

World 811

Chapter 811: Vanquishing the Lightning

Jack looked at his minions that were all inside this lightning prison, Therras, Spirit Weapon, and Peniel.

Therras had very high HP and also high defense due to its armor. With its current Sovereign Mode, which was what Peniel called it when it transformed under his Ultimate Beast's effect, it should be able to tank through the spell. If it got too dangerous, he should still be able to unsummon it in time.

Peniel was small and fast. But Jack had seen the speed of this Perpetual Lightning Judgement. It was not something that could be dodged. Not to mention the sheer number of produced lightning was unreal. She had an innate reduced damage ability. If her HP dropped too low, she would go into an automatic invincibility state. However, he was not sure if Peniel would not be one-shot by the lightning.

The spirit weapon was like Peniel, fast and had a slim frame that made it difficult to be hit. But its HP and defense were not that impressive.

'Can you cast Invincibility on the spirit weapon?' Jack asked Peniel in his mind.

'I can since the spirit weapon is part of you. But if I do that, you won't get the effect,' Peniel answered.

'Don't worry about me,' Jack said.

Peniel also received invulnerability when she cast the spell, so both she and the spirit weapon should be fine.

Jack sensed that Garland had finished gathering his spell. The lightning core in his hand was ready to explode.

Garland looked at Jack with a savage grin. "Perish! You, pesky outworlder!"

'Peniel, now!' Jack sent her a silent command.

The lightning core exploded into countless lightning snakes. The lightning snakes went back and forth. It almost filled the entirety of the space inside the lightning fence, especially the area where Jack was at. Those from the outside saw as if the space inside the fence had become solid lightning. Aside from Garland and Therras, which position was opposite from Jack, they couldn't see anything else.

Garland stared at the lightning that filled his view. Since he could do slight mana manipulation, he could also sense mana. However, the mana created by his spell was too turbulence. He couldn't sense if the outworlder had perished inside the sea of lightning before him. He thought it should be so. No way that outworlder survived.

He was about to shift his attention to duke Alfredo outside his lightning fence, but he noticed the Therras Beast behind him was still alive. Its HP was below half already but it was still alive. It was not so strange because he didn't concentrate his lightning on that pet. However, didn't a pet get unsummoned when its owner died?

As an impossible thought dawned on him, he sensed something unsettling. A power that he was very familiar with. Yet, purer, more pristine, more divine.

The lightning of his Perpetual Lightning Judgement finally dimmed. In its place, twenty large lightning balls hovered. At the center was that dragon-shaped outworlder, covered in a suit of lightning.

Garland was stunned by the impossible sight that he paused for a beat. He simply couldn't believe this outworlder had survived his strongest spell. Unharmd even. In exchange, the outworlder was generating a power of lightning that made the lightning within him trembled.

When he snapped to attention, the twenty floating lightning balls had come to him. Time seemed to stand still. At this moment, three more details registered in his mind. Firstly, the outworlder's spirit weapon. It had transformed into a gigantic sword and was currently falling from above him. Secondly, the long throat of the dragon-shaped outworlder. It was shining an eery purple. Thirdly, one out of the six arms of the outworlder was glowing and had black lightning shrouding it.

Then, three things happened at the same time. The gigantic sword stabbed him and its energy core exploded. The twenty lightning balls crashed onto him and exploded. The outworlder's dragon maw opened and unleashed a dense destructive beam.

What Garland didn't realize, was that there were actually four things happening at that time. The fourth that he didn't notice was coming from his back. After surviving the Perpetual Lightning Judgement, Terras retaliated. It opened its mouth and yellow energy gathered before it. When Jack's three attacks hit Garland, Terras also fired the yellow energy core.

The four attacks hit at the same time and the resulting detonation was catastrophic. Both Jack and Terras were pushed by the explosive wind and hit the lightning fence. The lightning fence also suffered under the pressure. It soon dissolved and the energy of the blast radiated outward.

Jack's body fell to the ground and was dragged a long distance away. His body was still covered by the lightning suit. When he stopped, he looked at the receding explosion.

"Damn, that felt even more powerful than I expected," he said. "I saw Terras shoot something from its mouth, what was that?"

"That was Earth Core Bomb," Peniel answered. "It was its ultimate attack when it was in Sovereign mode. It carried concentrated energy of the earth element."

"That means the explosive attacks just now had four elements mixed together?" Jack said. His Lightning God Barrage was the lightning element. His Spirit Weapon's finishing mode was chaos element. His dragon form soul breath carried soul element. Terras' ultimate attack was the earth element.

The combined explosive attack of two elements already resulted in a damage number that was greater than the sum of the two attacks. If it was an explosive combination that mixed four different elements, wouldn't the resulting effect be much stronger?

Jack looked at the dispersing dust cloud. It was too far away for him to sense anything. Could Garland be killed already by those combination attacks just now? He hoped so. But if that was true, then he also felt pity since he didn't use his runestone of luck.

As the dust cloud subsided, he saw a shadow inside. The shadow of a standing man. Garland was not yet dead!

A blast of lightning burst out from the dust cloud and hit Jack. Luckily, he still wore the Lightning God Suit. He felt punched in the gut, but otherwise, he received no damage.

The lightning blast just now also dispersed the remaining dust cloud, revealing Garland in tattered clothes. His hair was disheveled. The HP bar above him indicated that he had less than fifteen percent of HP left.

"Die!" Duke Alfredo shouted. He cast his spell. Hundreds of magic spears materialized and shot at Garland.

Garland had also been casting a spell when the duke did. Strands of lightning formed a shell around him. This lightning shell destroyed the majority of the magic spears that came to him, but some still got through and stabbed him.

"Garland! I will help you!" Claudius yelled. He was still fighting against Arlcard, Bailey, and Laurent. He repelled the two melee fighters before rushing to where Garland was.

Duke Alfredo, who saw it, cast a spell and raised multi-layered earth walls that blocked his path.

Jack looked at his hand, his Overlimit was still active, and so did his Lightning God Suit. He couldn't let them go to waste. He again used Wind Jet to propel himself forward. He could see Therras was also running towards Garland. His pet still had around forty percent of HP, and it was also still in sovereign mode. It could still fight.

Garland saw Jack approaching, he immediately fired a few lightning bolts at Jack. However, Jack just brushed them off. Jack continued to come at him at full speed. He was confused, why did his lightning have no effect? He should have killed this outworlder a hundred times over by now.

In his frustration, he concentrated his lightning into a ball with his two hands. This concentrated ball of lightning crackled with overwhelming power. When Jack came before him, he detonated the lightning ball on Jack's face. At the same time, two of Jack's six hands grabbed Garland's arms.

The lightning explosion would have obliterated anything. Yet, Jack still stood before him.

Jack had felt the strong blast from the explosion. He would have been blasted away again if he didn't hold Garland's arms. He had forcefully held onto Garland to stay close to him.

Jack then battered all his six claws onto Garland. Using whatever skills that were still available to him. Therras had come and sent attacks from the back.

Garland continued to batter Jack with his lightning, but it was as if all his attacks were thrown into the sea. None of his lightning seemed to bother Jack. There was no damage whatsoever.

His confusion soon turned to fear. His HP was critical now.

He blasted Therras away with his lightning. He then turned to flee. Jack executed Hundred Shadow Strikes, hoping this skill could take out the little HP Garland still had. He summoned his Runestone of Luck

Unfortunately, Garland survived the attack. Worse, Jack's Overlimit and Lightning God Suit ran out of duration. Most of his skills were also on cooldown.

Garland fired his lightning instinctively to push Jack away while fleeing. Jack activated Dragon Eye and cast Magic Wall. The wall shattered but successfully protected him. Without the Lightning God Suit, it would be easy for Garland to obliterate him.

Duke Alfredo's no-fly-zone spell had also ended. Garland found that he could fly again. He was just about to escape to the sky when a shadow crashed into him. Once it happened, numerous shadow blades pierced out of his body before stabbing back again.

It was Arlcard with his rune technique. Since Claudius was busy with duke Alfredo, Arlcard had taken the chance when no one paid attention to him to build up his rune technique. He then aimed the technique at Garland who was close to death.

Garland only had a little bit of HP left. It took only a few seconds for Arlcard's rune technique to take out Garland's remaining HP.

Chapter 812: Chasing the Third Prince

When Garland's HP dropped to zero, Jack's Runestone of Luck was still beside him. Garland's body which was floating just a few feet off the ground, fell back to the ground. Several items fell with it.

Jack swooped in and picked all the items up without bothering to check them. They were still in the middle of a battle, after all.

"Garland, no!" Claudius uttered after seeing his partner's fate. He realized then that they had been too confident. Garland had seen the eye-catching flock of Eagle Rider Hunters and proposed to Claudius to come to exterminate them. The two of them then forced themselves behind the enemy's line, that's why they had so little support while being outnumbered. They thought that their troops would arrive soon, but the incidents where the army inside the fort came out and the prince escaped to the western hills had taken away their troops' attention. Hence, the support they expected to come, never did.

Claudius decided to not prolong the mistake. He used a charging skill and broke himself away. He was withdrawing in the direction of his troops.

The duke told everyone to not chase after Claudius. They were all exhausted and wounded. Laurent came and heal them. Peniel helped as well.

"Where is Miller?" Bailey asked.

"I'm sorry... He is gone. His body was completely destroyed, even Laurent won't be able to resurrect him," Jack said.

"No...", Bailey's expression turned very sad. But it was soon turned to anger and resolution, "Come, we still have this battle to win," she said.

Jack wondered what the relationship between the two was. Miller was also extremely upset when he saw Bailey was killed. Duke Alfredo told Jack softly that Miller was Bailey's brother.

The fight continued for a while. The reinforcement army was being pushed back until suddenly the pressure eased up a lot. Lots of Therribus' army had turned and ran off to the East, leaving only a portion to deal with the reinforcement army.

"They have seen the real prince!" Jack uttered.

The duke nodded. "Let's capitalize on this chance before the troops that chased after the fake prince to the West returned."

Jack pondered for a while before saying, "Duke, I will leave everything to you. I want to go and make sure the prince successfully escapes."

The duke paused and looked at Jack. He then said, "Go, we will deal with this."

