

## **World 711**

### **Chapter 711: Casualties**

David told Princess Purple to move away as he put himself on Mihos' path. In return, Princess Purple cast Bless on him before running away.

David took things further by advancing towards Mihos with his Barghest taking point, all the while his handgun never stopped shooting. His handgun was the new level 50 super rare grade weapon he had received for the tournament's prize. Mihos just tanked through the bullets without slowing down. David was targeting Mihos' eyes but Mihos weaved his head around, making it harder for David to land an accurate hit.

The Barghest leaped, but Mihos easily used his left hand to catch the pet. Then as if nothing, he threw the Barghest far away.

Mihos made a diagonal slash once David came into range. David made an accurate low dodge while slashing his left-hand dagger at Mihos' knee. He proceeded to take a kneeling position and shot Mihos from the back.

"Shit!" David uttered when he saw Mihos was completely ignoring his shots and still running towards Princess Purple.

Princess Purple knew she couldn't escape with her slow speed. She cast Healer's Protect on herself in preparation for the hit, which came soon. She shot Mana Bullet at Mihos's face in the hope of distracting him before using her staff to defend against the incoming slash.

Mihos was not at all bothered by the Mana Bullet. Princess Purple was damaged despite blocking using her staff. She then suffered another quick slash on her stomach. Even without mana manipulation, Mihos' standard slashes had brought Princess Purple's life to critical.

Giant Steve was glad that Princess Purple was not one-shot, he activated his Urgent Save. He had marked Princess Purple beforehand. Giant Steve appeared in front of her as Mihos was about to deal the finishing blow. His shield blocked that blow. He then used Shield Bash to push Mihos away, but Mihos simply backstepped one step before his slash came again with a Power Strike. It was Giant Steve that was knocked away despite he had activated Knight's Endure and Enhanced Block.

Mihos felt a strong force incoming after pushing Giant Steve away. He turned in time and saw Jack with Therras rushing towards him at high speed. Jack had summoned his pet and used Combination Assault skill. The attack collided and produced a shockwave. Both Jack, Therras, and Mihos were blown away. This was the first time the native received a force strong enough to unbalance him. His feet skidded as he resisted the knockback.

Jack called his wolf pack out while Therras used Tyrannical Charge. Jack resumed shooting range attacks with the other range players while advancing.

Mihos swung his greatsword and forcefully knocked aside Therras' charge. He then made a circular swing again. It didn't produce the destructive wind this time, so this circular swing was not a skill. Even so, this swing easily swatted all Jack's wolves aside.

Mihos then rushed towards Princess Purple again with Charge skill. Jack also used Charge. Jack's Charge aimed to intercept Mihos' path. Giant Steve also came back to put himself in between Mihos and Princess Purple. Princess Purple who saw Mihos' persistence, was reasonably scared. She had just cast Full Heal on herself. She was now running away with all her might. Domon and Arthur who had slow movement ran towards where Princess Purple was heading so they could intercept Mihos when he arrived.

When Jack's Charge almost reach Mihos, Mihos canceled his Charge. Due to that sudden stop, Jack instead went past him. Mihos then turned back. He did another super long jump.

"What? He can do it two times in such a short interval?" Jack uttered.

"It's a different skill," Peniel informed. "Look, this jump is higher and farther than Berserker's standard Jump Assault. The one before is the normal Jump Assault, while this one is the enhanced version. They count as two different skills."

"Shit! We have been had!" Jack cursed.

Mihos had jumped to the opposite side from where Princess Purple was. Princess Purple had run so far to one side with most of the team following that the person on the opposite side had been left alone. That person was Yellow Death who had been using Shooting Stance and was shooting non-stop as if it was an all-you-can-shoot buffet.

The shock in his heart when the intimidating native, who had been running around chasing the team's healer, suddenly landed in front of him was indescribable.

The shock caused him to pause for a beat, but he quickly recovered and jumped away. Yet, he was a beat too late. Mihos' greatsword burst alight with a golden flame. It was Sacred Flame skill, but a variant different from the standard white flame or Heathcliffe's blue flame. The greatsword thrust forward, piercing Yellow's body.

The thrust drained Yellow Death's HP to more than half. Yet, because his body was impaled, he could not move away. Mihos lifted his greatsword and Yellow's body was hanging in the air as Yellow continued to shoot Mihos point-blank. Yellow's body was then engulfed by golden flame. He screamed in pain as damage numbers popped up repeatedly. Yellow's position was too far, neither Princess Purple nor Peniel could cast heal on him.

Jack grabbed Peniel and used Shooting Dash. However, his effort was futile. Before he arrived, Mihos made a strong slash downward, cleaving Yellow. The large damage wiped out Yellow Death's HP.

The first player of the team had fallen. The fact that the fallen one was one of the two most troublesome teammates didn't give Jack any joy. They still lost a damage dealer.

Since he couldn't save Yellow anymore, Jack went for offensive instead. He activated Life Burning Art and used Penta Slash. Mihos put his greatsword in front of him in a parry position, he received damages but nothing significant. He made a counter slash after Jack's Penta Slash ended. Jack used his two swords and clashed directly with the greatsword.

Red Death and Leavemealone came to Mihos' two sides. They had the fastest movements and were the first to arrive to give Jack support. Red Death used Combat Clone as well as Trinity Assault which created another two copies by her sides. Four Red Deaths barraged Mihos with a flurry of stabs.

Leavemealone used his Illusive Form, creating many mirror images with every movement. He also attacked using Infinite Lightning Punches.

Seeing his friends' ferocity, Jack was not to be left behind. He activated Adrenaline Rush and executed his burst slashes. Countless slashes, stabs, and punches rained on Mihos.

The native champion lowered his head and covered himself with his plate armor. Not being a speedy type, these relentless rapid attacks were not something he could dodge or block. Jack, Red Death, and Leavemealone didn't let go of this chance and pressed on with their unrelenting assaults. Suddenly, Mihos' head jerked up and a thundering roar was released from his mouth. The roar sounded extremely like a lion's roar.

Jack felt as if his eardrums had exploded. There was also a sonic shockwave accompanying that roar. He felt himself getting pushed back. At the same time, he received damage and was afflicted with Disoriented status.

Mihos made a circling slash again then. Both Jack and Leavemealone were in Disoriented status, but they could still block. The circling slash slapped them away. Red Death, on the other hand, was more unfortunate. Aside from disoriented status, she was also afflicted by Dizzy. She was stunned and couldn't see correctly. She received a clean slash. The golden flame alighted around her body.

The pain from the golden flame was intense, but she gritted her teeth and refused to succumb. The burning pain instead helped her recover from the dizziness. She continued with her assault instead of retreating. She used Unblockable Stab at the same time stabbing to the right side of Mihos' head.

Mihos let the phantom dagger from Unblockable Stab land on him while his greatsword blocked Red Death's stab from the right. But the stab disappeared and he felt an attack coming from the opposite side instead. It was so fast that his mana sense was unable to warn him before the real stab from the left hit.

Red Death's Twin Dragon Stabs managed to score a critical strike. Yet, Mihos also didn't waver from the hit. His head that was stabbed, came forward with a head bump, striking Red Death's face. Red Death was the one that became unbalanced.

Jack was still reeling from Mihos' lion roar, but he saw from the corner of his eyes Red Death's predicament. He slashed his sword in Mihos' direction and Shredding Fang came out. Unfortunately, Mihos completely ignored the attack. Mihos let himself be damaged and his greatsword slashed upward in a spectacular fashion, striking Red Death who was still unbalanced.

Peniel cast Fast Heal on Red Death just before that slash hit. It saved Red Death from death, but the 50% recovered HP was quickly brought down again by that upward slash. Red Death was also getting thrown up high by the slash. She was completely defenseless in the air. Her Back Shift, Phase Strike, and Vanish were all still in cooldown.

Mihos' greatsword slashed again. Jack cast Magic Bind. Selena also did the same. Two magic rings locked Mihos' swinging arms. But the rings broke as soon as they appeared. The greatsword cleaved Red Death's body in the air.

Two casualties now.

## **Chapter 712: Close Comba**

Jack and Leavemealone steadied themselves. Jack's wolves and Therras had arrived. Together, they were about to mount an offense again. But Mihos did a swing, a violent turbulence erupted in front of him. The violent wind threw Jack's wolves away and prevented the rest from approaching.

Selena cast Fireball, which was easily slashed apart by Mihos. But after destroying Selena's Fireball, Mihos' flat expression suddenly turned serious. He quickly slashed downward, Jack could feel mana manipulation in that slash.

Other than the time that Mihos disrupted Selena's spell, he didn't use any mana manipulation in his attacks. Jack figured that even for such a powerful native like Mihos, mana manipulation was not an easy technique. This could also be the reason why the lead golden knight in the ancient battleground didn't use any mana manipulation until the last moment when he was fighting against the other mythical-grade opponents. Mihos must also be saving it for when it was necessary.

The reason why Mihos used the technique was soon shown. A large wave of bluish-purple energy was rushing at Mihos through the ground. It was a Ki Wave thrown by Domon and enhanced by mana manipulation.

Mihos' greatsword collided with the energy wave. He received damage and was sent skidding away, this was the second time he had been unbalanced. Jack fired a Mana Beam to take advantage of the situation, Selena did the same by casting her Flame Dust spell. Fire dust surrounded Mihos and caused chain explosions.

After all these hits, Mihos' HP was still above 700,000. This native champion's defense was too high coupled with his passive HP regeneration. It was only one-fifth from the target of half HP the players needed to achieve.

Jack and Selena both followed up by casting Arcane Turbulence and Ice Field respectively. But as the spells took effect, Mihos jumped away from the flame dust that was surrounding him.

"F\*ck! His Jump Assault is off cooldown," Jack cursed.

Mihos had jumped towards Selena. Domon and Arthur were miffed. Their movement speed was slow. When they were about to arrive, the enemy had jumped away again. Did the enemy purposefully evade them?

