

World 831

Chapter 831: Embedding a Weapon Orb

After paying for the special room's one-hour fee, which was ten gold coins. The shopkeeper took Jack into a room in the innermost part of the workshop. Inside the room was a furnace that was twice larger than the ones in the other rooms. There were also various kinds of tools inside.

"Do you want to do the etching yourself or do you want to hire a blacksmith to do it for you?" the shopkeeper asked.

"If I do it myself, will there be an instruction to show me how to do it?" Jack asked.

"First, you will need to be at least an intermediate expert blacksmith to attempt the etching."

Jack had no problem in this department. "I'm a basic master blacksmith," Jack informed.

A glint of surprise in the shopkeeper's eyes. He then continued, "If you haven't done it before, then you have to learn its manual first. I can give you the manual for fifty gold coins."

"How much is the cost to rent a blacksmith to do it?"

"Twenty gold coins," the shopkeeper answered. "Please note that you also need mana cores when you embed the weapon orb. We only provide the etching to open up the slot on your weapon."

"That's okay, he knows," Peniel informed. She had told Jack about this. Higher grade weapon orb required more mana cores when it was embedded. For the unique-grade weapon orb Jack possessed, he would need to spend 75 mana cores. This was the cost that he needed to repay when he removed the weapon orb and embedded it into another weapon.

"I will do it myself. Here are the fifty gold coins," Jack said.

The shopkeeper nodded and gave him a book. Similar to the technique book, an interface appeared when he touched the book, asking if he wanted to learn it. Jack clicked accept.

The shopkeeper left him afterward. Jack approached the furnace and another interface appeared. Jack chose the option of etching a slot for the weapon orb. An instruction video appeared then. The tools to be used were a small hammer and a chisel.

Jack placed his Storm Breaker on the work table. He then proceeded to work following the video instruction. The difficulty was not as high as when crafting equipment, so Jack didn't take long before he finished the work.

There was now an indentation at the center of Storm Breaker's cross-guard.

"One weapon can only have one slot for a weapon orb?" Jack asked.

"Yes," Peniel confirmed.

Jack nodded. He stored his Storm Breaker and took out his Mana Leech Staff. He only had one weapon orb at the moment, but he decided to just etch the slot on both his weapons. He needed to come here

to etch his weapons, but embedding didn't require a special facility. He could embed the weapon orb anywhere. So, with both weapons already having available slots, he could just embed a weapon orb in case he found another one.

"Peniel, if there is a weapon orb, I assume there are also armor orbs?" Jack asked.

"Yes," Peniel answered.

Jack rolled his eyes at his fairy companion. If he didn't ask, she might not have told him until he actually found an armor orb.

"I assume the process of etching an armor should be the same as a weapon?" Jack asked again.

"Yes," Peniel answered again.

So, Jack unequipped his Sword Fiend's Gear set and etched all of them, in preparation if he found any armor orb.

After finishing with the etchings, Jack took out the Orb of Raijin. He then proceeded to touch the orb to the staff. An interface appeared asking if he confirmed to embed this weapon orb into his magic staff. Jack confirmed.

The weapon orb disappeared from his grip. A loading bar then appeared. The bar filled up in a few seconds, he then saw the orb fixed at the back of his staff which was where he had etched the slot.

The orb emitted a brilliant purple color as lightning streaks occasionally traveled along the staff. Jack checked his staff's specs.

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Mana Leech Staff, level: 60/90 (unique magic weapon), embedded: Orb of Raijin (Unique-grade Weapon orb)

Lightning damage: 632

Range: 60 meters

Attack speed: 1

Energy: 300

Intelligence +20

MP +200

Standard attacks convert 1% of inflicted damage into MP

Mana Steal Aura: All hostiles within a 5-meter radius lose 30 MP every second, and the lost MP is transferred to the staff's owner. Duration: 2 minutes. Cooldown: 1 hour

All skills or spells that deal lightning damage +20% damage.

Each standard attack has a 5% chance to produce chain lightning that strikes up to 7 hostiles, dealing 50% lightning damage.

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"Cool," he said after seeing his staff's upgrade. This should increase his long-range capabilities.

After exiting the workshop, Jack headed to the zone portal and teleported to Heavenly Citadel.

He had sent Grace a message, informing his plan. It was actually more convenient for him to travel alone since his Pandora's speed was unmatched, but he was afraid if he didn't tell Grace and just waltz off by himself, she would be angry again.

She was currently doing the Legacy Dungeon with Jet. So, Jack just waited for them inside the Guild Hall. Jack thought those two had ended up rather close after he left them at the Village of Peace.