"I will follow!" Bailey said. Her relationship with Prince Alonzo was also not shallow. She would very much like to make sure that the prince was safe.

"Um, can you keep up with my steed?" Jack asked.

"... Go," Bailey said. She had seen the speed of Jack's nightmare.

Jack left Arlcard here, the vampire would be happy with this opportunity to collect exp. Arlcard could unsummon himself back to where he originally was if he wanted to. Jack unsummoned Therras, because he didn't feel safe leaving the pet alone, also because a pet would be automatically unsummoned if it was too far away from the owner.

He then summoned Pandora, his dragon form had run out of duration. With the Nightmare, he rushed to the East. It was actually more beneficial for him to stay in this battle. The left-wing army was still under him. If he left, he wouldn't get the benefit of their exp reaping. Still, he felt like he had to make sure of prince Alonzo's safety. If prince Alonzo died, all their effort would become pointless.

As he rode Pandora, his dragon eye picked up a human wrapped in a fiery suit some distance away on the front line. He had a better look and realized it was not exactly human. It was a humanoid tiger. Leavemealone had also reached level 50 and had upgraded his Fire God Blessing.

He saw his grandfather fighting fiercely beside the fiery tiger. For one who advocated fighting only for self-defense, that geezer seemed to enjoy himself awfully much.

As he was watching them, he realized somebody stood in his path. He stopped his steed abruptly.

"What are you doing?" Jack asked the person.

"You are going after the crown prince, aren't you?" Red Death asked.

"No, I'm going after the third prince. I want to make sure he is safe," Jack answered.

"The crown prince is going after the third prince. I will go with you!"

"Can your steed keep up with mine?" Jack asked the same question he asked Bailey.

"No, but you can carry me," Red Death replied.

"Uh..."

The two stared at each other for some time, Jack wasn't sure what to do.

"I will be furious if you leave me here," Red Death said.

Jack sighed. He requested permission from Pandora before asking Red Death to climb to his back.

Blackjack was running to them. "Red! So, this is where you have gone to. Where are you going?"

"I'm chasing after Therribus," Red replied.

"No, we are chasing after Prince Alonzo," Jack corrected.

"Take me with you!" Blackjack demanded.

"Dude, can you ask a reasonable request? do you see any more space here?" Jack said.

"I will follow you," Blackjack said and summoned his steed.

"Good luck," Jack replied and ran off.

Blackjack, who just wanted to urge his horse to go forward, saw that Jack's steed was already very far away. He was speechless at the sight.

Pandora took his two riders at an incredible speed as they traveled Eastward. On their way, Jack saw Ahab's right-wing army was in the worst shape. They were the ones that first engaged the full brunt of Therribus' main army. Jack estimated Ahab might have lost half of his troops.

Jack circled around the fighting armies so that he didn't get dragged into the fighting. Pandora's speed should allow him to still catch up to Prince Alonzo despite taking the long trek. After he moved away from the battling armies, he caught sight of Therribus' army heading to the East.

Therribus had brought a large army, probably half of his entire army. Did he truly have to bring all that troops to chase after a small fleeing squad? Jack wondered. But this was all within John's prediction. Prince Therribus wanted to ensure that they won't be caught off-guard if there were hidden troops where Prince Alonzo was heading. He only left enough troops to hold the reinforcement army from interfering with his chase.

Jack sent a message to John, "Hey, is everything ready? They will be upon the forest not long now."

"Our troops are currently heading to the killing zone. They should reach there before Therribus and Alonzo arrived," John said. He was still at the reinforcement army's camp with the other guild leaders. The guild mobile platform couldn't be moved once summoned. They had sent their troops away following John's instruction but left a few melee soldiers behind to form a protective circle, just in case any remnant of White Death's troops decided to return.

"What about the war fires?" Jack asked.

"The war fires are set. We just need to ignite them," John replied. "I have left a few players there to do the deed. They will take action once Therribus' army entered the forest."

'It should not be long now,' Jack thought.

In the distance, he saw Prince Alonzo enter the forest.

Therribus, who saw it, instructed a small part of his army to spread out. His thought was that Alonzo was trying to have them lose sight of him inside the forest and then sneak out from one side. He ordered his troops to cover both sides of the forest. No matter where Alonzo tried to sneak out from, he won't escape.

"Hey, they are spreading out. They have some troops encircling the forest," Jack told John.

"That is to be expected. It doesn't matter, those troops outside won't be able to do anything once the forest is on fire," John replied.

"By the way, how do you know the trees in the forest can catch fire? For all we know, the rule here will have only the war fire burning for three minutes as it was meant to. We will be f*cked if it is so, those three minutes of burning damage won't give the army much trouble."

Jack had asked Peniel about war fire's property. It was a war tool that functioned as a trap. It couldn't be put inside inventory and was very heavy. Thus, not an ideal tool to be moved around. It needed to be set before its target arrived. This war fire was ignited by hitting it using a fire attack. Upon detonation, it dealt fire damage in a thirty-meter radius area. The area would then be aflame for three minutes. Anyone within this flaming area would receive continuous fire damage every second.

"Don't worry. I've tested it on a portion of the forest outside Heavenly Citadel. Trees in this world can catch flame when they are subjected to it for a long duration. Three minutes is enough to set a tree aflame. Not only that, but we also tested that the longer ones remained inside a burning area, the fire damage they received will increase by the minutes. Of course, we used a high HP pet for that test. Players won't last inside the fire for long to get accurate data."

"A portion of... That was you?!" Jack had received a report of several charred trees in the forest within their guild's territory. "What if the whole forest is burnt? You know we still need that forest for wood production, right?"

"Who do you think you are talking to? Of course, I have thought of a safe way to test. I have a few mages cast magic walls to block that portion of the forest, so the fire didn't spread. They take turns casting the magic walls until the fire dies down."

"You can tell him that instead of burning the forest near Heavenly Citadel, he could have just learned about it if he asked me," Peniel said to Jack. Jack relayed the message, to which John replied, "But it won't be as fun, would it?"

Jack decided to not discuss the issue with the psycho anymore. He paid attention to Prince Therribus' army. They were starting to enter the forest.

Jack sent the report, "They are in, except for the troops that circled outside the forest."

"I know, the players who I task to ignite the war fires have let me know as well," John said.

So, it won't be long now, Jack thought. He was expecting the forest to go ablaze anytime soon. However, he received a message from John, "Bloody heck!"

"What?" Jack asked back.

"The players that were supposed to ignite the war fires are found out! They are getting slaughtered."

Jack looked into the distance. There was indeed commotion with the troops that were encircling the forest. The players that were tasked to ignite the war fires positioned themselves at the edge of the forest, so they could run away from the flame once they do the deed. These players had instead been spotted by the encircling troops.

Chapter 813: The Blazing Forest

Inside the forest, Therribus and his army continued to give chase to Prince Alonzo. The trees inside the forest were not so dense that they could still give chase using their steeds. Their movements slowed down, though. But Alonzo's group similarly slowed down as well.

Beside Therribus were several high-level officers. Rayne was amongst them but he rode some distance away. One of the officers directly beside Therribus was a bow-wielding commander. Unlike the other soldiers who rode horses, the bow-wielding commander's steed was a large panther. The bow he carried was especially large. He was aiming his bow as his panther ran at high speed, veering through the trees with nimbleness.

The bow-wielding commander's name was Robin. He was a level 63 rare elite knight commander. He doesn't seem to mind all the erratic movement of his panther while aiming. His arrows were shot occasionally. The arrow shot from his giant bow traveled unusually far, much further than a standard elite marksman's range. His accuracy, however, decreased due to riding and shooting at the same time, but they still struck near Alonzo's group which hindered their advance. The distance between Alonzo's group and Therribus' chasing army was decreasing as time passed.

"Hm?"

"What is it?" Therribus asked Robin who seemed to notice something.

"... Let me make sure," Robin shot another arrow. But this time, his aim was not at Alonzo's group. His arrow was shot with a skill. His arrow exploded and produced a wind torrent that blasted everything in the vicinity of its detonation.

There was a pile of leaves where Robin had detonated his exploding arrow. The leaves were scattered away, revealing a large red-colored barrel.

"A war fire!" Robin exclaimed. "Nobody uses fire attacks!" He shouted to the soldiers behind him, who then relayed his order to the other soldiers."

Robin then said to Prince Therribus, "Your Highness, I've noticed a large number of these piles of leaves all around this forest as we passed through. I suspect this forest has been filled with them."

This forest was the one that John had requested the Black Cloak guild to guard. The Black Cloak guild had killed all the monsters here after they arrived. Luckily, the monsters in this forest were below their average levels. They also killed and chased away any intruders that wandered into the forest. They did it covertly, of course. Most of the time the killed players didn't even know how they died. They attributed it to the deed of some invisible monsters in the forest. This way, no one suspected anything was going on in the forest.

Once the war fires arrived earlier today, they had set them up all around the forest in preparation for tonight's operation. The prince's attempted escape was a feigned retreat tactic, to draw Therribus' main army into the forest, where the war fires were waiting.

"There must be some enemies lurking around ready to light these war fires. Spread out and flush them out!" Therribus gave the order to his officers.

The order was quickly relayed. The chasing army separated again. A small portion searched around the forest while the remaining maintain their chase of Prince Alonzo. The troops that encircled the forest on the outside also received the order and soon carried out a search.

To the war fires themselves, Therribus didn't instruct his soldiers to do anything. These items were too heavy and they were in the middle of a chase. As long as no one ignited them, there should be no problem.

The players that were supposed to ignite the war fires were waiting for the signal that Prince Alonzo had reached the edge of the forest before they carried out their tasks. If they ignited the war fires too soon, Prince Alonzo would be caught inside the burning forest as well.

It was fine when the soldiers were simply paying attention to make sure that Prince Alonzo didn't slip out of the forest, but when their attentions were shifted to searching for people in hiding, these players were soon found out.

"There! On the tree," One of the hiding players heard a voice. He turned to the voice and saw a soldier pointing at him. Several other soldiers were aiming their bows at him.

"Holy shit...," The player uttered before getting bombarded with arrows. He was an Elementalist. He didn't last long under the attacks.

Every player that had been tasked to ignite the war fires was an Elementalist. They were meant to ignite the war fires from afar with their Fireball spells.