Giant Steve wanted to come help, but Jack told him to stay with Princess Purple. Mihos' other jump skill would soon be out of cooldown as well.

Selena was nervous, the aura this native champion exuded from a close range was no joke, but she held herself together. She had cast Barrier when Mihos jumped. She now also cast Flame Shield and then erected Magic Shield with her staff. However, that Magic Shield was shattered by Mihos' one swing.

David's Barghest jumped onto Mihos' back, it bit him on the back, but Mihos ignored it. David was close by. He had been shooting at Mihos as well as running towards the native in an attempt to disrupt the offense against Selena. He was about to backstab the back of Mihos' skull when he felt a strong impact on his chest.

Mihos had thrust his greatsword from under his armpit and impaled both David and his Barghest who was still clinging to his back. The sacred flame on the greatsword was still in effect, the flame soon engulfed both David and his pet.

Princess Purple cast Heal to help David, but the spell only recovered a limited amount. Her Full Heal spell was still on cooldown.

David and his pet who were being impaled were forcefully lifted and slammed onto the ground. David never stopped shooting at Mihos' head all the time. Mihos made a rapid pull and stab again. This finished David before he had a chance to roll away. His Barghest also vanished when he died.

Selena had used the reprieve from David's sacrifice to move away and erected Flame Wall between her and Mihos. She then cast Chain Lightning. Since Mihos was alone, after the first lightning struck, it jumped to empty air before striking back at Mihos again. Five of the ten jumps from max-level Chain Lightning were wasted, but the spell still dealt decent damage from the combined five hits.

Jack, Domon, and Arthur used Charge to chase after Mihos. But since their Charge was off cooldown, so did Mihos. Mihos used Charge and burst past Selena's Flame Wall as if it was nothing.

"F\*ck!" Jack cursed again.

They couldn't see anything because the flame wall blocked their view. They ran forward after they completed their Charge. Jack's faster wolves ran from the two sides of the flame wall to get to Mihos and Selena. Jack also sent Wind Slash and Sword of Light through the flame wall by using his mana sense to pinpoint his target, but he could sense Mihos just tanked those attacks with his HP.

The flame wall suddenly died. They saw Selena was already down on the ground. Her body was still covered by Mihos' golden flame.

Mihos was now swinging his greatsword, swatting the wolves that came near him. Most of the wolves were on fire as well. Three out of the ten wolves had died. Mihos then used his double whirlwind slashes again, killing the remaining wolves as well as halting Jack's advance.

Jack reeled back before he felt a hand on his back, helping him regain balance. It was Domon who had arrived. Arthur was at Jack's other side. Jack's Therras had also come.

Mihos stood unmoving in front of them with his greatsword pointing at them.

"You are not running away again?" Jack asked.

"I never run, I was chasing," Mihos replied.

Jack looked around, all their range attackers were down. So, it was now down to close combat.

"You are not chasing after our healer anymore?" Jack asked.

"Her small healing won't make much difference," Mihos said.

Princess Purple was fuming hearing that.

Jack didn't entertain the talk anymore, Mihos was recovering by the second. He rushed forward with Domon and Arthur. Mihos advanced as well. Jack used Blitz Slash, trying to get behind Mihos so he could pin Mihos in between him and the two martial art masters.

Yet, Jack's blitz was stopped when he hit Mihos' parrying greatsword. Mihos had used Knight's skill, Enhanced Block, to negate Blitz Slash's piercing effect. The five slashes still appeared though, slashing Mihos' armor.

Mihos countered with a slash. Jack blocked the slash with an attack but the splash damage from the golden flame wound him. Jack was also pushed back from the impact.

Domon took over, his glaive was alighted with blazing ki energy. This energy had been enhanced further by mana manipulation. The flaming greatsword and the glowing glaive collided. Domon was pushed back but Mihos also took one step back. Arthur slash came after, his one slash was accompanied by ten sword lights. Mihos swung back, half of the sword lights hit him while the other half was destroyed. Arthur was also pushed back, further than Jack and Domon.

Three swings. One to drive away each opponent. Mihos' attributes were far above them.

Therras had sneaked behind Mihos. It used Autocratic Roar and Imperious Pressure. Mihos received damage from the roar but none of the negative afflictions. The Imperious Pressure caused his body to become heavy, but his incredible strength allowed him to still overcome this weight increase. Mihos used Power Strike. His greatsword struck Therras and sent it away together with its gravity field.

"Gramps, foothold!" Jack uttered as they rushed together again at Mihos.

Domon understood Jack's meaning. He placed his glaive horizontally. Jack jumped up and stepped on the weapon. Domon pushed up while Jack did his super jump. The jump boost allowed Jack to jump past Mihos from above and landed on his back.

Arthur had sent his attacks while Jack did his acrobats. Domon joined him soon. Jack stole hits from the back. Mihos couldn't stop attacks from three different directions, so he simply tanked them and counterattacked when he could. Domon and Arthur easily dodge Mihos' attacks, but the golden flame enshrouding the greatsword still caused damage when the greatsword passed by without even touching their bodies.

Princess Purple cast Words of Prayer, healing the HP the three lost as well as giving them buffs.

Jack used as many skills as possible but he kept the big guns. He believed Mihos still kept some sort of a trump card.

The three felt mana buildup within Mihos' body. Another of his skills had come off cooldown. The three retreated without needing instruction. The explosive shockwave that had knocked away Jack's Myriad Ensnaring Chains before, exploded again. Even after moving away, Jack still felt the blast of air hitting him and pushing him further.

Mihos then used his enhanced version of jump assault and landed close to Princess Purple.

"Shit! Didn't you say you are not after our healer anymore?" Jack uttered.

"I never say that!" Mihos replied.

Giant Steve had stayed beside Princess Purple as Jack asked. He activated Protection Field and Shield Stance before putting himself in front of Purple.

Mihos greatswords came cleaving with several rapid strikes. Giant Steve forwent offense and focused on defense. He used two hands to hold his shield and resisted the staggering force behind Mihos' every blow. He felt his grip weakening with each blow.

Despite being protected by his shield, Giant Steve still received splash damage from the golden flame. Some parts of his body had even caught fire. He received notification that he was under Burn effect. Princess Purple cast Heal and Cure on him but the burning effect returned soon.

Mihos used Power Strike when he felt Giant Steve's shield wobble. The strike caused Steve's grip to slip. His shield fell.

When Mihos was about to deliver a finishing strike, Leavemealone who had been waiting for a chance came up behind him. His fist weapons glowing and crackling in their Overlimit state.

### **Chapter 713: One-Word Cross Slashes**

Mihos detected Leavemealone's sneak attack. His greatsword again thrust from below his armpit. But Leavemealone was unlike David who had no mana sense, he sensed the back thrust. His right fist which was about to strike the back of Mihos' head, changed direction and clanged with the greatsword instead.

The fist hit the broad side of the blade, but Leavemealone didn't try to contest with Mihos' strength. He used Cycle of Shade and Shadow to redirect Mihos' thrust. The twisting force borrowed Mihos' own strength and swept the native champion backward. Mihos was rather confounded to find himself getting pulled like that despite his obviously higher strength.

Leavemealone himself used the twisting force and spun his body. His left fist backhand-slammed the side of Mihos' head. While Mihos was unsteady, Leavemealone grabbed the native champion's two arms.

"Let's see you defend against this!" Leavemealone uttered as twenty flaming balls appeared around him.

"What the...! Move back! Move back!" Jack immediately shouted after seeing the scene. He was just about to arrive and provided backup.

Giant Steve hurriedly picked up his shield then grabbed Princess Purple and ran. He was still too close when the flaming balls detonated. He placed Princess Purple at his back and activated Final Shield when the fire energy swept by. Luckily they were at the edge of the explosion, he was only hit by the explosion from two of the twenty balls. His stamina was completely drained, however, after using Final Shield skill. He fell powerlessly to the ground.

"Crazy lunatic, using such a suicide tactic," Jack said. He was actually rather surprised that Leavemealone, who used to be a non-gamer and not used to the concept of reviving after death, was able to come up with such an insane plan.

However, after the mana turmoil caused by the Fire God Barrage ended, he was astonished to sense that the two were still there, enshrouded by some kind of energy. The smoke subsided and they saw Leavemealone impaled by the greatsword. Around them was a golden shell. This golden shell had protected the two from the Fire God Barrage.

Leavemealone also agreed that Mihos had a trump card to defend against their divine skill after hearing Jack's suspicion, that's why he had restricted the native champion's movement before using the skill. He didn't expect the trump card was an ultimate defense that covered all sides.

Jack then felt the mana composing the golden shell was dispersing. He immediately took his chance. His Storm Breaker broke apart into the Overlimit state. He then summoned twenty lightning balls.

Mihos was surprised to find another divine skill came again so soon, his golden shell had vanished by now. When he was about to move away, Leavemealone who was still impaled by his greatsword grabbed his arms and held him down. He used another martial art Domon had taught him, One Thousand Pounds Mountain, to multiply his weight and hold the native champion down.

The short pause due to Leavemealone's interruption allowed Jack's Lightning God Barrage to arrive before Mihos could pull away. Explosion choked-full of electrical discharge filled the air.

When the lightning energy dissipated, Leavemealone was already lying on the ground with zero HP. Jack was expecting Mihos to be paralyzed from the Lightning God Barrage, but the same as when Therras used its Autocratic Roar, none of the negative status effects afflicted Mihos. Mihos was rushing out with his greatsword, heading towards Princess Purple again. Jack guessed Mihos either had very high resistance or had equipment that granted him immunity.

Giant Steve was still panting on the ground, he was in no condition to protect Princess Purple. But instead, it was Therras that came over. It used its Oppressive Wave, slashing energy blasted out from its horns.

Mihos easily destroyed that blast with his greatsword. But the impact still stopped his advance. Jack used Shooting Dash that had been off cooldown to arrive before Mihos and then used Hundred Shadow Strikes. Mihos should have used up his trump card, it was time to go all out!

