guess as to what they are planning at."

"Oh? Care to share?" Jack asked.

"This is our business! Why do we want to share with you?" Joe uttered.

"Dude. Don't you remember I am also their enemy? Doesn't that make us the same side? Wasn't that why Wilted searched me out in the first place? To work together in the future? Now, tell me what you know so I can help," Jack said.

Joe showed conflicted expressions. He knew Jack was right, he just didn't like the guy.

Anotherday, on the other hand, kept his half-covered emotionless face. He said, "They are after an item."

"What item?" Jack asked.

"I heard you helped Wilted save Syndrillis from Master's keep," Anotherday said.

"I did. What about it?" Jack was confused why Anotherday asked this question instead of answering his.

"Syndrillis has not yet fully recovered, but since last month she has come to help the rightful ethereal king in suppressing the rebellious prince."

"At a right time, I must say," Joe joined Anotherday's tale. "The Liguritutum royal force keeps on getting pushed back, they had lost around seventy percent of the land to the rebel force. If that guardian dragon didn't come to aid as she did, the royal force would be close to falling by now."

"Maybe that's the reason she returned. She knew she couldn't delay any further, even if she has not yet fully recovered," Anotherday said. "Even so, her return only caused the conflict to come to a gridlock. She couldn't turn the tide."

"That's a pity," Jack said. "I take it that you mentioning this is indicating the presence of those three here has something to do with the situation in Liguritutum?"

"We can venture two guesses. First, they might after one of the items in this council's vault, the Draconic Suppression Crystal."

"What's that item for?" Jack asked.

"It's a unique-grade item that can weaken a draconic creature's power by a great deal," Peniel explained.

"It's a similar item Master used to weaken Syndrillis the first time, except one grade lower," Joe said.

"He must be planning to use it to weaken Syndrillis again."

"That item is one of the rewards for winning this tournament?" Jack asked.

"No. Although there is such an item in the vault, it is not included among the rewards," Paytowan informed.

"It is not. But if two first-place winners forfeit their rewards, they can choose one item from the vault, as long as it is not legendary-grade, unique equipment, or unique tools," Joe said.

"There is such a rule?" Jack asked.

"I'm not aware of it," Paytowin said.

"Trust me. There is," Joe said.

"Well, their boss did design this game world. I guess we can take their words for it," Jack said.

"Wilted is not our boss!" Joe uttered.

"So, you two come here to prevent them from getting what they want?" Jack asked.

"No. We don't know at first they will be here. We are planning a similar approach but targeting a different item," Joe answered.

"What item?"

"Draconic Revival Blood. It is to help Syndrillis fully recover."

"By the way, you two are pretty confident. You need two winners to allow you to choose an item from the vault, right? Even World Maker sends three participants. You two are positive to be able to become the champions of this tournament?"

"We are not just two, there are four of us."

"Four?"

"The other two are over there," Joe pointed to a pair of ethereal man and woman standing not far away.

Jack used Inspect on them. The man went by the alias Blackhole, a level 46 Elementalist. The woman was called Darkradiant, a level 46 Assassin. The gossip he had overheard was right, if he only see these ethereals' faces without seeing the feminine body of the woman, he wouldn't be able to differentiate the gender between the two.

"You four are one camp? Then why stand so far away from each other? Do you have a beef with them?" Jack asked.

"We have the same goal, doesn't mean we are friends. Same as our relationship with you," Joe uttered.

"Tsk, with your attitude, I wouldn't blame them for not treating you as friends," Jack said

"By the way, you mentioned you have two guesses about why those World Maker people are here. What is your second guess?" Paytowin asked.

"Master probably heard that we are joining this tournament, so he sent those three heavenly enforcers to hinder us," Joe said.

"The two other than Wong are also heavenly enforcers?" Jack asked. He thought it made sense for Spring Crown, with his gaming skills, he had the right to carry that position, but that means the cowboy guy was also at the same level as the two.

"What do they want to hinder you with?" Paytowin asked.

"Another secret feature of this tournament," Joe answered. "If three first-place winners forfeited their rewards, they can request the Council of Virtus to send their elite forces to aid in a country's war effort for a half year period."

"This... this can turn the tide of war in Liguritutum," Jack uttered. He had seen the might of the warriors in this place. They were all averagely more powerful than a normal country army. "The ruler of Liguritutum should have focused his effort to get the best outworlders to win this feature."