The Elementalist was not a class that can survive or break from an encirclement, they had low HP and couldn't move fast. Hence, when they were found out, they were as good as out.

One Elementalist cast his Fireball spell despite not yet receiving the signal. He figured it was still better to carry out the plan before he was taken out. However, one soldier ran and used his body to cover the war fire, preventing it from being ignited. That Elementalist was still cursing when he was forcefully pulled down and ganged upon.

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"F*ck! I shouldn't have given the task to these second-rate players," John cursed. "How the heck did they hide? Such amateurs!"

Jack couldn't blame John. With how stretched they are with manpower, it was the best they could do. They needed their best for the fighting, after all. They could only leave this simple task of igniting war fires to the mediocre players.

"Jeanny, where is Prince Alonzo's position?" Jack sent a message. Jeanny was amongst those that stayed with Prince Alonzo as they fled.

"We are not far from the rendezvous point, but there is this archer commander. His arrows keep on hindering our path. Some have struck several of us. Those that struck received a strong debuff and lost their movement speed. We have no choice but to leave them behind. Now, there are only four of us left. Prince Alonzo, Samuel, me, and another soldier," Jeanny replied.

"Even if you reach the rendezvous point, it doesn't mean shit if the war fires are not ignited. F*ck!" John cursed again.

'Not far,' Jack thought. All right then, Jack had Pandora aimed towards the forest.

"Where are you going?" Red Death asked when he saw Jack rushed towards the forest filled with soldiers.

"Got to take care of something. Just hold tight!" Jack answered her.

Jack's unusual steed that produced a fire trail as it ran immediately caught the attention of the soldiers watching the edge of the forest.

"Enemy!" Shouted the first soldier who noticed Jack's approach. All the other soldiers immediately took position and readied themselves to block Jack's advance.

Archer and mage soldiers stood behind the shield soldiers. They fired at Jack once he was in range.

Jack cast Barrier and then Magic Weapon. He used the Formless Flowing Sword style to deflect as many of the attacks as possible. The remaining battered his Barrier.

Pandora's speed was so fast that the ranged soldiers only managed to make one volley before Jack was already upon them. Her fear aura caused extreme discomfort to the defending soldiers.

As the shield soldiers braced themselves as Pandora was about to crash into them, the nightmare leaped. Even the tall walls of Heavenly Citadel and the noble district could be leaped over by Pandora, what more of these soldiers? With only one leap, Pandora landed behind the soldiers.

The soldiers looked back with consternation as Pandora rushed into the forest.

Jack passed through some soldiers that were spread around the forest, but Pandora was too fast and her fear aura caused the soldiers' reaction to becoming slow. So, none of them did anything as they saw Jack pass them by.

"Where is it?" Jack looked around. He was a little regretful now that he gave the Runestone of Detection to Grace. His radar couldn't detect objects, the object had to be in his line of sight before his monocle told him something unusual was there. Hence, he couldn't tell for sure where the war fires were.

However, John had informed him that the war fires were arranged thirty meters from one another, and they were covered by a pile of leaves. So, he paid attention to any mounds of leaves. Soon, his monocle marked something in one of these mounds.

"There!" He had Pandora headed over there. The speed of Pandora's approach created a wind that blew the leaves away, revealing the large red barrel.

Staying on top of Pandora and without stopping, Jack's Storm Breaker swooped down with Flame Strike, hitting the barrel. The barrel exploded upon contact with Flame Strike. Jack's Barrier was still on, but it was depleted after being hit by the explosion. Jack still lost some HP but not much since his barrier had soaked up a portion of the damage. He received Burn status, though. He ignored it as he urged Pandora to run out of the forest. Pandora was completely unfazed by the explosion. She was immune to fire damage.

Chain explosions were soon heard.

The war fires produced an explosion that hit a large thirty-meter radius area with fire damage. That's why John had instructed the war fires to be put within thirty meters from each other. Only one war fire needed to be ignited. The explosion from the first war fires would hit the others in its vicinity, and those war fires would ignite the next ones, and so on.

John had put all three hundred war fires spread out around the forest. It covered almost the entire forest. Within an instant, the forest turned into a sea of fire.

The long constant fire damage started affecting the trees. The leaves on the trees and the shrubs on the ground were the first to catch fire. Soon, everything caught fire.

The soldiers inside the forest ignored the flame at first due to their high HP. But as time passed, the burning damage multiplied. Soldiers of the basic grades found their HP went down at a worryingly rapid rate. They looked around for an escape, but everywhere they looked, it was filled with fire.

When these basic soldiers succumbed, the elite grades found themselves to be in a similar predicament.

Chapter 814: Unrelenting Chase

Jack had rushed out of the forest, but he could hear the burning soldiers' scream from inside. "Damn!" He uttered.

In his message, he said to John, "You are one ruthless bastard to think of such a cruel plan."

"There are only a few things that can be used to deal against a large number of enemies without sacrificing our own soldiers. Fire, water, poison, and disease amongst them. Fire is the most viable option for our current situation and location. I'm not even sure if poison and disease work similarly here compare to our past world."

"Well, whatever. I'm just glad you are on our side. I'm heading to the rendezvous point," Jack said.

"It takes a roundabout trip to get there, even with your steed. Everything will be over already by the time you get there," John said.

"Don't worry, that cliff is no problem for my steed."

"What are you going there for, anyway? There is no need for you to be there."

"Just as there is no need for me to be here when your players who are supposed to ignite the war fires are routed?" Jack asked.

"Good luck," John replied but quickly added, "Oh, right! Since you are going there, if possible, capture or kill Therribus. I have considered the possibility of him not being amongst the chasing army. If that's the way, we would only defeat his army here, allowing prince Alonzo to flee back to the capital. The battle for the throne will still be ongoing. But since he is also joining the chasing army, this is a good chance to finish this conflict once and for all."

"I will see what I can do," Jack replied.

Jack ran to the easternmost edge of the forest. There was a high cliff that blocked the way. The forest's eastern side ended at this high cliff.

"Hold tight!" Jack said to Red Death.

Red Death had been holding tight due to Pandora's extreme speed. She didn't understand why Jack asked her to hold tight even more. She soon found out the reason.

Pandora ran straight for the cliff. When Red Death was worried that they would crash into the cliff wall, the nightmare jumped and scaled the wall. The steed then ran sideways alongside the cliff, right on top of the burning forest.

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"Your Highness! We have to get out of this forest!" Robin uttered.

"No! We stay with Alonzo. We finish this tonight!" Therribus exclaimed.

"But there are only high cliffs where we are headed. We will be trapped inside this burning forest!"

"Alonzo is heading in the same direction. They have planned the trap in this forest. They will have a way out there. We cannot let them escape!" Therribus was determined.

Robin could only follow the command. He asked the healer units to focus their healings on the important personnel, especially the crown prince. While his bows never stopped shooting at the fleeing group before them.

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Jeanny, Samuel, and the one remaining soldier tried their best to intercept Robin's arrows that were coming at them. Jeanny had used a scroll of fire resistance to increase their fire resistance. It had been prepared beforehand as they were most likely to be caught within the burning forest as well.

"We almost arrive!" Jeanny motivated them.

As she did, another arrow came. The one remaining soldier that was with them parried the arrow, but suddenly a translucent claw latched onto him. He was then forcefully pulled away.

Jeanny and the others watched helplessly as the soldier fell close to Therribus' army. Several of Therribus' soldiers came upon him while the others continued their chase.

The ghostly claw that pulled the soldier away was a spell cast by a mage behind Therribus. The mage was also a knight commander, a level 70 special elite named Polom. The distance between Prince Alonzo's group and Prince Therribus' army had shortened enough that Polom's spell could reach them.

Samuel looked at the enemy behind them before turning back and saying to Prince Alonzo, "Your Highness, you must continue running. Do not stop for anything!"

Prince Alonzo looked at him with a questioning look.

Samuel turned to Jeanny and said, "Miss Jeanny. Please make sure the prince is safe."

"Samuel, no! You mustn't!" Alonzo uttered.

"Be safe, you two! I will buy as much time as possible!" Samuel exclaimed as he jumped down from his steed and stood there amongst the burning trees and waited for the approaching army.

"Samuel...!!" Alonzo yelled.

Jeanny gripped Prince Alonzo's arm. "My prince, we have to keep going! Do not let his sacrifice be in vain," Jeanny said.

Alonzo gritted his teeth. He cursed his own helplessness and his royal line. All this fighting, all this loss of lives, was it all worth it? If he surrendered to Therribus, could he have prevented all this? But then, he would be betraying everyone's hope in him. He looked ahead. He would survive, and he would become the king! So that everyone who had fallen could rest in peace.

Samuel didn't glance back. He heard the horse galloping sounds behind him. The sounds didn't slow down and were getting further.

'Good,' he said in his mind and tightened the grip on his twin tomahawk axes.

Samuel uttered a battle cry. His body bulged up and grew larger. Thin translucent light covered both his axes. He used Jump assault just as the approaching Robin shot an arrow at him. His super jump brought his body shooting past the incoming arrow. Samuel's jump assault brought him directly to Therribus.

A level 60 special elite knight carrying a shield came before Therribus. His shield clashed with Samuel's axes.

Samuel landed on the ground just as several claws came out of the ground, with him at the center. It was the Entrapping Mana Claws cast by Polom.

Samuel's body spun at high speed before the claws hit him. This spinning attack broke the incoming claws while producing a very wide tornado. The skill was similar to Berserker's Punishing Cyclone but was much stronger and affected a very wide area. Therribus' advancing army was halted as a result.

When Samuel's tornado attack ended, an arrow struck his side. It slowed his movement as Polom cast another spell. Several claws with chains came and bound Samuel's body.

Samuel used Berserker's Cry of Rage, eliminating all movement restrictions before continuing to attempt an assault on Prince Therribus. He didn't think it was possible to defeat Therribus with so many soldiers protecting him. His intention of gunning on Therribus was so this pursuing army couldn't advance. As long as the crown prince was stuck here, the army would also stay and focus on protecting Therribus. Thus, buying Prince Alonzo time.

However, Samuel was not only alone but his level was also not as high as the high-level officers surrounding Therribus. His attempt was valiant but did not last long. He was soon overpowered.