Jack's body split up into ten shadows before each of them slashed at Mihos. The shadows were too fast. Mihos could only block one slash while the other nine hit his body.

The previous Lightning God Barrage fueled by Overlimit had taken around 80,000 of Mihos' HP, while Hundred Shadow Strikes scored almost 30,000 HP. Both produced damage much less than they should be. Jack attributed this to Mihos' excellent defense.

Combined with all the damages that accumulated till now, Mihos was down to 500,000 HP. They needed to take out a little bit over 100,000 HP more.



Jack used beast form. He was not going to let his weapon's Overlimit state go to waste. He kept Mihos at close range and fought aggressively. Peniel cast Healing Field where he stood to support his reckless assaults.

Domon, Arthur, and Therras came and cut off Mihos' retreat path. All four fought Mihos with a fiery spirit.

When it seemed that things were going their way. Mihos uttered a roar, not the lion roar that caused Disoriented and Dizzy statuses, but a normal roar. Yet, what happened next was anything but normal. Some kind of an apparition appeared above Mihos. A muscled humanoid creature with a lion's head. This apparition uttered a roar as well.

Jack, Domon, and Arthur could feel Mihos' aura spiked after the appearance of this apparition.

"That's... Ancestral Possession!" Peniel shouted.

Before Jack could ask what the hell that was, Mihos' greatsword slashed at him. Mihos was faster than before. The speed increase took Jack by surprise but Jack still manage to block using his attack. His claws were smacked aside, the strength difference had become wider. Mihos made another slash and cut Jack's belly, causing damage. It's a good thing Mihos' greatsword was no longer covered by the golden flame, its duration had ended. Otherwise, Jack would have suffered burn damage as well.

The apparition above Mihos' head wasn't just a decoration. It swiped back at Domon and Arthur with its two claws. The two's weapons were smacked aside as well. If even Jack who had crazy strength stats easily lost the strength contest, Domon and Arthur had no chance no matter how well they utilize their martial arts. In front of absolute power, any art would be useless.

Mihos made a slash at each of his opponents, including Therras. Peniel hurriedly cast Group Fast Heal to take everyone's life back to safety. Princess Purple also helped by casting Heal from the side.

Jack activated Golden Scale Armor and forced himself forward. He crashed his werewolf body onto Mihos and forcefully hugged him, he interlocked his arm behind Mihos. His strength lost to Mihos but he still restrained Mihos' movement in this way. "Get him!" He shouted.

Domon, Arthur, and Therras weren't going to let this chance go. They attacked frantically. Giant Steve forced himself up and joined. Even Princess Purple cast Mana Bullet, Energy Bolts, and standard range attacks to help as much as possible.

Mihos might be restrained, but the apparition above him didn't. It continued to claw at Jack who was still stubbornly clinging to Mihos. If it was not for the Gold Scale Armor, Jack wouldn't have lasted this long. The damage dealt by the apparition was also tremendous.

Peniel cast Fast Heal on Jack. Even Princess Purple who said that she won't heal Jack was influenced by the heat of the moment, she used her healing spells to help Jack survive.

They were so close already. Jack had chosen this risky move because he noticed Mihos' HP recovery had increased to 1,000 HP per second after the apparition appeared. With that kind of regeneration, he would need to hit Mihos with two standard attacks every second to offset the recovery. Three or four standard attacks for the others. He couldn't let this battle be prolonged.

Mihos suddenly uttered the lion's roar. This was the skill version that emitted shockwave. Everyone was afflicted with either Disoriented or Dizzy, causing their offensive to pause.

Jack, who had high resistances, was luckily not afflicted this time. Yet, the roar's shockwave rattled him enough that his grip loosened. Mihos used his great strength and pushed Jack's arm away. He then stabbed forward.

Jack's HP was very low already by then. That stab should have killed him, but Peniel cast invulnerability in the nick of time.

Jack didn't let go of the chance, he used Devouring Cross, damaging Mihos as well as refilling his HP. Mihos saw that the situation was not too good. He made a circular swing. Jack sensed the swing this time was fueled with mana manipulation. It seemed Mihos had also gone serious.

The circular swing hit everyone except for Princess Purple who stood away. Jack was still protected by the invulnerability status. Domon and Arthur sensed the danger from the swing. They also used their strongest technique with mana manipulation to resist the swing, they suffered damage but survived. Giant Steve and Terras were killed outright by the swing.

Jack saw Mihos' complexion turn pale after the move. Mihos retreated.

Jack wasn't going to let him go. He took a low posture with his one claw in a position as if readying to make a slash. Arthur sensed the mana swimming around Jack's claw. He also adopted a similar posture by Jack's side.

Jack's claw then slashed forward, executing One-word Slash. At the same time, Arthur also slashed out with the same martial art. Considering the old draconian was a master swordsman, it was not strange for him to know this sword technique as well. The light flash produced by their slashes crisscrossed one another, becoming a cross slash.

Mihos put his greatsword to his front for a parry, his apparition also came forward to block the two slashes. When it touched the slash, a loud clang was heard. The apparition was slashed into four parts. It then dissipated.

Mihos was greatly shocked when he saw his apparition destroyed by the combination slash. The energy residue of the slashes also hit his parrying greatsword and caused it to lower.

At this time, Domon used Charge and came before Mihos. His glaive burst with violent bluish-purple energy. His Ki Strike fueled by mana manipulation then engulfed the native champion.

## **Chapter 714: Sword Fiend's Gear**

The energy blast of the Ki Strike exploded spectacularly. Domon's application of mana manipulation on game skills could impress even a being like Pallas, the power of the Ki Strike just now was nothing to scoff at.

Mihos shot out from the impact. He flew a large distance away before managing to plant his feet back on the ground and skidded to a stop. When he was about to lunge back, Pallas' voice was heard from the sky, "Stop! The match has ended."

Mihos was surprised by the announcement but when he took a look at himself, he found his HP was below half already.

The void around them crumbled, revealing the outside world again. Those who had died have been revived back. They were all standing in the arena.

Callan came to them with claps. The audience followed with their clappings.

"Amazing! The ten of you are truly worthy of being the champions among outworlders," Callan praised.

'Considering it needs ten of us to take one of you down, by even half a life to add, I wouldn't say that as impressive,' Jack thought in his mind.

Callan, however, showed genuine admiration. He came and shook each of the ten's hands. Mihos, on the other hand, only showed his appreciation to Jack, Domon, Arthur, and Leavemealone.

"Your sword moves are very impressive," Mihos said to Arthur. To Domon, he said, "Your mastery in mana manipulation is a marvel, it truly opens my eyes."

To Jack and Leavemealone, Mihos addressed both of them together, "You two are rather reckless... but brave. It is an honor to fight you."

"The honor is ours," Jack replied for the both of them. He knew Leavemealone would just be rude and say nothing.

"Um... Our rewards," Princess Purple uttered. Jack turned to her. 'Damn, girl,' he uttered in his mind.

Callan didn't mind. "Of course," He said. He asked everyone to stand in a line as he took out the golden orb he had used to hand out the rewards during the prize-giving ceremony.

"Yellow Death, please come forward," Callan called.

Yellow Death had been wearing a glum face. He was the first one to be sent out from the match just now. He was wondering if the quality of his reward would be reduced because of that?

Callan showed him the description of the reward. He was given level 50 super rare grade seven-piece set equipment specialized for a gunner as well as a selection of weapons to choose from.

The divine priest was not kidding, the rewards they gave for this bonus match were exactly the same as the first winner of the tournament, albeit no gold coins.

Yellow Death was still gaping at the description when Callan asked him, "Is there a problem?"

He snapped out of his daze and hurriedly say, "No, no, no problem!" He hurriedly interfaced with the holographic display in front of him. He took the set equipment and quickly selected a long rifle from the weapon selection. He was afraid that if he took his time, Callan might change his mind.

Yellow Death's face was beaming with a smile as he returned to the line. When he passed Jack by, Jack said to him, "All's well that ends well, right?"

Yellow Death's face was back to scowling again, he said to Jack, "Well my ass! I would have gotten double the prize already if not for your meddling!"

'Shit! If not for my meddling, you wouldn't even be the champion,' Jack cursed in his mind. Some people just couldn't learn to be satisfied.

Callan continued to call one after the other. Jack noticed the order of the call was based on who died first in the bonus match. Red Death was next, after that was David, then Selena, and so on, but the rewards were the same. No one got a better one even if they were killed later.

David had gotten a super rare handgun in the previous reward, so this time he chose a super rare dagger. The weapons on his two hands were now equally deadly. For Giant Steve, he chose a super rare tower shield instead of a weapon. He knew his role was better as a protector, a shield would serve better than a weapon.

While waiting for his turn, Jack asked Peniel in his mind. 'What was that Ancestral Possession you mentioned during the fight just now?'

'Ancestral Possession is a standard skill that Berserker received once they reach level 50,' Peniel answered.

'What? A berserker will receive such a powerful skill at level 50?' Jack almost blurted out loud. Mihos had certainly almost turned the tide when he used the skill.

'All level 50 skills are powerful,' Peniel remarked. 'As I mentioned before, level 50 will be the last level that an elite class receives a free standard skill. After that, one has to either find a special class or learn additional skills from technique books. Anyway, the Ancestral Possession that Mihos exhibited during the fight is not the standard Ancestral Possession a Berserker possesses when they get the skill. This skill was very much like your Beast Form skill. Every berserker will have the same standard ancestor when they used the skill, but through quests or other means, one can gain a different and more powerful ancestor to be summoned. The ancestral spirit Mihos had summoned was a much more powerful one compared to the standard one. The ancestral spirit he used with the skill is called the Spirit of the Divine Lion.'

'Well, the skill itself is already impressive without hearing its name,' Jack remarked.

Jack, Arthur, Domon, and Princess Purple didn't die in the bonus match. The order by which Callan called these four was random but the rewards were also the same. The exception was only in Arthur's case. Since he had received these rewards before, Callan presented him with different rewards. He received a super rare necklace, two super rare rings, and a super rare cloak.