Jet had gone into the dungeon with Grace to evaluate her improvement with the Phantom Beating Stick technique. They had also left one spot so Grace could summon Oswald. Jet gave the two some pointers on their martial arts while they beat through the dungeon.

"So, you people can beat the medium difficulty without me already?" Jack asked Tip who was at the control panel inside the Guild Hall. Jeanny and John had left early in the morning to meet Tim and Sonny to discuss their cooperation in developing the players leveling center inside the Valley of Tempus.

"Yeah, most of our levels are good enough for that already," Tip said, before he asked, "Hey, do you want to try the Hard difficulty?"

Before Jack could answer, Peniel spoke first, "I suggest you don't waste your time. Although every legacy dungeon had a different difficulty rating, even the Hard difficulty mode of the easiest dungeon required at least a full party of level 60 adventurers fully decked with super rare grade equipment. And I suspect the Ice Throne Legacy dungeon you have here is not one of the easiest dungeons. I suggest you only try that when you are at least level 70."

"You heard the lady," Jack said.

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Jack chatted with Tip and also Captain Whitebeard, who was also inside the Guild Hall while practicing his skills and spells. At one time when Captain Whitebeard was talking, he cast his newly learned Acceleration spell on the mouse. The mouse ended up speaking five times faster. Both Jack and Tip couldn't understand what Whitebeard was saying, all they heard were squeaks.

Jack was laughing himself off, saying that now Whitebeard sounded more like a proper mouse. Peniel rolled her eyes at Jack's prank.

"Are you bullying my captain?" A voice was heard. They turned and saw Grace entering the hall with Jet, Bowler, and The Man. Bowler and The Man were among the party that had entered the legacy dungeon with Grace.

"No, no. We are good," Jack said and patted Whitebeard's head, to which Whitebeard responded with a slap on Jack's hand.

"You all completed the dungeon?" Tip asked.

"Yeah. Here, another Heart of Ice," Jet said and tossed the item to Tip.

"Oh? Heart of Ice? What do you need it for?" Jack asked. He had also gotten that item before, he used it on his Amulet of Summoning, allowing him to summon the Ice Demon Fiend.

"This thing can be used to craft the Ice Cannon Tank," Tip informed. "The materials required to construct those tanks don't necessarily need this Heart of Ice. But with this material, the tank will be even more powerful. This Heart of Ice can enhance the Ice Cannon Tank's ice shield ability. The ice shield can take more punishment before they are depleted. The ice shield can also regenerate faster. This Heart of Ice increases the tank's survivability by a large portion."

"Amazing," Jack remarked and asked, "Did we lose any of the five tanks during the last war?"

"Yeah, two," Tip replied.

"Too bad..."

"Yeah, it takes a lot of material and time to craft those tanks. But we will make better ones in preparation for the next battle."

"Better ones? Aren't their stats fixed?" Jack asked.

"No, a mechanical weapon such as those tanks can be crafted not only from fixed materials," it was Peniel who answered. "Just like that Heart of Ice. You can use other ice property materials to replace it, but its resulting effect won't be as good. By using rarer materials, you can produce stronger Ice Cannon Tanks."

"The blacksmith level of the ones who craft the tanks also affects the end product," Tip added. "As our blacksmith players increased their expertise levels, so too will our Ice Cannon Tanks be more powerful."

"Great. Now, who wants to go for a road trip to the Republic of Palgrost?" Jack asked.

"Count me in," Grace replied.

Jack nodded. "Any others?" Jack looked at Jet, Bowler, and The Man.

Bowler came forward with a beaming face. "Great! I have always been interested to see that country. Let me jo—Ouch!

His words were interrupted because he had been kicked on the leg by Jet.

"Hey, what was that for?" He protested.

"Aren't you forgetting you have promised to help me with a quest? You can't join their trip!" Jet uttered.

"What? I never—oof!"

Bowler's words were cut again. This time by The Man whose hands grabbed him from behind and covered his mouth. "All of us can't join. It seems that only boss and madame boss can go on this trip."

"Madame boss?" Jack turned to Grace, who just shrug. "Anyone else in this headquarters? Maybe I should ask them."

Jet gave Tip a stare, who immediately responded by saying to Jack, "No need to check the others! I've tasks for them. Only the two of you are free at this moment."

"Hm, too bad," Jack said and turned to Grace. "Seems like this time it's just the two of us on the trip."

Grace again replied with a shrug.

Chapter 832: Republic of Palgrost

Jack and Grace soon left the Guild Hall and headed to the teleportation chamber. The guild already established links with several main cities in Palgrost from its dwarven members. Jack checked the coordinates that were given by Janus for his quest. It was in a place that he had not traveled yet, so that spot on his map was still covered by grey fog. But from those coordinates, he could estimate the closest city the guild had access to.