"It's not that simple. First, the outworlders in Liguritutum were divided into two camps of either helping the royal army or the rebel force. The rebel force also provided quests with sufficient rewards for players. You know how we gamers are, we never truly care about the politics in a game, all we care about is who gives more rewards. Hence, not all the experts support the royal army. Another point is, not many have deep relationships with the royal ruler, which outworlders will be willing to forfeit their rewards for the sake of Liguritutum? In the end, the royal ruler doesn't truly pay attention to this tournament. The Liguritutum representatives present here are only the lowly officers of the country with the majority of participant selection organized by the League of Champions branch in Liguritutum. In other words, the ethereal participants here do not necessarily be the cream of the crops amongst players. Most of the experts in that country are busy getting rewards by involving themselves in that country's civil war."

"Additionally, to get this elite force, one of the three winners has to be from the team match," Anotherday added. "So, they actually need seven outworlders to forfeit their rewards. That is a rather tall order."

Chapter 650: Giving the Recall Plate

"If one of the winners has to be a team, then you people sure won't win it. The four of you aren't enough to form a team," Jack said.

"Not to mention all you four are registered under individual matches," Paytowin added. "And also from two different races."

"Yes, but probably Master didn't know how many people Wilted send here. As I said, it's just a guess. Probably the one they after is only that Draconic Suppression Crystal," Joe said.

"... I think Master knows Wilted send the four of you here," Jack said.

"Why do you say that?" Joe asked.

"Looked at your classes. Out of the three of you, only Blackhole was free. The two of you and Darkradiant have to face those three heavenly enforcers. How confident are you to win against them?"

The two of them were silent.

"This also means that Master is very confident with his people," Jack said. "He is sure that his three enforcers will beat you three. Even if your fourth member, Blackhole, wins the mage section, he won't be able to utilize the secret feature to get the Draconic Revival Blood."

Joe had an ugly expression hearing Jack's words. Anotherday didn't show any expression, he said, "I won't lose."

"I have friends who are in the individual matches as well. If they win, I will ask them to use their forfeiting right to get the item you want," Jack said.

"You will do that?" Joe asked with surprise.

Jack nodded. "Although whether they can win or not is not a certainty. Too bad I'm not in the individual match. Otherwise, we are sure to bag one winner already."

Joe, who was having a high opinion on Jack a second ago, suddenly felt himself wanting to curse this guy again. This guy was so self-assured that he said that winning against a heavenly enforcer is a hundred percent certainty?

"Well, anyway. Let us all try our best to win," Jack said. Joe and Anotherday just nodded as a reply.

Jack and Paytowin left the two.

"Have you talked to Grace?" Paytowin asked.

"... Not yet," Jack answered.

"Why?"

"Look at that! Do you think I have a chance to talk to her?" Jack said as he pointed to a group of elven players. The five male players from earlier today still crowded around Grace.

"Well, I guess it is difficult... Still, why do I feel like you are intentionally avoiding her?"

"Let her figure out her feeling first. As I said, she is free in this world. She probably won't find me special anymore after getting to know more men."

"You are weird. Any other men would have bitten down this chance, taking advantage of her and not letting go even if you beat them, but you are just squandering your chance away."

"I'm not talking to you anymore. I need to go talk with someone else, see you later," Jack said and left Paytowin, who was still shaking his head.

His grandfather was still talking with the dwarf. Jack was curious about his gramps' new friend. However, there was someone he wanted to talk to first. He had tried finding an opportunity when this person was alone. This person was currently standing beside the metal railing by the side of the mountain, watching the expansive view beyond the mountain.

"I have been trying to find a chance to say thank you. It is really difficult to get a chance to talk to you," Jack said.

Red Death turned to him. Her expression was cold as usual. Jack couldn't discern whether she was feeling irritated from his intrusion.

"Thank you for telling me about the window in your guild's warehouse," Jack said.

"I just want to beat you fair and square," Red Death said as she turned away.

"If you want to spar, I will entertain you anytime you want."

It was a few seconds before Red Death replied, "Not yet. I'm not strong enough."

"We can spar without using any skills," Jack said. "But I guess my attributes will still be unfair."

"You can use the arena at the League of Champions. You need to pay coins, but that arena allows you to set specific conditions. You can set so that everyone has the same attributes and also restrict any usage of skills," Peniel said.

Jack turned to her. Right, he forgot this little lady was still clinging to him.