'Damn!' Jack thought. This draconian swordmaster now boasted better equipment than even him. The two rings on his person at the moment were still rare grades.

For Jack, the weapon selection was not that enticing, considering his Storm Breaker and the sword he imprinted on his Magic Weapon spell were both already super-rare grades. He just chose a random longsword. He would use this extra piece for leveling up his Storm Breaker later. The seven-piece set equipment, however, was a welcome sight.

All his armors were already super-rare grade, but many of them were closing the limit by which he could level them up. Additionally, these set equipment provided bonuses if he equipped a set together. These were even set equipment specialized for the Blade Dancer class.

He immediately equipped his new set equipment on spot.

\*

Head piece

Sword Fiend's Headgear, level 50/80 (super rare set medium armor: Sword Fiend's Gear)

Physical defense: 180

Magical defense: 160

Durability: 50

Reflex +8

Wisdom +10

+10% resistance to all status ailments

\*

Chest piece

Sword Fiend's Ring Mail, level 50/80 (super rare set medium armor: Sword Fiend's Gear)

Physical Defense: 201

Magical Defense: 172

Durability: 60

Endurance +12

Dexterity +8

+5% defense for each blade orb

\*

Shoulder piece

Sword Fiend's Wings, level 50/80 (super rare set medium armor: Sword Fiend's Gear)

Physical Defense: 186

Magical Defense: 165

Durability: 50

Dexterity +10

Reflex +8

Increase blade orbs duration by 5 seconds

\*

Arms piece

Sword Fiend's Mitts, level 50/80 (super rare set medium armor: Sword Fiend's Gear)

Physical Defense: 175

Magical Defense: 151

Durability: 50

Strength +12

Dexterity +8

Parry effectiveness when using a sword is increased by 100%

\*

Belt piece

Sword Fiend's Binding, level 50/80 (super rare set medium armor: Sword Fiend's Gear)

Physical defense: 161

Magical defense: 140

Durability: 40

Strength +10

All elemental resistances +10

Recover +30 HP/second during combat

\*

Pants piece

Sword Fiend's Guard, level 50/80 (super rare set medium armor: Sword Fiend's Gear)

Physical Defense: 190

Magical Defense: 163

Durability: 50

Endurance +12

Wisdom +8

+5% attack speed for each blade orb

\*

Boots piece

Sword Fiend's Boots, level 50/80 (super rare set medium armor: Sword Fiend's Gear)

Physical defense: 181

Magical defense: 159

Durability: 50

Reflex +10

Dexterity +8

Each successful hit increase movement speed by 60% for 5 seconds (cannot stack, another successful hit will reset the duration)

\*

The total physical and magical defense if only considering these seven gears were 1274 and 1110 respectively. These figures were less than his previous equipped equipment. The reason was that his previous armors were all level 53 already.

However, he still chose to wear this set equipment. Other than because these equipment's abilities catered to his Blade Dancer class, the reason was because of its set bonuses.

\*

Set bonus of Sword Fiend's Gear:

Two equipment: +100 to physical and magical defense

Four equipment: +30% to dexterity, +10% to movement and attack speed.

Six equipment: Blade orbs will no longer be reset if an attack is parried or blocked

Full set equipment: Increase maximum blade orbs to 30

\*

With the +100 points to both physical and magical defense, they roughly covered the defenses he lost from using these set equipment which were three levels lower.

The other bonuses were also very helpful for his Blade Dancer class. Now his blade orbs would only reset if his attack missed. As long as he hit the enemy, even if the attacks are parried or blocked without causing any damage, his blade orbs would remain. In addition, his maximum blade orbs had increased from twenty to thirty. If all thirty blade orbs appeared, his damage would increase by 30% for every single attack as long as the blade orbs were not reset.

## **Chapter 715: Invitation to Enter the Ancient Battleground**

Pallas dismissed everyone after Callan finished handing the rewards for the bonus match. The Divine Champion told everyone that they were still welcome to linger around for the rest of the day, but they hoped everyone would leave already by the end of the day.

Some decided to leave right that moment, especially the native representatives. It's not like they had a lot of free time on their hands. Many tasks still awaited them back in their countries.

Prince Alonzo came to Jack and congratulated him again. He asked if Jack would like to go back with them. Jack said he still has something else to do. Jack also asked if the Prince needed any urgent help from him? Because he had some other plans at the moment.

Prince Alonzo understood. Jack had helped him a lot by winning the tournament this time, he could give Jack some free time for a while. Furthermore, with the prestige gained from this tournament, he would be busy making a trip around the kingdom and gathering support. There was also the matter of the Council of Virtus' blessing. Pallas had informed the prince that he would be their liaison in the Themisphere kingdom. The trainers they sent will train the officers chosen by Prince Alonzo, which meant that his camp would receive the full benefit from this council.

He could do all this without Jack. He told Jack he had no urgent matter at the moment but reminded Jack to go back when he could, to report the completion of the chain faction quest so Jack got his merit points. He also told Jack he would leave a message in Everlasting Heavenly Legends if anything urgent came up.

Jack thanked the prince for it.

Duchess Isabelle came to say a parting word next. When she did, Jack felt something different about her. He used Inspect on her and found out that she was level 80.

"You have fully recovered?" Jack said with a surprise.

"Thanks to you for winning the tournament, divine priest Callan offered a healing prayer to help me recover. He considers it as the first favor for the winning country," Duchess Isabelle replied.

Gruff came to congratulate Jack and said his farewell next.

"You are not going to pretend to forget your promise now, are you?" Jack asked.

"Of course not! What kind of person do you think I am?" Gruff asked with a hurt expression.

"The kind that purposefully avoids me after playing a trick on me?"

"You can't judge a person simply because of what he did."

"The hell kind of reasoning is that? That's exactly how one should judge a person!"

"Let's just let bygone be bygone, okay? Relax! Your 3000 glory points will be waiting for you once you come to see me again."

"And one super rare grade armor!"

"You still don't have enough good equipment? Fine! And one super rare grade armor."

"I have a feeling you are swindling me. I bet you are getting way more than 3000 glory points on your part, don't you?" Jack asked.

"Haha, you think too much. Okay, be seeing you!" Gruff uttered and then walked away at a quick pace.



'Very suspicious,' Jack thought.

After the natives left. It was Four Winds that came by.

"Are you leaving now?" Jack asked.

"Yes, I have many guild matters to attend to back at Verremor," Four Winds answered.

"Yeah, a leader's job indeed never ends. I understand your hardship," Jack said.

Jeanny who was nearby and heard the conversation, said, "No, you do not!"

Jack ignored her. He spoke to Four Winds, "There is one thing I need to ask, I know you shouldn't have anything to do with this, but I still need to make sure. Do you know that there is an assassination attempt on our team healer a day just before your team's fight with the vampire team? Do you know anything about it?"

"There is such a happening?" Four Winds uttered. "No, I don't. Do you suspect either my team or the vampire team is behind that assassination?"

"That is what I suspect at first, but after fighting against you. I'm sure you are not someone who uses such a shallow method to win."

"I've fought against the vampire team. I also don't think they are the type to use such a method."

"Hm... Then this will continue a mystery for me. Well, I guess this is goodbye. If you ever come to Themisphere, contact me, I will give you a tour around the country."

"I offer you the same if you visit Verremor," Four Winds replied.

"You two are saying it as if your two countries are friendly to each other," Peniel commented.

"Well, I never say I'm going to give him a tour into the cities. I can still take him wandering around the wilderness," Jack said.

Four Winds laughed. "That being said. I might need to give you some information."

"What information?" Jack asked.

"It might be nothing, but rumors have been circling in Verremor about military activity increasing near the nation's border with Themisphere."

"You think a conflict might happen?"

"I'm not sure. Well, if it happens, perhaps we can meet again. At that time, we can probably fight for real, as guilds."

"Oh? You know that a country will summon guilds' forces to its war?"

"Not only know, but we have experienced it already. Many of Verremor's tribes are warring maniacs. Even though they ruled the nation as one body, they also often waged war with one another for no particular reason. Many guilds joined these wars for rewards and merits."

"Wow, really different custom with Themisphere. Well... If any conflict does happen between our countries, perhaps you can then witness the might of Themisphere's number one guild."

"And you can witness the might of Cipher Flight."

After saying his farewell, Four Winds left with his four followers. Jack looked around trying to find Paytowin, they will be diving back into the ancient battleground one last time.

When he found his friend, Paytowin was walking over with Callan by his side.

"Greetings, champion," Callan said once he arrived.

"Your Holiness, I'm honored by your presence," Jack tried to be polite.

"I heard you want to enter the ancient battleground again, don't you?" Callan asked.

"I do... Will that be a problem?" Jack asked worriedly.

"Not a problem at all. In fact, I would like to ask you to gather another seven outworlders aside from you and Paytowin. This ancient battleground is best if you do it with a full team."

Jack was amazed to hear that. "I can invite others?"

Callan nodded. "Yes, but only seven others. The ancient battleground has an entry limit."

"Wait, isn't the entry limit ten persons? Shouldn't I find another eight then?" Jack asked.

"I have another candidate to join your team aside from Paytowin here," Callan said. "Once you gather your team, come to the temple. I will be waiting inside the ancient battleground hall. Oh, one other thing, if possible, invite him as well," Callan motioned to Leavemealone who stood beside Domon not far away. "I saw you two are friends, aren't you?"

"Okay," Jack nodded, but then added, "Do Your Holiness mind waiting three hours before we enter the ancient battleground?"

"It's fine, as long as it is still today," The divine priest said. When he saw Jack didn't say anything else, he walked away.

"Why wait three hours? Do you need so long to gather the other seven?" Asked Paytowin who stayed there.

"No, I need the time for something else," Jack replied. "Do you know who the other candidate Callan was referring to?"

Paytowin replied by shaking his head.

Jack was wondering who he should invite to join him aside from Leavemealone. Grace was obvious, they had planned to do it together originally. After a brief thought, he immediately called the friends that were still there at the roman theater as well as sent messages to the ones that were not.