Jack originally hoped that Jet could follow, considering that he was from that country. But if Jet said he had something else to do, he won't impose on the old man.

After checking the map, the closest main city to the coordinates was coincidentally the capital of Palgrost, Balgadur. Jack thought this was fine as well, he had been to several other countries but he never visited their capitals. This time, he could check out the capital on his first visit.

On their way to the teleportation chamber, Grace asked Jack about their purpose to Palgrost. Jack informed her about his SS-difficulty quest. Grace expressed her respect that Jack had such a high-difficulty quest. She said that it was rare for anyone to get such a quest. Most of the other players were still tackling A-difficulty quests, with a minority having S-difficulty. Jack thought if he should tell her that he had done similar difficulty quests in the past. Heck, he even had one SSS chain quest that was still ongoing on his quest page.

Jack and Grace used the teleportation chamber and appeared in the zone portal of Balgadur.

They were greeted by the sight of tightly-packed squarish buildings made of stone and glass. Those buildings appeared rather modern compared to the buildings in Thereath. The sky was dark, many artificial lights filled the streets and the buildings. The zone portal of Balgadur was similarly located outdoor on a large open square like the zone portals in other cities. Jack and Grace turned around as they took in the sight.

Four dwarven soldiers were guarding the zone portal. They only gave Jack and Grace a glance, similar to the other passersby who were walking around this square. Nowadays, many foreign outworlders had gained access to their country, so seeing a human and an elf outworlder appearing here was not strange.

"Huh, I thought it is still noon when we left?" Jack asked.

"It's dark not because it is night," Grace said and pointed up.

"Oh," Jack uttered after seeing the supposed sky. Except it was not. It was a ceiling, far above even the tallest building there which looked to easily be ten storeys in height.

"Many dwarven cities are built underground or inside a large cave hall," Peniel informed. "As for Balgadur, it was built inside a series of caves inside the biggest mountain in Palgrost, Mount Sedgebare.

"This is not a large cave hall, this is an epically colossal cave hall," Jack uttered after looking at the size of the cave. He could still not believe he was inside a mountain. The lights that he thought at first to be stars were instead also artificial lights. 'How the heck did they place those lights up there?' He thought.

While they were still admiring the sight, one of the four soldiers spoke to them, "Sir? Miss? If you are not using the zone portal anymore, can you move away?"

"Oh, sorry," Jack said and hurriedly moved away with Grace in tow.

"So, where to? Should we go out and head directly to the coordinates marked on your map?" Grace asked.

"Let's spend a day here. It's not every day we get to visit another country's capital. We will depart tomorrow," Jack answered.

The two then strolled around the capital. Since they had no idea where was what, they just walked around randomly. They found another notable difference between the city here and the ones in Themisphere. There were a lot of carriages in the street, and they were not pulled by horses but instead operated by some kind of a steam engine. Smoke came out of the small chimney at the front of the carriage as it rolled. Everyone seemed to travel around using these modern-looking vehicles.

"Let's try one," Grace proposed.

"Sure," Jack said.

They hailed one and then climbed aboard.

"Where to?" The driver asked.

"Uh, um...," Jack had no idea what to say.

"Please take us around the city and see its famous landmarks," Grace said to the driver.

The driver looked back and said, "That will cost you two gold coins."

"So expensive?" Grace uttered. The cost of using a carriage from one end of Thereath to the other was only five silver coins after the inflation.

"That will only be for the first three hours. If you want to continue, I have to ask for more," The driver said.

"Here are the coins," Jack gave the driver two gold coins.

The driver grinned when he accepted the coins. The vehicle soon moved.

Jack received a silent message from Grace, "Why so spendthrift? I should be able to ask him to lower the price if you give me time to negotiate."

"Um... I think wasting time on such trivial matters is not worth it," Jack replied.

While on their trip, Jack requested repeated stops whenever he saw a store that sold ores and equipment. He again spent a large number of coins to stock up.

"You are more shopaholic than a woman," Grace commented after lots of stops. They ended up didn't proceed far. The carriage spent more time stopping than moving. It was even almost at the end of the three hours stated by the driver.

"Uh, sorry," Jack realized his blunder. If he continued like this, they won't sightsee anything. So, Jack resisted his urge to stop at the next store they passed by. He also paid the driver another two gold coins when the time was up.

Despite being inside a cave, there were surprisingly many incredible sights to see. There was a lava waterfall at one end of the capital. The lava then flowed across the capital in the form of a river, before ending in a huge lava lake on the other side of the capital. On this lake were several cruise ships, built on top of domesticated lava turtles. People could pay a fee to get a ride on these so-called cruise ships.