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"I see the end of the forest already!" Jeanny exclaimed. The trees were getting sparser and so was the fire.

Alonzo and she finally came out of the forest and into a large clearing surrounded by high cliffs. This was the only spot on the eastern side of the forest that was not directly blocked by the cliff. It had a half-circle clearing before the cliffs.

When John asked Dogs of War to scout the surrounding area. He learned about this terrain and adjusted his plan to allow this place as the site of the final confrontation.

At first glance, it was a dead end. In front of them were high cliffs, and behind them was the burning forest. There was only a limited area in this clearing where they were safe from the fire. However, if Therribus' army came out from behind, there would be nowhere else to flee, unless they had a flying spell or flying tool. The mage soldier that helped them fly down the fort's wall had been killed during the chase.

At this time, a sound called from above the cliff. "Jeanny, here!"

Bowler was up there atop the cliffs. With him were the guild armies and members of Dogs of War that had defended John and the others from White Death's force. This was the place where John had sent them after they beat back White Death. Bowler threw a couple of ropes down.

"Hurry!" Bowler urged. He could hear the sounds of a large force approaching from inside the burning forest.

Jeanny and Alonzo immediately came over and took the ropes. They started climbing.

When the two climbed only a quarter of the ropes, an arrow shot out from the forest. It carried with it crescent-shaped wind energy. This crescent energy slammed onto the cliff, where the two ropes were hanging. The ropes were cut by the impact. Both Jeanny and Alonzo fell back to the ground.

Therribus' army soon emerged from the burning forest. The crown prince looked at the guild armies and players atop the cliffs.

"So, this is your plan," Therribus said to Alonzo. "You lure me here into a kill zone. Trapping me in between a cliff and a burning forest, then bombard me with attacks from up there. This is a good plan, but only if you have managed to climb up. With you down here, they won't be able to throw attacks recklessly."

Therribus gave the order, "Catch Alonzo! Kill the outworlder."

When Therribus' soldiers started moving forward to carry out the order, they heard the sounds of a horse galloping. Strangely, it didn't come from the back. The sounds came from the side. They turned and saw an astonishing sight.

A flaming horse was galloping sideways on the cliff wall. Two riders were clinging to it. They were approaching at an incredible speed.

Chapter 815: A Gift from Prince Rhemos

Jack saw Jeanny and Prince Alonzo down there. He immediately sent a mental instruction to Pandora to go to them.

"Get ready! I grab the prince, you grab Jeanny!" Jack said to Red Death.

Robin saw the incoming nightmare and identified its riders as hostiles immediately. He aimed his bow and fired.

A cascade of arrows headed to Jack. Pandora saw the incoming attacks and deftly weaved her way. The arrows struck the cliff wall but none hit the Nightmare.

Other ranged soldiers started firing their attacks at Pandora as well. As they did, Therribus reminded the soldiers to go for Alonzo. Polom cast his spell and a series of chained claws shot at the third prince.

Jeanny put herself before Alonzo as her spears turned into a blur. She used the Hundred Spears skill. Her control had improved a lot that she could direct the lightning-fast attacks to specific targets. Her spears stabbed the claws that were coming. The claws were smacked aside by her stabs but they came back again. She maintained the activation of her skills as the claws kept on coming again and again.

She moved a step back as he continued to deflect the claws. Her stamina won't allow her to last forever. Not to mention, the other melees were coming as well.

Suddenly, a loud shout was heard and a figure shot out from the burning fire. It was Samuel, whose life was very low already. He took Polom by surprise. Six swirling axes that revolved around his body struck Polom. This interruption caused Polom's spell to collapse. The chained claws dissolved into thin air.

Samuel also slashed at Robin at the same time. Robin was more attentive, he dodged this sudden attack, but by doing so, his arrows no longer hindered Pandora. His arrows posed the biggest danger to Pandora's advance. For the common soldiers' arrows and magic attacks, Jack easily use his swords to deflect them while Pandora continued straight.

Without the interruption, Pandora made a burst of sudden speed. Jack's heart leaped when it did. He thought for a second that he had fallen off the steed since his two hands were in the air deflecting attacks. Luckily, he was not, his butt was magically glued to his steed.

This sudden speed increase brought them instantly to the ground where Jeanny and Alonzo were.

"Think fast!" Jack exclaimed as he stored his swords. His two hands extended to Alonzo.

Red Death also extended one hand to Jeanny with the other one still holding Jack tightly. She didn't dare to let go of both hands. She didn't have the magical glue to the butt as Jack did.

Their hands clasped each other. As they did, Jack caught sight of Samuel. A giant claw was gripping his lower body while an arrow from Robin penetrated his neck, resulting in critical damage. Yet, Samuel was

smiling as he stared at Jack who was holding Alonzo's hand. He knew he had fulfilled his duty as his HP dropped to zero.

Jack gritted his teeth. His hand held Alonzo's arm tightly. The best he could do to honor the fallen warrior was to make sure he did his part in ensuring the third prince's safety.

Pandora didn't slow down. Even with two extra baggage, she didn't appear burdened. She reached the cliff wall and ran up vertically.

"Stop them!" Therribus shouted. Yet, all the range attacks couldn't catch the speedy steed.

"Fire!" Serpent Boss who was up there on the cliff gave the order after seeing the situation. His guild mostly consisted of Gunners, which was also another reason why John tasked this guild to come here instead of joining the big fight in front of Fort Garadhor. This group of gunners all activated their Shooting Stance before opening fire.

Once Dogs of War members started shooting. The guild armies did the same. Soon, all sorts of ranged projectiles, physical or magical, rained down on Therribus' army below.

Pandora shot out of the cliff wall and landed near the guild army during that time.

Therribus' army couldn't do anything but be sitting ducks down there. There was nothing they could do, before them was a dead-end while behind them was the flaming forest. The only one who could hit back at the armies shooting from atop the cliff was Robin. His giant bow gave him unusual range compared to others. But with only him alone, he couldn't make any difference.

The soldiers tried their best to protect Therribus from the bombardment. But many magical attacks dealt AOE damage. They couldn't give complete protection.

John instructed the guild armies to take out the healers first. With them gone, Therribus' army won't survive for long.

"Your Highness! We have to flee!" Polom uttered.

"Go! Don't worry about us!" Robin added.

Therribus was unwilling. He was this close to getting rid of the final obstacle to the throne and taking control of this kingdom. How can his army lose to the enemy's ploy?

Therribus looked around him. He had lost many troops due to the fire inside the forest. Many panicked inside the fiery forest and ended up lost without knowing which way to go until they were burnt to death. The ones with him here were also not in full health after suffering through the fire. It didn't take many shots for the armies above to finish the ones down here. Some troops continuously came out of the fire to where he was, but they were simply additional meat thrown into a meatgrinder. The troops he left outside to encircle the forest couldn't rush in to assist due to the flame.

Therribus nodded without uttering a word.

Polom cast a spell and held Therribus. The two started floating. Polom was the only remaining mage soldier here that had the flying spell. He also cast the Group Barrier spell. Everyone in his vicinity was

being covered by a protective barrier, including Therribus. This was to protect the two of them from range attack while flying away.

As their bodies started to lift off, Serpent Boss aimed his rifle. He was using a long rifle instead of the silent handgun from before. This rifle was also a super rare weapon. It had a higher damage value compared to his silent handgun, additionally, this rifle also increased his shooting range more than normal.

John might have expressed his confusion as to why it was David and not Serpent Boss that was controlling their guild army. However, even if it was Serpent Boss, John would have asked someone else to take over the guild army control at this time and sent Serpent Boss to this place. The reason was that Serpent Boss had a unique skill. It was called Pull of the Earth. It was a skill that could be applied to either melee or range attacks. It lasted ten seconds. Anyone that was hit by an attack when the skill was active, would lose all sorts of flying ability.

John had expected there might still be some enemies that had a flying ability. They would no doubt use the ability to save Therribus at this time. So, Serpent Boss' ability was invaluable in the current situation.

However, with the barrier protecting Polom, Serpent Boss' Pull of the Earth skill won't take effect. So, he instructed everyone to focus their fire on Polom.

Polom cast several other spells as he and Therribus increased in altitude, Magic Wall and a disruptive field. The disruptive field caused all ranged attacks coming at them to swerve.

When it seemed as if the two might escape, twenty shadows suddenly appeared beside them. The shadows struck at Polom at an impossible speed.

Bowler, who recognized the skill, turned to his side. 'No, this guy is still here,' He thought as he looked at Jack.

Jack also recognized the skill. It was his Hundred Shadows Strikes, or more precisely, Commander Quintus' Hundred Shadow Strikes. A fully leveled one that produced twenty shadows. However, commander Quintus was still fighting near Fort Garadhor. Not to mention this skill required close range. There was no ally down there except Samuel who was already lying still on the ground.

Polom's Barrier instantly burst after receiving Hundred Shadows Strikes. He also received damage as his Barrier could only block a quarter of the attack. The shadow coalesced into a single person in between Polom and Therribus. He kicked Polom while slashing at Therribus, forcing the two to part. He made another slash, the slash produced an image of a giant black crow which dove Therribus back to the ground. Therribus' barrier was destroyed by the assault, he also received residual damage.

Polom tried to give chase but Serpent Boss fired his shot at this time. Without the Barrier protecting him, Polom couldn't resist Serpent Boss' Pull of the Earth. His flying spell was dispelled and his body fell back to the ground.

As Therribus struggled to rise, the secret assailant shifted to his back. The assailant's dagger dove into Therribus' back with very high damage. Peniel later informed Jack that the stab was done with Lethal Backstab skill. A more powerful version of Rogue's backstab skill.

Therribus' HP was already not in full health when Polom attempted to carry him away. With the series of attacks just now, his HP was down to critical.

The assailant was holding Therribus from the back. As he prepared to deliver a final blow, he said to Therribus, "This is a gift from Prince Rhemos."

Therribus realized then that the assailant behind him was Rayne.

Chapter 816: Red Death's Resolution

As Rayne was about to land a killing blow, Prince Alonzo shouted from above, "Stop!!"