Most had already left the arena, so they had the place all to themselves. Domon, Jeanny, Giant Steve, and Leavemealone never left the place, so Jack called them and told them about the ancient battleground.

"You have been playing such an exciting game all this time and you didn't invite us?" Giant Steve complained.

"Don't blame him, I'm the one who invites him," Paytowin said. "This council's facility is reserved for council members only. I pleaded for Jack's case. It was not an easy permit, that's why I couldn't give more spots. This time Divine Priest Callan has permitted more members, I am also surprised by his offer. Perhaps because Jack had become the team champion."

"Then shouldn't he have asked for the tournament team? He only asked me," Jack said. "Hell, he even asked for Haon, and this dude did not even win the tournament."

"Who's Haon?" Most asked while at the same time Leavemealone said, "Me?"

"Haon Shaw is his real name," Jack informed everyone.

"Why would divine priest Callan ask for him?" Paytowin asked.

"Yeah, do you have some kind of shady dealings with the divine priest?" Jack asked Leavemealone.

"I never talk to him. I even only see him during the matches," Leavemealone answered.

"Well, never mind that then," Jack said.

"What never mind? You are really taking things too easy," Jeanny said.

At this time, Grace came.

"This is another member joining us," Jack introduced. "Everyone had seen her during the team match. She is a good player. She is also a good friend to George," Jack said while pointing at Paytowin.

Grace gave Jack a brief glare when Jack said that but otherwise didn't say anything.

"Have you asked that swordmaster?" Jack asked his grandfather.

"He had already left," Domon answered. "He also said he is not that interested, but I've asked another person."

"Who?" Jack asked.

"Jack boy, do you forget about this uncle of yours? I'm hurt!" Jack heard a voice from his back. He turned and saw Jet approaching.

"Oh, right...," Jack uttered.

"Shit, you truly forgot. Now I'm offended," Jet said.

"We have eight here now," Paytowin said. "One person left. Who else do you call?"

Before Jack answered, they saw Red Death coming over.

## **Chapter 716: Game Plan for the Ancient Battleground**

"Her?" Both Jeanny and Grace said at the same time after seeing Red Death.

Jack had invited Red Death after Callan gave him the invitation. She was still in the Roman theater then. She had to leave for a while to talk with Rhemos' aide, the cloaked man, who had not yet left this place.

Jeanny turned to Jack, "You mentioned this ancient battleground gives good rewards if we perform well, right? Is it wise to share them with our enemy?"

"Our guild is enemy with hers, but she herself is not our enemy," Jack said.

"I'm completely lost on that logic, mate," Giant Steve said.

"The divine priest gives him the right to choose, so it's his right," Grace uttered. Jack turned to her. She sounded supportive, but why did he feel like there was a hint of anger in her tone? Must be just his imagination, Jack thought.

Red Death arrived before them, she just gave them all cold looks. Her eyes lingered longer on Grace, she then said to Jack, "Congratulations on getting a new guild member."

"Oh, right! I saw your name pop up in the member list. I was wondering at first if it is the same Grace from this tournament," Jeanny said.

"Yeah, now we can have access to the elven country," Jack uttered, before turning to Grace and saying, "You will establish the teleportation link for our guild, right?"

"Once I return to one of the cities," Grace replied.

"Awesome," Giant Steve uttered.

"Ahem!" They heard Jet's voice. Everyone turned to him. "You people sound so glad about getting access to the elven country, what about the dwarven country?"

Jeanny and Jack used Inspect on him.

"You have also joined our guild? I didn't notice you before on our member list," Jeanny said.

"Wow, how did you join?" Jack asked.

"I invited him not long ago," Domon said.

"Shit! I am twice being offended now. I want to quit the guild!" Jet uttered.

"Hey, come on. Calm down now, my good uncle," Jack said with a laugh. "We all welcome you with open arms. To get a martial expert like you, our guild has hit the jackpot."

"Hmph..., my friends in the tournament team also follow me in joining," Jet said.

"Sure, sure, the more the merrier," Jack said.

"Don't expect me to be a lackey, though. I simply joined because Domon mentioned it is not so strict there. I simply plan to hang around your guild headquarters and help Domon once in a while."

"Do you think our headquarters is a cafeteria?" Jack said. "Well, I don't mind about you. You helping Domon teach other members martial arts is already a great help, but your other friends will have to contribute at least the basic weekly requirements. Otherwise, it will look bad with the other members."

"I'm surprised you care about that," Jeanny commented.

"Should be no problem," Jet said. "Domon already told us about the minimum contributions needed."

"Are you done discussing your guild? Are we going to do this ancient battleground or not?" Red Death uttered.

"You are welcome to leave anytime you want," Grace retorted.

The two women ended up in a staring contest.

Jack hurriedly interfered. "All right, let's talk about the ancient battleground we will be diving into. We have less than three hours before we go in, so I'm going to lay out what George and I have experienced until our last run."

Jack told them about the details of the ancient battleground, the levels and grades of the armies inside, the minimum requirements they needed to achieve before getting individual scores, and the secret path they had found in the last run which allowed them to gain some decent scores.

"If we kill more than one thousand opponents before the three hours time limit, will the excess kill counts contribute to our scores?" Jet asked.

"No, our scores will only start after both requirements are met," Paytowin answered.

"Then there is no use for us to kill more than needed after we hit the one thousand mark, right?" Jet said. "If only the two of you can achieve one thousand kill counts before three hours, then with my mighty help, the kill count requirement will sure get accomplished in a much shorter time. We can then just sit by the side and watch the whole show as we wait for three hours to pass."

"Although you are not wrong that we will get the kill count requirement faster now that we have a full team, I still advise against taking such a lazy approach," Jack said.

"And why is that? Why should I put my old bones to labor when there is no benefit?" Jet asked.

Jack rolled his eyes at Jet, he then said, "Remember the eternal-grade commander that I said wiped out everything with his spell?"

"What about him?"

"I think he is some sort of an internal time limit in that simulation. I can hardly think of anyone surviving that spell of his. This means once he takes action, everything is over. Remember what I mentioned about when he starts taking action?"

Paytowin came to a realization. "The time when the war at the chokepoint fort is over!" He uttered.

"Exactly! He stayed indifferent even when a battle occurred so close to where he was sitting. He only stood up and joined the battle after every enemy at the fort is defeated. This means if we help thin the enemies attacking the fort and keep more friendly soldiers surviving the first three hours, the war at the fort will be prolonged. Hence, our battle at the enemy's camp will also be longer. We will then have more time to gain more scores."

"So, basically the point is still to kill as many enemies as possible," Giant Steve said

"Yes. However, I advise saving all your long cooldown skills for the last battle at the enemy's camp. That is where we will need to give it our all to get scores."

"What about the supply carts?" Jeanny asked. "You mentioned the camp is full of it, right? Do we get scores for destroying it?"

"We didn't destroy any supply cart in our last run, so we have no confirmation, but I highly suspect it will. In fact, I think it is the whole point of the operation into the enemy camp. The eternal-grade commander is certainly impossible to kill, so that sneak mission is not taking the enemy's head. I think the defenders know they have no chance to win, but if they take out the enemy's supplies, they can halt the enemy's advance. We should be able to know for sure if we check this world's history."

Jack said the last sentence and looked at Paytowin at the same time.

"Why are you looking at me?" Paytowin asked.

"You didn't study the history of the simulation you enter?"

"What about the two of you?" Jack asked Peniel and Carnelia.

"Our knowledge doesn't include all history. We know the general history of this world, but not those details," Peniel answered.

"Hm... Anyway, I'm still pretty sure destroying those supply carts is the key to getting more scores. In fact, my plan on the last run today is to target those supplies. Now that I have more underlings, this task should be easier."

Everyone rolled their eyes at his remark.

"I have a question," Jet asked. "If that commander you mentioned sits still with his back on you. Isn't that the best chance to ambush him? Even if you can't kill him, at least damaging him should be a feat worthy to be granted scores, shouldn't it?"

"I don't know. Until our last run, we only get scores from killing opponents," Jack said. "I don't say that your theory is not likely, but we only have one chance to do this run. If you hit him when there is no score and he ends up taking action earlier due to your hit, then we will be the ones who lose the chance for more scores. So don't try that experiment."

"So, what's the game plan?" Grace asked.

"We kill as many enemies as possible before the three hours mark. Save the big skills. Follow the shock troop to sneak into the enemy's backline. After that, we follow the troops that rushed towards the supply carts and destroyed as many supplies as possible."

"Sound simple," Jeanny said.

"If everyone is clear. We will go together to the temple a bit over two hours from now. You can go somewhere else to relax in the meantime, just make sure to come back here after two hours," Jack said to them.

Everyone stayed there. Most sat relaxing at the roman theater's stone steps. Leavemealone went a few distances away and started training on his own. Jack also trained his mana manipulation at the arena. He had somehow performed the perfect execution of One-word Slash utilizing mana manipulation in the combat against Mihos. He still got the feeling. But when he tried it again, he saw the flash produced by his slash was slightly crooked. He could sense the power accompanying that slash was much weaker than the one in the bonus match.

'Was that slash a fluke?' Jack thought

He didn't let this failure bring him down. He continued training while waiting for the time.

### **Chapter 717: Entering the Ancient Battleground with a Full Team**

Using mana manipulation technique could be very tiring even when the technique was executed poorly. Jack felt great fatigue after a few slashes. He couldn't train much during the short wait. He ended up training more in doing simple mana manipulation by meditation.

The time went by quickly, after almost three hours passed since the end of the bonus match, Jack told everyone it was time to leave.

The nine went to the Temple of Courage. The knights guarding the entrance to the temple scrutinized the lot when they approached. Paytwin was just about to produce his badge when one of the knights said, "Go in. The divine priest is waiting."

The nine then proceeded inside. They went directly to the hall where the ancient battleground device was located. In the hall, three people were waiting. Callan, Pallas, and Mihos. The nine greeted each of them politely, even to Mihos. Despite Mihos looking young, his mythical-grade status commanded respect.