Without hesitation, the two took a trip on one of these ships. The carriage's driver happily waited for them at the shore. He concluded these two would be his customers for the whole day, earning easy coins without having to move much.

After enjoying the trip around the lake, the two were brought by the driver to the upper parts of the capital. Somewhere close to the ceiling of the cave. The driver took them into one of the large caves there and came out to a large opening that was the outer side of Mount Sedgebare. From there, they could see the outside world. They saw the vast landscape down there was filled with many networks of cemented roads. Many steam-powered vehicles went along these roads. There were even several railways.

A restaurant or café was built alongside this opening. People could enjoy the view while enjoying fine meals and drinks. It was already sunset at the time, so Jack requested a table in that restaurant. He and Grace enjoyed dinners while looking at the scenery below.

"This place is truly different," Grace uttered.

"Yeah," Jack agreed. This place looked more industrious compared to Themisphere. "Hey, how about Aurebor Dynasty? What does it look like there?"

"Well, I guess it is like any typical elven country. It emphasized nature. You can say that it is completely the opposite of this place. The houses there appear as if trees that were grown instead of built. The cities look more like a forest of giant trees instead of a proper city."

"I would love to see it someday," Jack said.

"We can go there after you finished with your quest here," Grace proposed.

"Sure, if nothing crazy comes up," Jack replied. He didn't put much hope on that thought. With Liguritudum's situation still uncertain and World Maker's threat still looming, he didn't think he could afford much leisure time. Unless there was an important quest that took him to that elven country, he didn't think he would spend the time to visit it.

While they were enjoying the view, they saw a steam train coming from afar along one of the railways.

"Hey, probably we can take one of those trains or the vehicles when we go to the coordinates of your quest tomorrow. They seemed fast," Grace proposed.

'Not faster than Pandora,' Jack thought. But those vehicles did look a bit faster than Grace's rare-grade steed.

"Sure, let's take one tomorrow morning," Jack said.

"The players in this country had a much more convenient transporting system compared to us. I bet they had been able to visit other cities on their first month here."

"Not necessarily. Players were dead broke when they first arrived in this world. I don't think they can afford one of those vehicles in their first month."

"But they certainly can travel faster than the players in the other countries."

"Yes, I even heard that they had one of those trains going to the Sangrod Empire. The dwarf and vampire players are the two races that can cross countries earlier than the others."

"I heard that you have been to the Sangrod Empire? What is the place like?" Grace asked.

"Dark," Jack answered. "No sunlight there. Slaves are also legal in that country. Not recommended to visit."

After they finished their dinner, they lingered a bit more enjoying the scene. At night, artificial lights alighted the cemented roads and railroad, providing illumination to night travelers and beautiful scenery for ones who viewed them from up here.

Chapter 833: Local Gangsters

Their driver took them to the next famous place in the city. Since it was already night, they figured this would be the last place to sightsee. After this, they would look for an inn to retire for the night.

The last place that their driver took them to was a plaza. A very large plaza. They had to go through a cave tunnel out into another cave hall that was specially dedicated to this plaza. The floor was made of a perfectly flat black marble that reflected the lights from above. It created a dazzling feeling that the entire floors were full of stars.

At the center of this plaza was a huge black obelisk. The obelisk had four sides that were also very flat. Its surface was adorned by runes that emitted mystic light.

Jack asked the driver what's the function of the obelisk.

"Hell if I know," the driver replied. "The thing was already here before this city was built."

Jack and Grace looked around. This place seemed to only serve as a spot for tourists, similar to the lava lake they had visited before. People were walking leisurely around the plaza. The two walked towards the obelisk to study it from close up.

"Do you feel it?" Jack asked.

"Yes, the mana coursing through this obelisk is unusual," Grace said. "It seemed to extend out into this marble flooring."

Jack touched the obelisk. The rune's light flickered a bit around the surface he touched, but otherwise produced no other effect. He tried to manipulate his mana to make a connection with the obelisk but it was as if his mana wasn't compatible with the mana coursing through the obelisk. The obelisk's mana just slipped past his.

"Hm... perhaps it is truly just a decoration," Jack shrugged.

As the two continued to study the obelisk, a voice uttered from their side, "Would you look at that?!"

They turned and saw a group of dwarven men approaching. There were six of them, Jack used Inspect and found the six to be from the same guild, Casa Oggetto.

"Where does this celestial beauty come from?" The man, who seemed to be the leader of the six, said. He was clearly referring to Grace.