Rayne stopped due to the shout. When Prince Alonzo saw Rayne's dagger was still aiming at Therribus, he uttered, "Stop! Killing the crown prince is a grave sin. You will receive heavy punishment. Just detain him!"

Therribus' army tried to go their lord, but attacks from above immediately rained down on them again when they moved.

"Nobody, move!" Rayne bellowed, still holding Therribus.

Everyone stopped. Polom's health was critical already. Robin was also not in a good shape, he was staring at Rayne. He didn't dare take another step. It was very easy for Rayne to take the crown prince's life at this time.

"You have lost! We will take Therribus captive. Lay down your arms! Or we will end all of you here," Alonzo warned.

Therribus' army turned to Therribus who was still held by Rayne.

Therribus, who heard that, laughed instead, "Hahaha. You are no prince, Alonzo! And certainly not worthy of being a king. You showing mercy just goes to show that you don't have the mettle to sit on the throne!"

"I never want the throne!" Alonzo uttered. "Brother, stop this madness! Our people are dying needlessly due to this conflict."

"Hmph! What I do, I do it for the sake of this kingdom. A little boy like you won't understand the burden of leading a country. You don't have what it takes to make the difficult choices. You can't even see the true enemies that stand right beside you! You let these invaders run freely in our world, you are the one that should stop your madness!"

"What enemies? You are just letting your fear of the unknown control you!"

"And you let your ignorance blind you from seeing the face of danger!"

Jack, who stood beside Alonzo, said, "Your Highness... Where I came from, we have many evil people. The vilest ones all have one thing in common. They believe they are doing the right thing, that the sufferings and the casualties they caused are all necessary for the greater good. There is no point

arguing with such people. Their point of view is so different that you might as well speak two different languages."

"I... I still have to try," Prince Alonzo said.

Therribus laughed again. "Do you think you can detain me, Alonzo? My followers will fight till their last breath to free me. You won't hold me for long!"

"What he says makes sense, your highness," Jack said to Alonzo. "If you don't end this here. This civil war will continue."

"I... I can't... He is my flesh and blood...," Alonzo uttered.

Jack saw Alonzo's undecided expression, but then he realized Alonzo was also just a teenager. The same as him. He never had a sibling. But he imagined if he did, even one as awful as Therribus, would he be able to order a death sentence for that sibling?

"Hahaha! You are worthless," Therribus mocked. "It is my destiny to be the king. This is just a hiccup in my ascend to the throne. I will... Urgh!"

Everyone turned to Therribus after hearing his groan, expecting Rayne to have decided to ignore Alonzo's order. Yet, Rayne wasn't moving. He was similarly displaying a surprised expression. Beside him, Red Death had appeared delivering a backstab to Therribus.

She had used Vanish to turn invisible before jumping down and using Rogue's skill, Finishing Blow. Aside from the increased damage from the skill, the stab was also boosted by Backstab skill and ambush bonus. The resulting damage took out Therribus' already low HP.

"This is for Rhemos!" Red Death uttered.

"Brother!" Alonzo shouted.

"Your Highness!" Therribus' soldiers lunged forward after seeing their prince's fallen body.

"Stay back!" Serpent Boss uttered and shot his rifle. The others also started shooting again, killing a score of Therribus' army.

Robin, who was the fastest, managed to get to Therribus first. He checked the body, confirming the crown prince to be gone already.

"You murderer!" Robin shouted in rage. He fired an arrow at Red Death, but the arrow was cut mid-flight. Rayne was standing in front of Red Death, protecting her.

Robin turned to his comrades. Only a few were left. Polom, who was in critical health, didn't join the others when they lunged. But they would all be annihilated if they didn't surrender.

Robin looked at Therribus who was laying on the ground under his feet. He gritted his teeth and shouted, "Stop! We surrender!"

Jeanny heard the declaration and ordered everyone to stop attacking.

Once things calmed down, Jeanny demanded Therribus' surviving army to move away, close to the still-burning forest.

Jack summoned Pandora again and said to Alonzo, "Your Highness, do you wish to go down there?"

"Yes...," Alonzo replied.

Jack carried him down to where Therribus' body was. Alonzo knelt beside the body and stayed silent for a long while. Jack went over to where the remnant of Therribus' army was standing and take Samuel's body. Therribus' army remained still and didn't do anything to Jack. They gave him hateful glares, though.

Jack carried Samuel's body to where Alonzo and Therribus were. He watched Alonzo's mournful expression and then looked at Samuel's body. He asked Peniel in his mind, 'Is there no healer in the army with a Resurrection spell like Laurent?'

'Resurrection spell is very rare. Laurent has it because he used to be a prominent member of the Church of Creation,' Peniel explained. 'Perhaps there are a few in the army who has that spell, but I doubt they are here in this war.'

'Can't we call Laurent here?'

'His resurrection spell has a three-hour cooldown. By the time his spell is off-cooldown, it has passed the one-hour limit that Samuel can be resurrected. I'm assuming it is Samuel that you want to resurrect?'

'Yes...,' Jack sighed.

Jack laid Samuel's body down gently. They didn't start off in the best way, but this old warrior had proven to be an honorable fighter and a loyal follower. It was a pity that he couldn't be saved.

While Jack was lamenting Samuel's fate, Alonzo stood up and said to Red Death. "You have committed a grave sin of murdering a prince."

Hearing that, Jack came to her defense. "Your highness, this is war. You shouldn't hold her responsible."

"Therribus was captured already. She assaulted a powerless man!" Alonzo uttered.

"She fought for you in this war, Your Highness," Jack reminded.

"She did... But it can't absolve her from her crime. She will be banished! She will be escorted to this kingdom's border and will no longer be welcomed here. If she does, she will be hunted and put in prison."

"Your Highness...!" Jack shouted, attempting to argue, but a hand grabbed his shoulder. He turned and saw it was Jeanny.

He received a message from her then. 'The prince is actually doing her a favor. If she stays in this country, she will be a target by Therribus' loyalists who seek revenge.'

"But...," Jack didn't think it was fair. Maybe Red Death had dealt the finishing blow to Therribus to take revenge for Rhemos, but her action had also helped Alonzo remove his predicament. Sparing the crown

prince would inevitably prolong this civil war. It was unreasonable for Red Death to suffer for an action that had brought peace back to this kingdom.

Red Death, however, didn't appear dissatisfied by the verdict. "I accept," she said.

Jack came to her. "Are you sure? You can join our guild. You will be safe in our guild headquarters. You can teleport to any country and come back anytime you want."

"I said already, I ain't going to join your guild," Red Death said. "I intend to leave anyway. I'm going to search for Black Death. Only after finding her that I will return and sort out Death Associates guild."

Jack sighed. "Where will you be going then?"

"Someplace where my gui... my ex-guild has not yet accessed till now. Either Hydrudond Dominion, Liguritudum Realm, or the Republic of Palgrost."

"My guild has access to all those countries."

Red Death gave Jack an annoyed stare, to which Jack just shrugged.

"Have you tried the Missing Outworlders Coordination Center?" Jack asked. "They probably have info about this Black Death you are searching for."

"I have. They don't have info about a person resembling her description," Red Death replied.

"By the way, what loots did you get from Therribus?" Jack asked.

Red death didn't answer his question.

"Take care of yourself, okay?" Jack said. "I don't have any more recall plates, but if you need help, just holler. I will come running."

"Do you think I need a hero?"

"Uh... I guess not," Jack scratched his head.

"Don't worry, I will look after her," Rayne said. Then to Red Death, she said, "My lady, do you mind if I become your companion?"

Jack and Red Death turned to him with surprised expressions.

"My lord, Rhemos, respected you a great deal. So am I. I am in your debt for exacting his vengeance when I hesitated for fearing the consequences."

"I will be depending on you then," Red Death said.

"Damn, girl. You get yourself a rare elite companion that is higher level than mine," Jack complimented.

He checked his status window to check Arlcard's situation. The vampire was still alive and still fighting. Arlcard had increased in level again. This time by two levels to level 58. All the enemies killed during the war as well as the partial exp from killing Garland must have given him lots of exp points. But even then, he still lost to Rayne who was a level 65 rare elite.

The battle at fort Garadhör was still ongoing. Jeanny had sent a message to The Man in the front line to inform commander Quintus that Therribus had fallen. Commander Quintus had his troops shout the news. Therribus' army didn't believe, of course, but it still lowered their morale. They looked at the burning forest in the distance. Some even broke away from the battle to head to that forest.

Since Therribus had been defeated and Alonzo was safe. Armstrong gave the command for the army to fight defensively. They tried breaking away from the enemies to minimize casualties, at the same time also marching to the burning forest.

"You are the one that leaked the information about the siege weapons, aren't you?" Jack asked Rayne.

Rayne nodded. "Prince Rhemos gave me his last order before he dies. He asked me to pretend to submit to prince Therribus and worked in the shadow against him. That if he couldn't be the king, then Therribus shouldn't be allowed to, either. Now that I have carried out the order, my duty is fulfilled. I'm no longer part of the Themisphere kingdom. I will go where I wish from now on."

Chapter 817: New Coalition

After Therribus' army saw the crown prince's body, most dropped down arms and surrendered. Several didn't know what to do.

Alonzo announced to them that this civil war had been a tragedy. Both sides had lost in this war. He won't hold anyone responsible. He would also not hold a grudge against the soldiers who had fought against him in this war. Everyone should return to their posts and resume their duties. Those that had fallen would receive proper burials, whether they fought for Therribus or Alonzo.

Alonzo told them that he hoped this was the end of their squabble. Themisphere Kingdom had lost many capable soldiers today. They couldn't afford to be weakened further. They should now strive for the good of the kingdom. He urged those that were loyal to prince Therribus to bring up their complaints and demands in the formal court. He would try to work them out as best as he could. He warned that any further act of violence would be considered an act of rebellion and would not be tolerated. There would be no more forgiveness for any transgression going forward.

A few high-profile officers that were most loyal to Therribus and his ideals, couldn't find themselves working for Alonzo. So, they resigned then and there. One of them was the mythical-grade Lord Marshall, Arther Pendrake. Alonzo thought it was a huge waste, but he didn't give them any trouble. From now on, the Themisphere kingdom would only have two Lord Marshalls.