"Good, everybody is here. Pallas, start the device," Callan instructed.

Pallas obeyed the instruction and worked the device. A portal soon appeared.

"Your Holiness, you mentioned you have another candidate to join us? We are only nine here," Jack said.

"The tenth member to join you into the ancient battleground is right here," Callan said while gesturing to Mihos.

"Him?" Jack was astounded. Even though Mihos' level was still in range for this ancient battleground, Jack thought Callan was calling another outworlder from the tournament participants to join them. He never thought their tenth member would be a native instead.

"Do you have a problem?" Mihos asked.

"No, no, of course not!" Jack laughed. "I'm just surprised, that's all. We are too weak compared to you, I just never thought that you are willing to join us."

"Don't sell yourself short. Perhaps in terms of raw power, you are behind, but you all carry the willpower and wits to overcome a situation. I have seen it in the tournament matches as well as experiencing it myself during our fight," Mihos said.

"Well, in that case, we are honored to have you on board," Jack said.

Jack then created a party and invited the eight players there. As a native, Mihos couldn't be invited into their party system. So, Jack asked, "Sir Mihos, will you be leading us in this ancient battleground?"

"Normally, I did so when I entered with our council knights," Mihos answered. "But now, I'm just a guest. I will assist you inside."

"So, are you fine with following my orders?" Jack asked.

"As long as you don't ask me to do cowardly acts, yes, I am in your command," Mihos answered.

Sweet, Jack thought. He didn't think the score this native gained would be transferred to them since Paytowin had mentioned that natives also used this ancient battleground to gain scores, but at least the exp points from killing the opponents would be given to them.

"All right, if everyone is ready. Let's enter," Jack looked at everyone, who nodded.

Before they entered, Callan said to them, "Please remember we allow you to enter this ancient battleground this one time only. After this, you will have to leave this place. So, make full use of it."

Callan then gestured for them to enter. Jack took the initiative to enter first.

Once they appeared inside, those that entered this place for the first time, marveled at the countless armies around them. Paytowin explained to them in more detail now that they had a direct perspective. He was pointing to show them the directions that were discussed before.

Jack, in the meanwhile, spoke to Mihos, "You have entered this ancient battleground before, right?"

"Several times," Mihos nodded.

"Any secret tips to help us gain more scores?" Jack asked.

"I heard you have gained decent scores the last time, right? Then you have found the path where we attack the enemy camp."

"Yes, is that all to it?"

"All that's left after that is to fight courageously and take down as many enemies as you can."

So, no other secret features. This meant they should just carry out the plan they had talked about before.

"Hey, everyone, checked your status window," Jeanny said.

"Oh? Why?" Jack asked.

Giant Steve had done so when Jeanny asked, "Wow! I got this buff called Aura of Courage. It increases my attributes by 30%, damage by 5%, reduces damage received by also 5%, and stamina recovery by 50%!"

"I have it too!" Paytowin said.

Jack checked his status window and confirmed he had this buff as well.



"That's my passive ability, Aura of Courage" Mihos informed. "My allies gain that bonus as long as they stayed within a fifty-meter radius from me."

"Wow! That is a very large area of effect for a passive buff. You, my friend, are an invaluable asset in any war situation," Jack said.

The ten then rushed forward. Mihos originally ran towards the golden knights, but he saw the nine outworlders go the other way, he changed direction and followed them. He had promised to assist the outworlders, after all.

While they waited for the enemy army to arrive, he laid out their general formation. "We will fight in pairs. Most of us are melees, so there is not much need for protection. Mihos, you stay close to Paytowin. Grace, you are with Jeanny. Leavemealone will follow Domon. Giant Steve stayed with Red Death. Uncle Jet, you will be with me."

"Why this arrangement?" Red Death asked.

"Sister, I'm just deciding it randomly. You can't expect me to have a reason for everything now, can you? Anyway, in your case, I thought having Giant Steve using his share damage on you can help you fight without a worry."

"Hmph, I don't need it," Red Death uttered.

Jack sighed. "Anyway. Even though we are in pair. Do not wander too far from the others. Stay in the vicinity so Grace and Peniel can heal you when needed. That is also so we can all move together when it's time. All right, here they come!"

The black army clashed with the defending army's front line. They saw those soldiers getting pushed back. Not long after, enemies started pouring through, jumping over, or simply flying above.

Everyone paired up as Jack had instructed and spread out to cover more ground. They collected kill counts as they defeated the enemies. With ten people, the number in the sky went up fast. Especially since they got Mihos. The mythical-grade champion cut down enemies like weeds. Even though Mihos was one level lower than the lead golden knight on the other side, Jack didn't think Mihos was weaker.

They reached their one thousand kill requirement before they even hit the second hour. They continued, trying to keep as many of the defending soldiers alive.

The players restrained themselves from using skills that require long cooldown time as Jack had advised. Jack and Jet called out their pets, so as Paytowin who summoned his Brave King. Those summons didn't have duration or cooldown.

Jack had a part of his mind kept attention to the time as he fought.

"It is time!" Jack shouted to the others. "We have to move now!"

The others had followed the command and stayed within earshot, so they immediately gathered after hearing Jack's call. The team proceeded and quickly located their targets since Jack already knew the position of the shock troops. They then stayed with those troops until the troops started moving away.

Together with the troops, the team went into the hidden pathway behind the hills. Following the troops, they charged out from behind the hills after enclosing the enemy camp.

"Stay with me!" Jack ordered.

Jack placed himself by the right-wing side of the golden troops because that's the side where half of the troops will break away and headed to the supply carts. When they did, Jack and the others followed.

These half-troops soon broke again into smaller halves, the same as previous. One half continued towards the supply carts, while the other half headed to engage the enemy's elite guards who were also coming over. The player team followed the one headed to the supply cart.

When they were moving, Jack noticed Mihos was not with them. He looked back and saw the native champion following the golden knights who were going to engage the enemy's elite guards.

"Mihos! Why are you over there?" Jack yelled at him.

Mihos turned to him briefly and shouted, "For glory...!!!" He then turned back and readied himself to clash with the dark-armored elite guards.

'F\*ck! What glory? What happens about following my order?' Jack cursed in his mind. Never mind, that champion's scores won't affect theirs. Let him hold those guards would be good as well, less enemy to come to bother them when they destroyed the carts.

When the supply carts came into range, Jack used Sword of Light on one of them. His skill produced damage of nearly 5,000 points. The HP bar above the cart showed that it lost around ten percent of life. He made a quick calculation before activating Adrenaline Rush and Overlimit. He then used Lightning God Barrage. This divine skill had just gone off cooldown. He had asked Callan for a three hours break after the bonus match to allow his weapon's Overlimit and this divine skill to finish its cooldown period.

He targeted four supply carts that were near each other. He divided his twenty lightning balls into two groups of ten balls. These ten balls exploded between two carts, their blast coverage was enough to hit two adjacent carts. From his calculation, the carts should have HP close to 50,000 and their defenses were only so-so. His boosted Lightning God Barrage could produce a total of around 120,000 damages against a target with such a defense. By separating his twenty balls into two, he halved his total damage but this half damage should still be enough if his calculation was correct.

After the impressive lightning explosion from the divine skill subsided, four supply carts were destroyed.

Jack looked up to the sky, he was shocked to find his scores had shot up to 12,000. It was already more than double his previous highest score. Each of these supply carts granted 3,000 scores. Around ten times the scores if they killed one rare elite opponent!

## **Chapter 718: Score Gathering**

"We are right! Destroying these supply carts granted massive scores. Let's get to work!" Jack yelled.

The others also saw Jack's score shoot up on the projection in the sky. That alone had given them the motivation.

Leavemealone copied Jack's method, he activated his weapon's Overlimit and used his Fire God Barrage, destroying four carts as well.

"Copycat!" Jack uttered. He then said, "Let's head over to the farther part. Those black-armored soldiers will be coming soon. We will get hindered when they came. Let the golden knights deal with them, we focus on destroying as many carts as possible. Spread out! Each person takes on one cart. Don't kill-steal from own teammates!"

Everyone agreed with Jack's plan. They ignored the closest carts and head deeper. They could hear the golden knights behind them clashing with the enemy soldiers that chased over. There were still some loose enemies hanging around the carts, but they seemed to be only lowly workers, they were basic and elite grades. The players had no problem dispatching these workers before targeting the supply carts.

After they put a good distance between them and the battling enemies behind, they got to work. Jack, Jet, and Paytowin resummoned their pets and techno golem to help them destroy the supply carts. They dished out all their skills right from the start. Everyone destroyed at least one cart because of that, but the progress slowed down significantly when they had only standard attacks to rely on. 50,000 damages still need a decent amount of time if they use only standard attacks. Domon, Jet, and Jack were exceptions. Domon and Jet because they could use mana manipulation in their standard attacks. For Jack, his base damage was already very high and he had a ridiculously large arsenal of skills and spells.

Jack went all out. Based on the previous run, he knew they didn't have much time. Added with the four carts he destroyed previously, he had destroyed eight supply carts already in total when he noticed Grace was dealing damage to the cart next to him. She seemed to be having trouble. Although Inquisitor gained decent melee capability, it was still originally a Healer class, its damage was not that impressive.

Jack used Wind Slash, the wind energies sliced through his cart and went on to hit Grace's as well, bringing down a significant amount of HP. He also sent Therras over to assist Grace, but kept the pet in check with a part of his mind so that Therras didn't accidentally destroy the cart. Grace glanced over with an expression of gratitude.

"A nice guy you are," Jack heard a voice from the other side. He turned and saw Red Death was stabbing a supply cart on his other side.

"Go and help your girlfriend, she seemed to need the help," Red Death added.

"Uh," Jack was confused for a moment. Her tone seemed to carry resentment. Was she bitter because he helped Grace and not her? Jack then fired a Mana Bullet and Energy Bolts at the cart Red Death was hitting at.