"You have one chatty pet," Red Death uttered.

"Lady, I don't like you!" Peniel exclaimed.

"Peniel, do you mind leaving us alone for a while?" Jack said.

"What?" Peniel said, dissatisfied. She looked at Jack and Red Death in turns. "Fine! I will go enjoy the views elsewhere," she said grudgingly and flew away.

Jack looked at the fairy flying away before turning back to Red Death, who was still coldly watching the scenery beyond the mountain.

"Seriously, thank you for your help. Do your guild suspect you? Will you be getting into trouble for helping me?" Jack asked.

"I will if you keep on chatting with me like this," Red Death said.

"Hehe. Don't worry, they are all far away. There are only us here with those weird small critters in the bushes."

"You can sense them?"

"Yeah, my grandfather taught me chi-sensing. They called it mana sense here. I believe you can do it as well?"

"A little."

"So, don't worry, there is no one hiding around here. Also, what's wrong with chatting with your enemy? If you feel uncomfortable, you can add me to your friend list, then we can chat in secret."

"Who wants to chat with you in secret?"

"Haha. By the way, what do you chat about with your teacher, Wong?"

"None of your business."

"Do you know he is in a guild called World Maker?"

"Yes. Never heard of this guild. I tried to persuade him to join Death Associates, he refused."

Jack thought for a bit, before asking, "I want to tell you the secret of this world. Do you want to hear?"

"What secret?" Red Death asked.

"About how this world came to be and why we came into this world."

"You know?"

Jack nodded. "It has something to do with the guild your teacher is in."

After a while, Red Death said, "Tell me."

Jack narrated his experience when engaging Master and World Maker, before telling her Wilted's story. Red Death stayed silent throughout his narration.

"That... is a lot to take in," Red Death said after Jack stopped. "You said this Master has even more classes than you?"

"Yeah, and also more divine treasures. He is not somebody any of us can mess with by ourselves. I know our guilds have differences, but in the end, we are all gamers who value freedom. If that Master gets what he wants, none of us will know any freedom in this world. Sooner or later, we have to work together to prevent that from happening."

Red Death glanced at Jack but otherwise didn't say anything.

Jack then mentioned what he had heard between Wong and Master's conversation, about Wong's desire to search for who he called his traitorous student.

"Master is still bitter about martial brother...," Red Death muttered to herself.

"What did your martial brother do to make your teacher so angry that he joined a delusional madman with God complex?" Jack asked.

"It's none of..."

"Of my business! Okay, okay, I get it," Jack cut Red Death's words. "Still, are you going to let your teacher fall on the wrong path like that just because of a grudge? You do know he is wrong, right?"

"I know how my teacher is. No one will be able to change his mind."

"Then I'm going to beat him to his senses!" Jack uttered.

"I'll have to think about what you have told me and about how I should break this to my guildmates," Red Death said.

"Just don't simply tell everyone," Jack warned. "This truth is not for the faint of heart. Some might choose to run over searching for Master and ask for his protection in return for their obedience."

"How do you know I'm not such a person?" Red Death asked.

"Because you are not a coward," Jack replied.

"Goodbye," Red Death turned away and was about to leave, but Jack grabbed her arm. She turned back in surprise.

"Wait! Please take this," Jack said. In his hand was a small rectangular plate.

"What's that?" Red Death asked. She used Inspect on the plate. "Recall plate? What's it for?"

"It's a protective charm, to show my gratitude for your help back then."

"Don't be ridiculous, I don't believe in charm."

"Just do me a favor and keep it inside your bag at all times, okay?"

Red Death furrowed her brows.

"It's just a piece of plate. Nothing valuable, so you don't need to feel indebted to me."

Red Death stared at Jack for a long while, Jack was still holding her arm.

"Fine! Let me go," she grunted irritably as she took the plate. The plate then disappeared into her bag.

Jack released her arm. She walked away without saying anything.

'Uh... Truly hard to read her,' Jack complained in his mind.

Jack didn't notice within the bushes amongst the small critters, a small triangular-shaped thing was floating as it watched the two. If a gunner class saw this thing, they would know what it was. It was a drone. A mechanical gadget that was summoned using Gunner's level 45 skill. This drone could shoot bullets and thus could be used for offense, but it had another use. It could transfer images and sounds to its owner, serving as a surveillance instrument as well.

At this time, Yellow Death was somewhere else watching the projection shown by his drone.