This lead man had the name of Vincenzu Giovanni and was a level 48 Mage Knight. Level 48 was an average player's level in Thereath, with the top players at level 49, while those who had joined the civil war and survived without dying were at level 50. So, at first glance, Vincenzu's level was nothing to look at. However, Jack had been using his Inspect occasionally as they toured around this capital. Most of the local players were around level 46 and 47. Jack assumed that probably because the transportation in this country was more well-developed, this gave players an easier means of traveling, which in turn reduced their time braving the wilderness. This instead slowed down their level progression compared to the other countries.

So, the level 48 mage knight who was leading the six could be said as one of the top players in this capital. From the way he walked and talked, the guy seemed to be awfully aware of this point.

"Miss! You must be an angel sent down from heaven to light up my life," Vincenzu uttered. "Allow me to introduce myself, I'm Vincenzu Giovanni, the young master of the Giovanni family. The top family within the Casa Oggetto organization. It is your honor to have me lay my eyes on you."

"Wow, you are really proud of yourself, eh? Are you the local gangsters?" Jack remarked.

"Miss, can you please chase away your servant? Wait, there is no need for you to lift your pretty fingers. You two, take him away! If he resists, it's okay to give him some beating."

Two of Vincenzu's followers came toward Jack.

Jack said to them, "You two, hurry and get a stool for your young master! He might get neck pain if not."

The two were so startled by Jack's words that they stopped and looked at Vincenzu. Vincenzu, on the other hand, just treat it nonchalantly and said, "What the hell are you mumbling about. You two, just drag him away already!"

Another of Vincenzu's followers next to him came close and whisper to his ears, "Bro, he is making fun of your height."

"Hmph, there is no need to—WHAT?!" Vincenzu yelled and then stared at Jack. "You dare talk that way to me? Are you tired of your life already?"

"Dude, I'm just concerned about your neck. Why get so upset?" Jack responded.

"What are you two waiting for? Go and drag him away. Beat him first before you drag him!" Vincenzu ordered his two followers.

The two returned advancing at Jack. Vincenzu turned his attention away and looked at Grace again. He was about to say something but stopped and turned to his follower next to him. "Go find a stool for me," he said.

His follower had a complicated expression before turning away to carry out the task.

"Miss angel!" Vincenzu uttered.

"It's Grace," Grace said.

"Ah, miss Grace! Such a beautiful name," Vincenzu attempted to grab Grace's hand for a kiss, but Grace folded her arms.

Vincenzu laughed despite the gesture. He said, "Please forgive me for that commotion just now, but you don't need to bother with your servant anymore. We can talk freely now, just the two of us."

There were some beating sounds from the side, Vincenzu assumed it was his two followers taking care of the man that had so brazenly insulted him. He continued talking to Grace, "You might see me as this short man, but I am originally tall and handsome. Well, the handsome is still here. This strange world had turned me into this size but I'm sure in time, I will be back to my normal dazzling height. By then, my handsomeness and my awesomeness should be enough as an equal pair to your heavenly beauty. Come! Let me invite you to my manor. I promise you will be greatly impressed and will agree that I'm the right man for you."

"You have a manor?" Vincenzu heard a voice from the side. He turned and saw Jack walking over. His two followers were behind Jack whimpering on the ground.

"What the... Hey! What's his level?" Vincenzu asked the follower beside him.

"I can't inspect him," The follower answered. "But this woman, she is level 50..."

"What?!" Vincenzu made an involuntary step back. He now looked at the two differently.

He looked at his two followers on the ground, he then said to Jack, "Hmph! You are truly looking for trouble. Don't think about leaving this city, we will get you once you set foot outside! But I think you won't be able to for some time, you will spend some time in jail." Vincenzu grinned as he saw two native guards coming over.

"What happened here?" The guards asked, looking at the two dwarf players on the ground.

"Good sirs, it's this human's doing! He dares lay his hands on these two Barons," Vincenzu said to the guards.

The two on the ground showed their kingdom faction badges. The guards now turned to Jack.

"They hit me first," Jack said to the guards. "I'm just defending myself."

"Is that true?" The guards asked the two on the ground.

"So, what if they hit him first? They are barons! It's not like they wound him. His HP is still full," Vincenzu uttered.

Jack also took out his Themisphere kingdom faction badge, which drew a mocking laugh from Vincenzu. "Hahaha! What a retard! Do you think you are still in the human country? You are in Palgrost now, your kingdom faction badge is useless here! You two, arrest him!"

The guards eyed Vincenzu with annoyance. Why was this outworlder acting as if he was their superior?