Red Death glared at him for the act. "I said help her, I don't need your help!"

She did multiple quick stabs at her cart which was low on health already. It broke and she then went to target another cart some distance away.

Jack was clueless about her reaction. He could only go back to dealing with the supply cart in front of him. He left Therras with Grace though, the girl did need the help.

When Jack broke his tenth supply cart, he heard Giant Steve's yelling from the back. "Contact!"

He looked back and saw several black-armored mutated soldiers approaching. Giant Steve had started clashing with them. Jet was nearby so he helped. He was in his form.

Jack rushed over, firing Mana Beam in the process, before diving into the enemies' midst with Charge, executing Whirlwind Slash and casting Ice Ring before jumping out and casting Arcane Turbulence.

"Go! I will handle this," Jack said to him. Giant Steve was a Sentinel who had a great defense but only average damage, so he hadn't destroyed many supply carts.

"Appreciated," Giant Steve replied and went away.

Jack proceeded to deal with the enemies there. As he fought, he noticed Jet was fighting alongside him.

"Hey, I said I can handle them. You go and destroy more carts," Jack said.

Jet didn't leave. He said, "Killing these enemies will yield points as well, right? I am getting bored just hitting carts. Now that there are real opponents, let me play as well."

"Hehe, then let's play," Jack said.

"Why are you not in your ugly wolf form?" Jet asked as he grabbed a rare elite opponent and threw it away.

"Who do you call ugly? My wolf form is better than the other standard beastmaster!" Jack replied. He then transformed.

"Now that's better. Hey, stop the others from bothering me for a second," Jet uttered as he chased the rare elite that he had thrown away. It seemed that his intention was isolating that enemy from the rest.

Jack did as asked, he clawed and sent range attacks to every enemy there to draw their aggro. Thankfully, there was no mythical grade amongst the enemies here, but a rare elite was also very troublesome already. Jack thought Jet made the right call of not underestimating the rare elite and decided that he needed to fully focus on dealing with that enemy.

He looked back just in time to witness Jet performing that complex punch technique that had caused him trouble in their team match, the Seven Injuries Fists.

Although natives had higher HP, their movement and fighting patterns tend to be dull. They didn't have complex maneuvers as martial artists. Hence it was easier for Jet to land his hits compared to when he was fighting Jack.

Jet's seven fists hit his opponent's different body parts one by one. When the seventh fist struck. A series of lines appeared along the rare elite's body, seemingly connecting the seven spots where Jet had punched. They appeared as if a constellation.

Suddenly, these lines that formed the constellation turned blindingly bright. It then exploded spectacularly. The HP bar above the rare elite went down all the way to zero. Its body then disintegrated.

"Holy f\*ck!" Jack uttered. "Is that martial art for real? It can produce a crazy display like that?"

Jet actually seemed as surprised as Jack. "Uh... I also didn't expect that. When I used it in the real world, it simply kills the target without that weird light show."

"Wait, you killed someone in the real world using that martial art?" Jack asked.

Jet seemed to realize something. He hurriedly said, "What are you saying? Of course, I never kill anyone. You must have heard wrong. Ah! More enemies coming from there, I will go there and stop them."

He immediately ran off.

Jack looked at him. "Very suspicious," he muttered.

But more enemies indeed came. Several were even rare elites. Although he was able to deal with a rare elite now, fighting multiple at the same time was still an impossible task. All he could do was just hold them and kept their attention on him so that everyone could continue destroying the carts. Peniel cast Healing Field to help Jack endure.

While he thought that he couldn't hold on, a blast of energy sent several enemies away. He turned and found his grandfather there.

"It seemed like you need help," Domon asked.

"How many carts have you destroyed?" Jack asked.

"Ten," Domon replied.

'Same as me,' Jack thought, impressed. He then said, "Good, let's stop these enemies so the others can continue destroying the carts." At the same time, he also sent a message in the party chat, "Those that have destroyed at least ten carts, come and help hold the line. The others continue destroying more carts."

As they fought on, Jack saw Jet who was on the other side was having trouble. "Go help uncle Jet!" Jack said to his grandfather.

"The situation here also doesn't seem good," Domon said.

"Don't worry, I'll manage!" Jack said and activated Gold Scale Armor.

"All right," Domon said. He then used Charge and headed over to where Jet was.

"Ugh... The situation truly doesn't look good," Jack uttered as more and more enemies arrived. The golden knights back there were getting thinner, they couldn't stop these black soldiers from coming here. Peniel had used Fast Heal and Group Fast Heal on Jack, but his HP was still going down steadily facing these many opponents. He even used his Recovery Ring's active ability to heal himself. Jack had also summoned his ten wolves and called Therras to come and aid him, but he was still having trouble.

'Has none of the others destroyed ten carts yet?' He wondered. He was about to send a chat message requesting reinforcements when he saw a golden armored figure high in the air before coming down cleaving a rare elite right in front of him.

This golden figure then did a double whirlwind slash, forcing the surrounding enemies back.

This figure wore a golden chest plate with a lion-head carving. It was the mythical-grade champion, Mihos.

## **Chapter 719: Testing a Theory**

"You finally grace us with your presence?" Jack asked.

"Forgive me, I need to meet my opponents in combat," Mihos replied. "You people seemed safe enough, until now. That's why I come."

"I'm kidding, mate. I'm glad you are here. Let's deal with these scums, eh?"

"Gladly!" Mihos said before unleashing a deafening cry. The enemies around them received damage and were reeling back.

'Crap! Do you have to do that so close to me?' Jack complained as he felt his ears hurt, but then he received a notification that he had received a 100% boost in movement speed and attacking speed from Mihos' Lion Roar.

'So, that roar not only affects the enemies but gave benefits to allies as well? This Mihos is truly an asset in a team!' Jack thought.

Not long after, Leavemealone came and gave his support. He had destroyed twelve supply carts, two more than what Jack asked for because he thought that since Jack asked for ten, that should be the number of supplies Jack destroyed. He didn't want to lose to Jack. Yet, as they received extra manpower, more enemies also came. In the end, all they could do was just hold the line.

Mihos took the brunt of the enemy's force. He was much more ferocious compared to when he fought with the players earlier today. He had activated his ancestral possession. The lion-head apparition was above him as he dove into the enemies' midst. He swung his large greatsword violently while his apparition clawed at anyone who came near.

Jack and the others tried to support him as best as possible while keeping the enemies' attention to themselves, allowing others to continue destroying supply carts. Many of the enemies were killed by this rampaging champion. Jack lamented that the enemies inside this ancient battleground provided no soul. Otherwise, these high-grade enemies would have given tons of souls to his Container of Souls.

As they fought, they heard the sound of a horn. Jack's Dragon Eye, which could see far away, saw the eternal-grade commander, Herald of Greed, standing up. Jack had always allocated a portion of his attention to that sitting commander.

"It's time already," he uttered as he sent the message in the party chat, telling everyone to double their effort, that this simulation would end soon.

After giving his notice to everyone, he used Shooting Dash, heading towards Herald of Greed who had now turned back and was floating towards the combating soldiers.

"Peniel, get ready!" Jack said to her flying sidekick.

"Leave it to me!" Peniel replied. Jack had discussed a plan with her beforehand.

The others were stunned seeing Jack going towards the most powerful and unkillable being in this simulation.

"Lad, what are you planning?" Jet called out.

"I want to test your theory!" Jack replied.

As Jack got near, he saw several of the black-armored elite guards break away from their ongoing combat and come his way. There was no way a low-level outworlder like him to pose a danger to their commander, but it was still their duty to stop anyone that tried to approach.

When they almost came into range, a golden figure suddenly slammed onto one of them at high speed. It was Mihos who used his enhanced jump assault. A shockwave bubble radiated out from his body and pushed all these elite guards back.

"You have guts, I'll join you!" Mihos shouted to Jack. He then turned to those elite guards he had pushed back and yelled, "Face my Sword of the Braves!" Eight golden swords came out and struck them, forcing them back even further.

Jack was glad for the assist. He used Charge to increase his speed. Mihos did the same. He kept himself by Jack's side and struck anyone that tried to come near.

The floating black-robed Herald of Greed was now back on the ground. As before, his skull-head staff started to draw runic symbols in the air. When Jack and Mihos approached while he was still casting, a large black-armored mutated human stood before them. It was a level 50 mythical-grade elite guard.

Jack cast Myriad Ensnaring Chains. But as the ground glowed and the crimson chains started coming out, the mythical-grade elite guard struck a spot on the ground. He was using the same method Mihos had used to cancel Selena's Flame Turbulence. The crimson chains that had only emerged halfway, fell back to the ground and crumbled to dust.

"Allow me the glory of facing this opponent!" Mihos shouted passionately as he rushed forward and met the black-armored mythical-grade elite guard in direct combat. Jack took a roundabout way to avoid their battle. But because of that, Herald of Greed finished casting his nine-runes spell before Jack arrived.

"Peniel, now!" Jack uttered as the ground as far as he could see turned bright red.

He now experienced where his entire vision was covered by dense flame for the second time. The difference was, this time he was not immediately sent to the void space like the last time. This was because Peniel had cast Invulnerability just as Hell Inferno erupted.

Jack continued to run in the direction where Herald of Greed was last seen. The flame was still burning everywhere in his vision. The fire around him felt as if liquid, he felt like he was running inside water, there was pressure everywhere which slowed him down. Even with Peniel's invulnerability which protected him from the pain, he could still feel the extreme heat.

As he waded through the hellfire, he was worried that this spell lasted longer than three and a half seconds, which was the duration of his invulnerability. But the fire soon vanished, everything was visible again but the scene was now replaced by a desolate wasteland. Even the supply carts were all gone

already, Jack wondered if this world's history truly happened like this or this was just in this simulation? If so, then even if the golden knights were all wiped out, they still achieved their objectives because the enemy's commander had destroyed his own army's supplies?