The reinforcement army marched back to the capital then, with prince Alonzo among them. It took them two weeks to return to the capital. But since the civil war was officially over, the outworlders were free to return using the nearest zone portal inside Theneward.

All participating outworlders on Alonzo's side received notification that they had successfully completed the war summon quest. Everyone received exp points, mana cores, coins, and war contribution points based on their contribution.

Those that decided to participate in the war, were greatly pleased by the rewards. Those that had followed the war from start to end, easily increased two levels after the notification. Some who

contributed more even increased three levels. Those that survived till the end were mostly at level 50. Those that lost one or two levels recovered their lost levels and then some.

What they lost were the coins they had paid for the Amulet of Rebirth, but the rewarded coins compensated for the loss. They even gained mana cores and war contribution points. Prince Alonzo announced that they could go to the kingdom representative office in any city to exchange those points for goods. Those that had lost levels even gained a buff of 50% increase in gained exp for one week.

The other players who had learned about these rewards were now regretting not having participated in the war.

There were also rumors about participants who didn't wear Amulet of Rebirth. These players fell back to level 1 and lost everything. These players gained extra exp, cores, coins, and points from the reward and also receive a 200% exp buff for one month as well as a full set of level 10 rare-grade set equipment to help them restart. No one thought falling back to level 1 was worth any reward but still, the rewards were generous enough to help these players get back on their feet. Those who had no Amulet of Rebirth but were smart had already put their important belongings inside the Bank's vault for safekeeping, so not all their belongings were lost when they fell back to level 1.

In Jack's case, he received 19,000,000 exp points, 950 mana cores, 210 gold coins, and 3,326,257 war contribution points. The notification appeared as a projection in front of him and list out his achievements that provided the war contribution points.

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Fight enemy's troops = 426,257 war contribution points

Participate throughout the war = 100,000 war contribution points

Lead a regiment = 300,000 war contribution points

Successfully carrying out a surprise attack on the encirclement army = 500,000 war contribution points

Play a major role in destroying siege weapons = 300,000 war contribution points

Kill a high-ranked officer = 800,000 war contribution points

Ignite the war fires = 300,000 war contribution points

Save Prince Alonzo from capture = 600,000 war contribution points

*

The list only described the war contribution points granted for each achievement, but Jack was sure these achievements also affected the amount of exp, cores, and coins that he received.

The points from Fight enemy's troops were unique considering it was the only one with uneven numbers. He figured that these were the standard points that were calculated based on the damage dealt to the enemy's soldiers. The more enemies that were killed or damaged, the higher this point.

Jack grinned after seeing the rewards. Combined with the exp he gained from the final battle, he only left around three million exp points out of the thirty million points needed to fill up his Lightning God

Blessings. This amount won't take him long to gather, which meant his level won't get hindered as before.

He was also happy for the mana cores. He had burned half his stock to summon Ice Demon Fiend several times during the war. With this reward, his stock of mana cores had gone up to 1,310 mana cores. He was sure Jeanny was happy with this mana core reward. Almost all their members joined this war, meaning that many would be able to donate these mana cores soon. She would then be able to copy many items.

For coins, the reward was generous but he didn't think it a big deal. He had other avenues for coin income. Jack donated 500 mana cores and 200 gold coins to Jeanny to be used for guild purposes.

He also informed her of the new material requirements for the final upgrade of his Lightning God Blessing. He asked her to amass the divine gem and magic crystals whenever she had spare mana cores. Times two because Leavemealone would need the same quantity as well.

As for the war contribution points, he was not sure if the amount he gained was many or not. He would have to see the item list which he could exchange using these points first.

John saw Jack's grin. He said, "You seem awfully satisfied. You must think that you get the most points out of this war, don't you?"

"Why, of course. I am one of the leaders and I do many things that help in the war," Jack said, and then added loudly, "But since I'm not a boastful person, I wouldn't announce to everyone that I got more than three million war contribution points."

Several people gasped hearing Jack's not-so-subtle words. More was annoyed. This was what you call not boastful?

John, on the other hand, was snickering. Jack looked at him suspiciously.

John then said loudly, "Since I am also not a boastful person, I also won't announce that I got more than five million war contribution points!"

"What? You are lying! What did you do that gives you that many points?!" Bowler, who was with them, uttered.

"Why do I want to lie? Each of my strategies netted me more than one million points," John said. "I have made four strategies throughout the war. The battle during the first day, the battle to destroy the siege weapons, the distraction during the last battle, and the burning forest tactic. I'm even wondering why anyone can get more than half my points, even if that person is Jack. I mean, I alone have influenced this war more than all of you combined. I should get points more than all of you combined. I am seriously getting underpaid here."

"Underpaid my ass, you self-important prick!" Bowler scolded.

"Remind me to make a strategy to send you for a suicide task the next time," John returned.

Jack ignored the two's bickering. He guessed John was right. John contributed more compared to the others, even him. John's strategies played a key role in this victory. Without John's plan, they would have lost the war for sure.

Most of the players who supported Alonzo traveled together to Theneward to use its zone portal. Their numbers caused a commotion on the street. They paraded themselves on the street like victors back from the field of battle, because they were.

Several groups of players watched them with unfriendly scowls. When they used their Inspect, they found out these groups of players were from the guilds that had supported Therribus. They threw a taunting face, which caused those players to fume even further.

The players on the losing side didn't receive any reward when the war ended, that's why these players had been extremely unhappy with the war result. Not only that, a vast majority of them even lost levels in the war. They were trying their best to hold themselves from lunging at these parading f*ckers on the street. But considering most of these parading f*ckers were level 49 and 50, it was indeed best for them to stay put.

Most of the guild leaders walked together at the front of this parade instead of grouping with their own members.

"Ah... It's nice to finally be a winner again. It feels good, I like it!" Fat Gregory said. "Mister Storm Wind, it was indeed a wise decision to join your side. Don't you say so, Mister Josh?"

"Hm... I guess it is acceptable," Prideful Josh replied.

"Hah, didn't you two keep on complaining that our chances don't look good yesterday?" Beauty Beholder said.

"Ahaha, don't listen to her, mister Storm Wind. From now on, your guild is our big brother. We will listen to you. If you need anything, just holler," Fat Gregory said.

"Oh? Hey! In that case, how about we make a new coalition? With us here as the members?" Jack proposed.

"That sounds like a splendid idea!" Fat Gregory uttered. "What does everyone say about this?"

"Hold your horses!" Jeanny uttered, then said to Jack. "If you propose this, then you have to be the one settling all the management processes with these guilds!"

"Uh, um... Perhaps we should rethink," Jack said.

Chapter 818: War Contribution Points

Although Jeanny said that to Jack, she was not entirely against the idea of forming a coalition with these guilds with whom they had worked together during the war. John also thought it was a good idea. They didn't need any solid purposes like doing a joint epic quest to band together like the previous coalition. Simply some mutual exchange of information was good, as well as a pact to help each other when one of them needed it.

Hearing that, Jack said that he fully supported the idea and would let them have full authority over how to manage this cooperation with the other guilds. Jeanny and John gave him a hard stare as a result.

Since everyone wanted to exchange their war contribution points. The kingdom representative office was full to the brim with players. The office was a large building, only slightly smaller than the Adventurer Associations. But since everyone wanted to exchange their points at the same time, it was still not big enough to cater to the needs. One city only had one such office. Due to the excessive queueing, those who had less patience ended up teleporting to other cities to use the office there. Many ended up following these players, allowing the space to get freed up.

Jack didn't go to the other city since he didn't need to queue, because no one was brave enough to ask him to queue. The players even moved to the side when they saw him approach, they didn't know Jack approached with the intention to queue as well. Jack just saw these players as being extremely kind and friendly, he thanked them as he passed them by. He didn't notice Bowler and the others get blocked by these same players once he went ahead.

When Jack reached the counter, the officer asked him to place a hand into some sort of a scanning device. The device took his information. A list then appeared in front of him, showing the goods he could exchange using his war contribution points.

There were tons of items on the list. From mundane goods such as healing potions, common equipment, common ingredient and materials, to unusual goods such as gems, technique books, recipes, even divine gems and magic crystals. As he scrolled up, the rarity of the goods increased. He saw many super rare grade equipment. One of these equipment cost around two million war contribution points.

There were also summoning crystals that could be used during guild wars. The guild higher-ups would want to get this since they had used theirs during the war. He left them alone and let Jeanny and the others get them.

There were also elemental seeds to evolve one skill. Peniel informed him the seed of the five basic elements was the most common seed. Each of these seeds cost two million contribution points.

He continued to scroll up and finally found unique equipment. One Unique Armor cost around five million contribution points, while a unique weapon cost around six million contribution points.

Jack was dejected. He thought his points were high enough already. Turned out it was still not enough to be worth a unique equipment.

"Ah... If the war prolongs a little bit longer, perhaps I will have enough to get unique equipment," He commented.

The officer behind the counter lifted his brows after hearing Jack's comment. 'You wish this country to suffer a longer war?' His face said.

Jack realized he shouldn't have said that out loud. He awkwardly gave an apologetic expression to the officer.

"I guess I just have to choose other things to use my war contribution points on," Jack said and scrolled back down.

"If you want to get the unique equipment, you can just save your points for next time," Peniel informed.

"Oh? I can save them?" Jack asked. He was just about to use his points to get one of the elemental seeds. He thought at first this was like the points from the Ancient Battleground where the points would be forfeited if he didn't spend them now.

Jack asked the officer behind the counter for confirmation, to which the officer confirmed Peniel's words.

Peniel hit Jack in the head. "You don't believe me?"

Jack thought about this option. He preferred to just save his points for later, but when could he expect another country war to happen? Would it be wrong if he hoped for one to happen? If this was a real game, he would expect war events to happen regularly, just for the thrill of it. But this was the real world. Even though players didn't die for real, the natives did. It would be heartless for him to hope for a war to occur.

'Well, if it happens, it happens,' Jack thought. He decided to just save the points rather than using his points now to get things that he didn't truly need. If he wasted his points now and the next war scored him below five million points again, he would truly regret not having saved his current points.

He used 900,000 war contribution points to get three unique amethysts. He didn't exchange any other items after that. His war contribution points went down to 2,426,257 war contribution points after the exchange.