"What is it? Are you looking down on me?" Vincenzu said after seeing the two guards' displeased expressions. He then took out his kingdom faction badge as well. "I'm a Viscount! You should listen to my order and arrest this human!"

The guards were getting more annoyed now. "Sir Viscount," one of the guards said with a polite yet irritated tone. "You might be a noble but you don't command us. Furthermore, this human is a Marquess from Themisphere. We can't just arrest a Marquess from an allied country. It will get us into an unwanted political situation."

"Ma... Marquess...?" Vincenzu uttered with surprise. He used his Inspect on the badge in Jack's hand. It was true! How did this human get such a high-rank nobility? Even he who had the support of his guild was only a viscount.

"This can't be real!" Vincenzu exclaimed as he attempted to snatch Jack's badge from Jack's hand.

Jack moved his arm that was holding the badge forward. Vincenzu's hand ended up hitting Jack's arm.

"You guys see? He hit me first," Jack said to the two guards.

"Hit wha—" Vincenzu's words were cut short as the air in his lung was all forced out. A very strong kick struck his stomach. He was sent flying a long distance away before he fell to the ground rolling. Jack had used all his strength on that kick just now, he didn't show any mercy at all.

Chapter 834: Going to the quest's Coordinates

Vincenzu's followers immediately ran towards their young master, shouting his name with concern all the way. Even the two that Jack had beaten before were limping over.

The two guards watched Vincenzu's body that was far away. They looked at each other.

"No damage," one of the guards said.

"No damage," the other confirmed.

The two then said to Jack, "Well, Mister Marquess from Themisphere. Please don't cause any more trouble. We will overlook this."

"Thank you for your leniency, kind guards," Jack replied with a slight bow. "But I'm afraid those people will just come and make trouble for us again"

"Let's go warn them," One of the guards offered.

"Let's," The other agreed.

They then went over to Vincenzu's group. They had been annoyed by Vincenzu's condescending attitude. They also liked Jack's polite attitude. Now that an opportunity arose for them to scold Vincenzu, they were happy to do it.

When Vincenzu's group showed themselves, Jack had been asking Peniel in his mind, whether it would be a problem for him to assault other players here. Peniel said that starting from Earl, one received certain diplomatic immunity in friendly countries as long as the offense was not too severe. Hitting lower-rank nobles for a defensive purpose without causing any loss of HP could be considered a not severe offense. That's why Jack dared to assault Vincenzu and his followers.

With the guards warning Vincenzu's group, they didn't dare to come to bother Jack and Grace anymore. They gave the two hostile glares from afar.

"They said they will come at us once we leave the capital," Grace said.

"Oh, I sincerely hope they do," Jack replied.

"You are angry," Grace said with a teasing smile.

"What? Why do you say that?"

"The way you hit that young master, it was filled with anger."

"You are imagining things," Jack said.

"I can't read his mind if he doesn't let me, but I can feel his feeling," Peniel said. "He indeed was angry at that time."

"Oh? I wonder what you are angry about?" Grace said again, with a wider smile.

"Let's go find an inn. It's very late already. We will depart for my quest tomorrow," Jack said and walked to where their driver was still waiting for them.

Grace and Peniel giggled before following him.

Jack asked the driver to take them to the best inn in this capital. The inn the driver took them to look more like a modern hotel. It was ten storeys tall. It was one of the tallest buildings Jack had seen when they first arrived in this capital. It had a spacious lobby and a restaurant inside. It even had a huge swimming pool. Jack felt as if he was back in the modern world again.

Jack rented two rooms, one for him and one for Grace. The room cost him five gold coins each. Grace thought it was a waste to spend so many coins just for a night of sleep. Jack told her to just take it easy, it's not like they visit this place every day. This might probably be the only time they stayed here. He used his coins to pay for Grace's room as well. Grace wanted to pay him back but he insisted she kept her coins.

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The next morning, the driver that had been chauffeuring them yesterday was on standby in front of the hotel. He was grinning widely after seeing Jack and Grace coming out of the inn. He definitely had been waiting for them on purpose.

Jack didn't mind. It was better to have a guide rather than looking for this capital's exit by themselves. The driver took them to a huge cave tunnel. Jack saw at the end of this tunnel what looked like a station. Many steam-powered vehicles were parked at that station. The same steam-powered vehicles that they had seen when they were dining at the restaurant up on the mountain. These steam-powered vehicles were larger than the ones that were used inside the capital.

The driver dropped them beside this station. Jack gave him an extra gold coin for his service, which made up his day. He waved the two goodbyes and asked them to find him in case they visited this capital again.

Jack and Grace walked into the station and saw that there was a path for travelers who wish to travel on foot. They could already see the outside from where they were. They also saw one of the large trains on stand-by at one side of the stations. People were lining up to get on the train.