He didn't have time to ponder this question because another scene was taking his attention. The Herald of Greed in front of him was casting another spell. Jack used Sword of Light while running forward. Herald of Greed lifted his left hand, then with that bare hand he caught the crescent light. He clenched his fist and the crescent light broke to pieces as if it was a tangible thing.

Six-runes spell on his staff was completed while Jack was still shocked by the way the Herald of Greed blocked his Sword of Light. Herald of Greed pointed his staff at Jack who was now right in front of him. Jack tried to use Flash Step to move away but his whole body was getting gripped by a powerful force. He couldn't move even a finger.

Herald of Greed lifted his staff and Jack's body was lifted into the air following the staff's movement.

"It's Telekinesis," Peniel informed.

Jack didn't have time to ask about this spell's details as he experienced it firsthand. He felt the pressure around him increasing greatly. He felt as if he was being crushed by an invisible hand. Perhaps he was, because damage numbers appeared one after another above him without Herald of Greed sending any attack at him.

In a short time, Jack's HP was depleted. Herald of Greed swung his staff downward and Jack's body was slammed hard onto the ground beside him. Jack failed to even touch his opponent.

Herald of Greed turned around to float away, but as his feet started to part way with the ground, he sensed something from behind. The one he had just put down and was bereft of mana a moment ago had suddenly filled up with mana again. He abruptly turned around, a spell formation started forming. But at the same time, a large cross-shaped dark energy engulfed him.

Peniel had cast Second Life before she cast invulnerability, right when Herald of Greed started casting his Hell Inferno. Once Jack came back to life, he didn't waste time and immediately used Devouring Cross. It was fortunate that he was already right beside his opponent.

The Devouring Cross hit. Herald of Greed suffered over 2,000 damages. Jack was astounded, it was only half of the normal damage this skill should produce. Even though this Herald of Greed was eternal-grade, he was only level 50 and was also a magic user which usually had a poor defense.

Herald of Greed's spell formation was not slowed down the slightest by Jack's attack. The spell was completed and a huge spear of fire pierced through Jack's body. He was forcefully dragged away by the spear. The flaming spear brought him almost a hundred meters away before detonating into a massive explosion.

Jack then found himself in the void space. The other nine were already there waiting for him, including Mihos.

"Holy crap, you didn't die from that Hell Inferno spell?" Paytowin asked Jack when he appeared there.

"How do you survive?" Jet asked.



"She can make me invincible for a few seconds," Jack answered while pointing to Peniel.

"So, do you manage to hit that commander?" Jet asked again.

"I did!" Jack replied with a wide grin.

A voice was then heard, "Congratulations on your effort in the ancient battleground. Brave participants, These are your scores."

## **Chapter 720: Scores Tallying**

It seemed that the voice was waiting for Jack before it informed everyone of the scores. Words appeared in the air before them, informing their scores.

\*

Storm Wind, scores: 48,570

Leavemealone, scores: 36,198

Domon Fei, scores: 32,200

Paytowin, scores: 30,113

Red Death, scores: 27,324

Jeanny, scores: 24,560

Unequaled Grace, scores: 24,050

Giant Steve, scores: 21,170

Jet Hung, scores: 20,968

Mihos, scores: 16,623

\*

The voice then informed everyone that they received 300,000 bonus exp points for every one thousand scores and 200 mana cores for every five thousand scores. Jack received a whooping 14,400,000 exp points and 1,800 mana cores.

If combined with Domon, Jeanny, and Giant Steve's, in this one run alone, the four of them had received a total of 4,600 mana cores! Jeanny was very happy about this. She was seriously lacking in mana cores to utilize the divine treasure within her. Jack, Domon, and Giant Steve all gave Jeanny the mana cores they had gotten from this ancient battleground run.

Combined with the exp points they received inside the battleground, everyone except Mihos leveled up. Jack had all his three classes leveled up. His Blade Dancer went up by a level to 44, Archmage also by a level to 43, while Beastmaster leveled up twice to level 43. His pet Therras only received the exp points during the killing inside the battleground, but it also leveled up by one level to 43.

For other players, many of them leveled up twice. Those that did are now level 48. They were officially the highest level now, even higher than the highest level player in the tournament, Spring Crown, who was still level 47 when he left earlier today.

Jet only leveled up once since his scores were the lowest among the players. He was regretting now that he didn't focus on destroying more supply carts before engaging the enemy soldiers. With his mana manipulation, he should be able to break as many carts as Domon.

Every one of them was wondering if they could do another run of this ancient battleground again. Heck, if it's possible, they wanted to continue staying here and do this simulation daily. But they then remembered Callan's words before they entered. This was a one-time offer, except for Paytowin.

"You are very lucky you can enter this ancient battleground again," Jack said to Paytowin, who replied back, "I've said it before, right? Without you people, this simulation is useless to me. Even if I know the secret way to gather points, I can't get through the minimum requirement by myself. The natives here never let me join them in their run."

"Well, how about you ask him?" Jack said as he pointed to Mihos, who was approaching the holographic words that displayed their scores. Mihos used his finger to click on Jack's scores. Several more words appeared from Jack's scores, it was the breakdown of his score gathering.

Out of his 48,570 scores, 30,000 came from destroying the supply carts, 3000 scores for each cart. 15,000 scores for successfully hitting the Herald of Greed once. The rests were from killing the black-armored soldiers. Everyone was astonished, just hitting that commander once already netted 15,000 scores? What if they hit him more than once? Would he grant 15,000 scores every hit?

While everyone marveled at Jack's scores breakdown, Jack wondered why Mihos checked his scores. Was this native champion bitter that his scores were the lowest? But that was because he didn't destroy any supply carts. To be able to get such a high score simply by killing enemy soldiers was itself a very impressive act already. Jack couldn't imagine the body count Mihos had amassed to reach that score. It would be massive.

After studying Jack's score, Mihos came to Jack. "You truly hit the Herald of Greed. You have the guts to attempt the impossible and even the means to pull it off, I'm impressed," He said. "Do you already have a companion?"

It took Jack a few seconds before the question seeped in. "Uh... Yes, I have a companion," Jack answered.

"Hm, it's a pity. All right then," Mihos said.

Giant Steve, who heard the conversation, uttered, "Uh, sir, I don't have a companion yet."

Mihos acted as if he didn't hear anything.

'Wow, did you just reject a companion offer from a Mythical-grade native? A champion from Council of Virtus nonetheless,' Peniel said to Jack inside his mind.

'I did?' Jack said. The realization just seeped in. But then again, he couldn't just let go of Arlcard just because he found a better candidate. What kind of partner would people see him as. Arlcard would be

offended. Jack decided that he had made the right choice by rejecting the offer, even when he didn't do it purposely.

The reward selection list now appeared, showing everyone what items they could exchange their scores for. The voice also reminded everyone that these scores would not be saved. If they exited this place without exchanging the scores, then the scores would become null and void.

Jack looked at the list and was surprised to find more selection than the last time. He scrolled to the top part of the list and was stunned when he saw the top part items.

"Leâ??Legendary...?" Jack uttered. The others were similarly shocked when they saw the list.

In the selection that Jack had scrolled up was the seven-piece Divine set Armor of Valor, which were all legendary grades. There was also a Divine Sword of Valor, which was also of the Legendary grade. However, the scores needed also shocked them, the sword itself required 150,000 scores. While each piece of the divine set armor required 120,000 scores.

"Can we combine scores for an exchange?" Jack exclaimed, to no one in particular. He was hoping the voice that had given them the notification would answer.

It was Mihos instead who answered, "No, you can't. Each participant has his or her own score and can only exchange that individual score. You can't merge your score with another participant."

"Then how can one possibly reach such a score? These scores are impossible!" Jack uttered.

"Well, probably if you kill that eternal-grade commander, you can get enough scores?" Paytowin offered his opinion.

Jack gave him a side-eye. 'Is that even a possibility to be discussed?' His eyes said.

"I understand your consternation. To be honest, this is also the first time I lay my eyes on this legendary-grade selection," Mihos informed.

"You've never seen them on this list before?" Jack asked.

"The selection is exposed based on the total scores from all the participants," Mihos explained. "For example, if only one person gained 50,000 scores while the others have zero scores, you will only find a list that contains super rare grade goods. So, even if you have lots of scores, you can only exchange them for meager goods."

In his mind, Jack thought, 'super rare grades are considered meager goods?'

Mihos continued, "We find the legendary grades here because the total scores that everyone received are enough to open the top list. I must say the total that everyone achieved here is higher than any of my previous runs. In my previous runs with my native comrades, we have only managed to open the selection till the unique grades."

Jack nodded. He then scrolled back down, looking at goods that they couldn't get will just cause depression. Better focus on the ones that they could get. He browsed the wares that were below 50,000 scores.

While doing that, he explained to the others and suggested they get the Universal Technique Book. He described to them the book's usage. Since it only needed 5,000 scores, everyone could get them. While explaining, he also sent a silent message to Jeanny to keep one book so that she can copy it for the other guild core members.

Jeanny sent an ok reply. Jack was secretly celebrating. This meant he could now use the book in his possession. Peniel had seen the messages and understood Jack's smile, she rolled her eyes at him.

Jack was looking at goods that needed around 40,000 scores, many of which were unique grades. After doing some thinking, he scrolled back down. He asked Peniel after arriving at the item he was looking for, "You have no sure way to get this item, right?"

"No," Peniel replied.

"Okay. Let's get this item first then," Jack said and interfaced with the selection, he paid 15,000 scores.

"Divine gem?" Jeanny uttered after seeing the item Jack exchanged.

"Yeah," The divine gem appeared in Jack's hand. Its luminance was indeed brilliant. Jack could sense incredible mana from that small gem. It somehow also made his feeling calm and his mind clear. This item was indeed not simple.

After admiring the divine gem in his hand for a while, Jack gave it to Jeanny. "You know what to do," he said to her.

The others who were not originally from their guild were confused as to why Jack gave the item he had exchanged to Jeanny. Red Death and Grace were particularly curious as to why Jack gave a beautiful jewel to a girl.