He left the counter and immediately used the three unique amethysts for his Runestone of Luck. The three unique amethysts provided 7,500 energies of the lightning element. This leveled up his Runestone of Luck from the super rare grade to a unique grade.

*

Runestone of Luck (unique runestone)

Increases luck by approx. 15 points for 10 seconds.

Elemental energy required for upgrade: 2,350/100,000

*

One hundred thousand elemental energy? Jack thought after reading the requirement to upgrade the runestone to the next level. That would mean he needed forty unique amethysts or diamonds for that. Was it even possible to get that many?

But then again, the next level up would be the maximum already. He thought it made sense to have this difficulty spike to get a legendary runestone. Otherwise, everyone would have it.

He didn't think too much about it. He chose to upgrade this Runestone of Luck because he would need it to do something for the guild soon. After the war was over, it was not just the players that received rewards, guilds also received separate rewards. Especially guilds that had Guild Headquarters, since they sent their guild armies, their contribution was more, hence higher rewards.

Guilds received rewards in the form of reputation points and coins, while guilds who had Guild Headquarters received additional rewards in the form of resources such as food, minerals, woods, and mana.

Of course, the resources a guild could keep depend on their warehouse. The higher the warehouse's level, the more resources the guild could store. If one's warehouse was filled up already, it didn't mean the excess from the reward was gone. These excess resources were kept by the kingdom. The guild could request the resources to be transferred at any time once their warehouses had enough space.

The guilds that received the most rewards were Everlasting Heavenly Legends and Crowd of Sins. The former because they had the most members fighting in the war and also the most members with the highest contribution during the war. The latter was because they provided the war fires that had been integral to the victory.

Other guilds that had provided materials and alchemists to produce the war fires also receive increased rewards for that. This caused those guilds who had held back in providing materials to regret it now. They didn't expect the world system to be all-knowing and could reward every guild fairly based on their contribution.

The reputation reward that Everlasting Heavenly Legends received was enough to boost them to level 4. They were the first guild to reach this level amongst the other guilds inside Themisphere. This cemented their position as the number one guild again inside Themisphere's guild chart list.

Now their guild could construct more structures. The limit of members they could recruit had also increased tremendously. Now they could have five thousand members, more than double their previous limit. Jeanny immediately put recruiting process in gear. They still had many candidates that they couldn't accept due to their membership limits in the past. Now she had everyone send those candidates with the best prospect an offer to join. Those candidates immediately jumped at the opportunity. Who didn't want to be a part of the number one guild in the country?

Jack informed John that he would return to Heavenly Citadel to use that item. John replied that he would return in a moment. John said that he was still admiring the unique summoner robe he had just acquired. John was the only one with enough war contribution points to exchange for a unique armor. The dude even bragged about it in the guild channel. Jack wondered if he should show the guy his new unique-grade magic staff, which was one of the loots he had gained after defeating Garland.

Jack ignored the guy. Since he was waiting for John to return, he decided to go to Commander Quintus' tower to hand in his completed kingdom faction chain quest, Help Prince Alonzo to survive the civil war.

While he was on his way, he checked his titles.

Aside from the rewards after the notification, every player that participated in the war from start to end, even one on the losing side, also received a title. The title was called War Veteran. If equipped, this title gave a 10% damage reduction when the player was participating in a country war or a guild war.

Jack received an additional title aside from that standard one, War General. He had gotten this title for commanding more than five thousand native soldiers during a war scenario. When equipped, all native soldiers under his command received 10% additional damage, damage reduction, HP, stamina, and mana.

John also received a second title, War Tactician. When John equipped this title during a war situation, all native soldiers that moved following his strategies would receive a 30% increase in attributes and movement speed.

Chapter 819: Marque's Exchange List

After submitting the report of his kingdom faction chain quest, Jack received 4,000,000 exp points, 80 gold coins, and 30,000 merit points.

The exp points he received immediately filled up the exp bar for his Lightning God Blessing. Now, if Jeanny could copy the divine gems and magic crystals, all he needed to upgrade this divine skill to the final form was a divine crystal. Peniel had told him that she didn't know of a sure way to get this material, but Jack knew where he could find at least one because he had seen this legendary material in the past. He was just not sure if the owner would let him borrow the divine crystal to be copied. He might try asking later.

Since he could now level up his classes again, he made sure to change his exp setting back to 35:35:30 for Blade Dancer, Archmage, and Beastmaster respectively.

The kingdom faction chain Quest in his quest list was now updated to, Wait for Prince Alonzo's coronation.

"That's weird," Jack said. To which Peniel responded, "About what?"

"This kingdom faction chain quest," Jack said. "Its main difficulty is stated as SSS. We are at the end of the quest already, but there is not yet any part of its quest with SSS difficulty. The one we submitted just now with the civil war is only categorized as SS difficulty."

"How do you know it's the end of the chain quest already?" Peniel asked.

"Duh, look at the current update. It said, wait for Prince Alonzo's coronation. What happens after that? He becomes a king. The quest's objective is to help him become a king. Won't it end then?"

"I guess it is weird. Perhaps some other thing will happen before that?"

"Hm... Maybe. Whatever. We'll deal with it when it happens. Now... Let's see what I can get for being a marquess."

After receiving 30,000 merit points, Jack's nobility rank had increased to Marquess. A Marquess rank required one to have total merit points of 50,000. Jack's nobility badge now contained 60,970 merit points. The next rank was Duke, which required total merit points of 250,000.

He couldn't wait for that to happen. At that time, he would see Duke Alfredo as an equal.

His available merit points for exchange were 49,540. He was now checking the list to see if anything caught his fancy.

*

Marquess (Individual):

- Hire a special elite companion = 2,000 / week
- Use gold mining cave = 200 / 3 hours
- Use training cave (level 50-60) = 300 / 5 hours
- Use training cave (level 60-70) = 600 / 5 hours

Marquess (Guild):

- Royal Hounds = Hire a pack of one hundred level 70 Royal Hounds that roamed around Guild Headquarters for one week. Cannot be controlled. Will attack those that are considered hostile. Can detect invisible intruders (only one pack can be hired at a time) = 3,000 merit
- Armored Cavalry Insignia (Limit: 1) = Convert trained Cavalry unit to Armored Cavalry unit = 6,000 merit
- Mana Boost (cooldown: 1 week) = Boost mana production speed for the next 3 days = 500 merit
- War Boost (cooldown: 1 month) = Boost guild soldiers' attributes by 100% for the next war summon (only one boost can be bought at a time) = 5,000 merit

*

Jack didn't see anything that he wanted from the individual section. His Arlcard was already a better companion than the one offered here. The gold mining cave provided a high chance of getting high-grade blacksmith materials, but he already had the Transformation Prism for that. With their guild now at level 4, they would be able to upgrade their guild training cave to cater to those of level 50 and above.

The royal hounds sounded like perfect guards to watch their headquarters since they could detect invisible trespassers, but he didn't think these royal hounds were urgent. They got their mascot, Captain Whitebeard, guarding their guild core anyway. Any invisible enemy would still need to become visible once they started attacking the barrier protecting their Guild Hall.

"This war boost, does it have an expiry date?" Jack asked. "I mean, if I buy it now and the next war only happens five months from now, will it still take effect?"

"It will still take effect," the officer behind the desk answered.

"Then what about this cooldown?" Jack asked.

"The cooldown will start from when the guild army is summoned for war. Not from when you buy the boost."

"I see... In that case, I want to use my merit points for these three," Jack said. He clicked the options for the Armored Cavalry Insignia, mana boost, and war boost. He spent 11,500 merit points for those three. With their guild at level 4, they would require many resources to build the new structures, which included mana. Not to mention, they already had a few things that possessed daily mana upkeep, which reduced their mana income.

He also spent another 2,500 merit points for the building boost and training boost from the Earl section, to improve the construction speed of new structures and retrain their lost guild soldiers.

Jack returned to Heavenly Citadel afterward. John and Jeanny were already back as well. They met inside the Guild Hall. Domon, Leavemealone, Jet, and Grace were also there. Grace was chatting with Captain Whitebeard.

"Yo! Captain. I am curious. Do you mind showing me your true form?" Jack said after he arrived.

"Sure, no problem," the mouse said and he transformed abruptly into a hulking rat-like giant with shark-like teeth. Captain Whitebeard's true form's head was right above Jack. His savage red eyes were looking down at Jack with what appeared to be a smile, a weird scary smile. "What do you think?" He asked.

"Um... Maybe it's better if you turn back," Jack replied. His monocle confirmed that Captain Whitebeard's true form was indeed level 68 Rare Elite Beast.

The rat reverted to its tiny cute self. "It's truly liberating here. I won't be able to turn into this form as I like in the Village of Peace. I'm truly enjoying my time here," the rat said.

"Yeah, good for you," Jack said. He then asked John, "How long would it take to upgrade the Hero Altar?"

"With the building boost that you have just bought, one day," John answered. "I originally wanted to build the Vault which is available after our headquarters reached level 4."

"Vault?"

"It is a guild facility functioned like the city's Bank. Guild members can store their belongings inside this vault, including their gold coins. My intuition tells me that there will be more wars coming in the future. Those that continue to die will find Amulet of Rebirth's cost to be beyond their wealth. The smart players who can't afford an amulet of rebirth are already placing their valuables inside the bank. So if they die, the ones they lost are only their levels and the equipment they wore at the time."

"If it's the same, why waste our resources to build one? Our members can just use the bank in the city."

"Although the function is the same, there are also differences. Unlike our real-world bank, this game world's bank charges people a fee to use its facility. The more items you put into the bank, the higher the fees. Our guild vault is free for members, but the space is limited. Level 1 vault gave every member a storage space the size of their inventory bag. If we upgrade the vault's level, the storage space will increase."

"I see. It will be a great service for our members if we build that vault. More players will flock to us if they know we got this kind of facility."

"I need to tell you, people, something about guild's vault, though," Peniel said. "If you get invaded by other guilds and your guild core is destroyed. Aside from losing a portion of your resources and guild hostage token, all the items inside your vault will also be taken by the winning guild."

"Oh...," Jack, John, and Jeanny uttered at the same time.

"Well, as long as we don't lose, it won't matter, right?" Jet said.

"Yeah, right! There is no way we lose!" Jack exclaimed.