As was agreed yesterday, they asked around for the service of the steam-powered vehicle. Jack showed the map coordinates to someone who might be the station master. This station master then brought Jack to one of the steam-powered vehicles with a standby driver.

The station master explained that the coordinates that Jack showed were in the wilderness that had no road access. So, the vehicle could only take Jack close to that spot. It would take the vehicles two days to get there. He estimated that Jack still needed another three days of riding to reach the marked location.

Jack thanked the station master. The fee for the vehicles was paid upfront. Jack paid the fee which was four gold coins.

"You see? You have been swindled by that driver from the city," Grace said to Jack. "Four gold coins were worth two full days of travel. You paid more than that just for yesterday."

Jack said not to worry about it so much. They could easily get that number of coins back.

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After a few hours of travel, Jack started to regret taking the carriage. Because unlike the carriage inside the city, this carriage that traveled outside cannot stop. If the occupants jumped down from the carriage, the service is considered done and the carriage will return to the station. This meant that they couldn't grind for exp as they journeyed.

The monsters they saw in their journey are still low-level, so it's no big loss there. What Jack regretted was that many of the monsters they saw are new ones. He might need to come back again to hunt those monsters if he wanted to complete his monster books collection.

They only saw the monsters from afar. The roads that this carriage traveled on seemed to be enchanted so monsters didn't come near. They also occasionally saw players travel using their steeds along this road, it provided them with safe passage to go to other towns or cities connected by these roads.

'Truly a different experience,' Jack thought of those players on the road.

While Jack was lamenting his loss in slaying new monsters, Grace seemed to be enjoying the ride. Seeing her satisfied expression, Jack didn't think too much about the loss. He could always come back later.

Jack ended up practicing his skills since there were not many things to do other than chatting with Grace and the carriage's driver. It's a good thing the carriage was open air, so he could throw his skills and spells outside. If it was a closed vehicle, he wouldn't be able to do it without damaging the interior. Of course, he took care to aim his skills at unoccupied spaces. It would be a problem if he accidentally hit the passing people.

When Jack started doing it, Grace also followed. The two ended up tossing their skills around. The driver turned and looked at the two with worry. 'What kind of customers do I get this time? Why can't they act like normal passengers?' He thought.

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As had been estimated by the stationmaster, The journey by carriage took them two days. The driver told them the place he dropped them was the closest he could get them to the coordinates they mentioned. Jack thanked the driver, he also gave the driver a tip of one gold coin, which Grace again thought of as being a spendthrift act.

The driver was beaming with a smile from the tip. He wished them luck before turning back and riding away.

Jack and Grace summoned their steeds to resume their journey. As usual, Pandora had to adjust her speed to the speed of Grace's rare steed. She huffed with dissatisfaction as she had to slow herself down to a canter.

They were now out of the road so monsters were abundant. Most were still below their level, though, around level 30. Jack only went to kill it if it was a new monster not yet recorded in his monster books.

After a while of traveling and slaying monsters, Grace asked, "Are they still following?"

Since they left Balgadur, Jack had seen a group of blue dots following behind them from his radar. But since they were on a road, it was not strange. It could just be some carriages traveling on the same road at the same speed. However, after leaving the carriage and entering the true wilderness, these blue dots were still tailing them. They were certain then that they were followed.

"Yes," Jack replied with a grin.

Chapter 835: Arriving at the quest's Coordinates

The group of blue dots was approaching. They didn't seem to stop to slay monsters as Jack and Grace did, so they were gaining on them. Which was fine for the two. In fact, they thought the group was rather slow.

The two finally decided to stop and wait when they came upon a natural rock formation, which formed an enclosed space with only one entrance and exit. They went inside this rock formation and waited for their pursuers.

Not long after, these pursuers arrived.

As was already expected, Vincenzu Giovanni led these pursuers. Thirty-four players were entering the rock formation. Most were level 48 like Vincenzu, all of them were elite class players. They saw Jack and Grace sitting relaxingly at the opposite end.

"You must be surprised seeing me here, don't you?" Vincenzu said with a wicked grin. "You should have expected this when you cross the Casa Oggetto."

"We do have expected you. We have been waiting for five minutes here. Are some of you still using uncommon steeds?" Jack asked.

Vincenzu was taken aback. Some of them indeed were using uncommon-grade steeds. But Jack's words were not the reason Vincenzu was surprised, it was that his two preys didn't behave like preys. The man was standing up facing them with a smile while the beautiful woman was still sitting idly, not even looking at them.