"Well, whatever. Anyway, I will prioritize the Hero Altar first," John said. "I assume you want to use the Hero Token, right? The upgrade should be completed by tomorrow morning."

"Yes," Jack replied. "In that case, I will stay here till tomorrow to use that token. After that, I have to leave again."

"Figures," John remarked.

"Where are you going?" Grace asked.

"The Valley of Tempus," Jack answered.

"That place with warped time?" Domon asked. He had been to that valley before. "Why are you going back there?"

"There is a special class trial for Archmage class at that place," Jack answered.

"Special class?" The ones, who were still unaware, asked.

Jack and Peniel then explained to them about the special class.

"I should arrange to send our core members' archmages to that place as well," Jeanny said.

"Don't. Let me make sure about this special class first," Jack said. "Only I can go in and out freely from that place using Pandora. For others, they might get stuck inside the valley without a way out. I can't stay there and ferry people in and out just so they can get their special class. We will see what this special class does and how its trial goes first, then we think about having others take it as well."

"I don't think it will be that simple. Special class is usually random occurrences," Peniel said. "If it is fixed at one place like this, then most likely it is a one-time deal. If you successfully get this special class, I don't think it will be available for others anymore."

"So, there is nothing we can do to increase our chance of getting a special class?" Jeanny asked.

"Every league faction has the chance to offer a special class to its members. But as I said, it is random. It is not something that you can exchange with your faction points. This is usually bestowed by the higher-ups of the faction. Perhaps if you improve your standing in the faction and get friendly with one of the higher-ups, you might get an offer for a special class."

'Hm, higher-ups of a faction?' Jack's thought went to Gruff and Janus. But since he was trying his Archmage special class in the Valley of Tempus, he could forget about Janus. "Maybe I can try asking Gruff the next time I visit the League of Champions," he said.

Peniel, who heard that, said, "I said offered. If Gruff hasn't offered you, it is unlikely he will give it to you even if you ask. You can only wait as you improve your standing in that faction."

"All right then, I will just spend today grinding inside Training Cave and the Ice Throne Legacy dungeon while waiting for the Hero Altar's upgrade," Jack said.

"You are going to the dungeon? Count me in," Jet said.

"Me too," Grace said as well.

"Sure... but before that, let me sleep first. You guys aren't exhausted? We just spend the whole night fighting in a war."

"Now that you mention it. Yeah, I think I will go have some shut-eyes as well," Jet said.

"Me too...," Grace repeated her words.

Chapter 820: Second Guild Hero

After waking up at the noon, Jack spent the rest of the day inside Ice Throne Legacy Dungeon and Training Cave. In the evening after spending the whole afternoon grinding, he tallied the souls inside his container of souls. He had reaped another round of an astronomical number of souls from the last battle, even more than the first two battles. Maybe because this last battle was a direct all-out battle. There were more casualties. If he went and walked around the flaming forest, he would have reaped more.

Not to mention the souls from killing Garland. That one single kill amounted to more than ten percent of the souls currently inside his Container, which had 5,724,000 souls.

This was definitely a new record for him. He had expected that he would score big in this war but this was still more than what he had hoped for. He could upgrade an elite skill fifty-seven times. He could fully max three elite skills from level 1 with this number of souls.

After studying his large library of skills, Jack decided to first max out his new Beastmaster's skill, Ultimate Beast. He still had 12 Beastmaster's free skill points available after saving them from all the levels up. He used those free skill points and added 700,000 souls to max the skill level.

*

Ultimate Beast, level 20/20 (Active skill, requires pet)

Release the secret power of the pet. +500% to pet's attributes, +20% to pet's damage, damage received by the pet is reduced by 30%. Certain pets might display unique abilities during the skill.

Duration: 10 minutes

Cooldown: 6 hours

*

The increase in levels increased the attribute bonus and the duration time. Jack was happy that the duration time was increased. This meant his Therras could stay in its Sovereign mode for a longer period of time.

Jack then used 5,000,000 souls to max his various skills and spells.

*

Spirit Weapon (Active skill, requires melee weapons), level 20/20

Summon a spirit avatar of the equipped melee weapon. The power of the summoned spirit is determined by the weapon. Duration: 10 minutes

Cooldown: 3 hours

*

Whirlwind Slash (Active skill, melee, requires dual-wield swords), level 20/20, star: 2

Strike everyone within a radius of 3.4 meters, dealing 500% physical damage.

Cooldown: 1 minute

Stamina: 90

*

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

Sent 5 cutting energy that travels in an arc, dealing 500% wind damage to all in the path, 30% added Critical Chance.

Range: 32 meters

Cooldown: 3 minutes

Stamina: 150

*

Hundred Shadow Strikes (Active skill, range, requires melee weapon), level 20/20

Split into 20 shadows, each shadow deals 300% darkness damage. 10% added Critical Chance. 30% chance to cause Cursed.

Range: 10 meters

Cooldown: 2 hours

Stamina: 200

*

Magic Wall (Active Skill, requires magic weapons), level 20/20, star: 2

Create a 20-meter wide wall of light in front of the caster, withstand damages of 500% from the caster's maximum HP, reduces all damage by 34%.

Duration: 5 seconds

Cooldown: 4 minutes 24 seconds

Mana: 120

*

He also had the 3 free attribute points from the Beastmaster level up in the middle of the war. He invested them to his Intelligence stat. Added with other bonuses, his intelligence was now at 724 points.

Jack then teleported to Thereath. He had received a message from Red Death that she was leaving. Jack had asked her to wait, he wanted to say his goodbye in person. Prince Alonzo had granted her one day in Thereath, to exchange her war contribution points, and also to take care of her affairs before leaving. She would be escorted by a garrison to the kingdom's border of her choosing. Jack understood the garrison would also be for her protection.

She couldn't teleport to any of the other cities that were closer to the border or cities in other countries because she had been a Death Associates member since before anyone could venture out to other cities. All those zone portal links were also established by the guild members, not by her personally. So, when she was cast out from the guild, the links were also gone. She had to go back to each of those cities and reestablish the links again before she could use the teleportation service.

She was now by the city gate. The garrison that was supposed to escort her was nearby. Blackjack was also there with her.

'This guy is getting more clingy ever since she left the guild,' Jack thought of Blackjack.

"Let me guess, you will be accompanying her on her journey?" Jack asked Blackjack.

"What? Do you want to join too?" Blackjack asked back.

"Can't. Still have matters to take care of," Jack replied. "Just take care of her, all right?"

"That goes without saying."

"I don't need anyone's care," Red Death uttered.

"Of course. Where is Rayne?" Jack asked.

"He has gone on his own journey. He is no longer part of Themisphere's army. I can call him using his companion token when necessary," Red Death replied.

"Do you have to leave tonight? You are allowed till tomorrow morning, right?"

"There's nothing left to do. I don't see a reason to delay any longer."

"In that case, I wish you luck. I hope you find the one you are looking for."

Red Death nodded.

"Don't hesitate to ask for help, okay. I will head over whenever you need me. Just let me know."

"Goodbye," Red Death said and turned away.

'Still so cold,' Jack sighed.

He watched them leave. The garrison followed the two as they galloped off with their steeds.

*

The next morning, almost half of the Everlasting Heavenly Legends' core members gathered in front of the Hero Altar. The place was rather crowded due to that.

"Here," John said and handed the hero token to Jack. Jack used his Inspect on the token.

*

Hero Token (Super rare consumable)

Summon a random hero

Restriction: Usable only with Hero Altar

*

"Peniel, you mentioned before that the grade of the heroes is affected by the rarity of the hero token, correct?" Jack asked.

"Yes, a super rare grade Hero Token has a 60% chance of producing an elite-grade hero, 25% chance for a special elite, 10% rare elite, and 5% mythical hero," Peniel answered.

"Only 5% for a mythical hero?" Jack commented.

"Damn! The probability of getting the weakest elite-grade hero is 60%? That's more than half. Won't we be screwed if it turns out to be just an elite hero? After all the trouble to get that token, you've better not screw this up, Jack boy," Jet said.

"You are not even the one who got this token, you old shit!" Jack returned.

"If you have a unique grade Hero Token, it will provide a better chance. The weakest that token summons is a special elite grade, while it has a 10% chance to get a mythical grade. It even has a 2% chance of getting an eternal-grade hero," Peniel informed.

"No use dreaming about things we don't have. We can only make do with this super rare Hero Token," Jack said. "Okay, everyone starts praying while I use this token!"

"To which God?" John asked.

"Whichever one you find comfortable with," Jack replied.

"There is none that makes me comfortable," John said.

Jack gave him an irritated stare. He shouldn't have answered this guy's question from the start.

Jack summoned his Runestone of Luck. Part of his consciousness concentrated to boost his luck points to the maximum using the runestone, while the other part worked the interface to link the Hero Token to the Hero Altar.

Everyone was silent as they watched tendrils of light come out from the Hero Altar and wrapped around the token. The token floated out of Jack's hand. It started shining with soft light before getting stronger by the second. It flared a blinding flash before disappearing. The tendrils of light were also gone.

"Huh? Nothing happens. Did we get a new guild hero already?" The Man asked.

"Let me check the Hero Altar's interface," Jeanny said.

"I think you screw this up, Jack boy," Jet said.

Before Jack returned Jet's comment, Grace pointed up and said, "Look!"

Everyone looked up and saw a humanoid figure enveloped by light slowly floating down. Everyone moved to allow this figure some space to land. With how cramped the place with, everyone ended up pressing their bodies to the ones behind them.

The figure landed and the enveloping light slowly dissipated. They finally could see the figure clearly, who was a woman, wearing simple cloth armor and a rusty staff. Despite her humble apparel, her demeanor exhibited aloofness. As if the ones before her weren't worth her attention.

Even for the wild Uruk, the unruly barbarian turned obedient at once when he was transformed into a guild hero. This one although didn't show disobedience, she also didn't say anything or ask for a command. She just stood there and gazed elsewhere. Contempt was shown on her face.

Everyone used Inspect at the same time and gasped.

"Jack boy, I take my words back," Jet said. "Damn! You actually score that 5% chance."

*

Nilrem (Mythical Hero, Elf), level 50

HP: 760,000