Although Vincenzu was surprised, he quickly dismissed it. He thought these two must be simply acting tough. They knew that they couldn't escape, so they were putting on a facade to confuse them.

"Hehe, don't you think your childish act can fool me," Vincenzu said to Jack. "You are a goner, no matter what you say. Don't think you are safe just because you are wearing an Amulet of Rebirth. My people will be on the watch for you. If you dare set foot in Palgrost again, we will know. You can be sure that you won't be able to travel safely in this country anymore except within its cities. As for the beautiful lady here, don't worry, I will take care of her."

"There must be something wrong with your eyes," Jack said.

"What?"

"Did you see me wearing an amulet of rebirth?"

Vincenzu paid attention to the pendant on Jack's neck. It was indeed not the amulet of rebirth.

"Haha, you fool! Then prepare to lose everything!" Vincenzu uttered.

"I see that you are not wearing one as well?" Jack asked.

"Heh, why should I wear it if I'm not in danger?" Vincenzu snickered.

"Can you please finish it already?" Grace said to Jack. "Why waste so much time?"

"Oh, I figure that it will be more satisfying if I let him trash-talk first before I trash him," Jack replied.

"Do you think we are in those novels that used to populate the internet? Just finish it already so we can continue our journey."

"Yes, ma'am," Jack said then turned to Vincenzu. "You heard the lady. I will finish this quickly."

"Haha, finish quickly he said..."

While Vincenzu was still laughing, Jack's two weapons appeared in his hands. He made a quick multi-rune casting.

Vincenzu's people never expected their prey to fight them since they greatly outnumbered the two. They figured these two would cower first and beg for mercy, as their other past victims did, both in this world or the one before. So, they weren't truly on alert. Even when their prey was showing calm expressions, they were like their boss, thinking that the two only put on a brave façade to confuse them.

Only when the ground under their feet glowed an eery green that they knew their preys were serious about fighting them. They quickly tried to move away from the area.

Jack had used Dragon Eye before casting. His spell formation was completed in a blink of an eye. He first cast Magic Field. He then proceeded with Myriad Venomous Vipers. Under the effect of the Magic Field, the double cast probability was triggered and the Myriad Venomous Vipers were cast twice. Jack placed the double-cast spells next to one another. The two areas covered almost one-third of the area in that enclosed space.

Jack then followed up again by casting Tracing Beams. This spell also triggered the double-cast effect, resulting in twenty beams firing out instead of just ten. Those who ran out of the areas marked by the Myriad Venomous Vipers were hit by these beams and were knocked back into the areas again. They were easily captured by the vipers.

Thirty vipers caught thirty players, the remaining four could only watch helplessly while those thirty were getting bitten continuously while entangled. Their HPs went down at a rapid rate.

While the four were stunned by this turn of events, five wind energies slashed at three of them and instantly took their lives, leaving only Vincenzu alive.

Seering the situation, Vincenzu's survival instinct took over. He dashed to the exit without thinking, running past his thirty followers who were still being incapacitated by the vipers. Since the vipers were occupied, none blocked his escape.

However, when he reached the exit, another Jack appeared there.

"Why leave so early? Please stay," This second Jack said and used Flame Strike.

Vincenzu was able to put up his weapon for a parry, but he was still sent flying back into the enclosed space while losing more than half of his life. The amount of HP he lost from that single hit gave him the fright of his life. If he didn't parry, it might be possible that he had lost his life from just that one hit. When he fell to the ground, he saw that all thirty of his followers had died from the vipers.

When his mind was still in shock, the first Jack stood above him.

"I know that you can't inspect me. So, let me tell you that it is Storm Wind who takes your life," Jack said.

"Storm...," Vincenzu couldn't complete reciting Jack's alias because Jack had stabbed him in the neck using Drilling Thrust. The hit resulted in critical damage and emptied Vincenzu's HP bar.

Vincenzu was the last to die on his team. So, after he died, all the bodies there disappeared. Every one of them dropped something.

"Wow, none of them is wearing the amulet of rebirth," Jack remarked after seeing the loots.

"They must have never expected getting defeated by two players," Grace said.

"Their misfortune is our boon," Jack said. "They will be cursing us to seven hells after coming back to life."

"Cursing you, you mean? I didn't touch them," Grace said. "Let's just collect all these loots and continue our journey."

"Yes, ma'am," Jack repeated his words.

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The time they took to arrive at the coordinates given by Janus was as estimated by the station master, three days after they left the carriage. Actually, they could have arrived earlier if they rode without stopping. The station master must have made an estimation thinking that they used uncommon-grade steeds. They had made several stops to kill new monsters. When they were near the area of the coordinates, the monsters were right around their alley, around level 50. So, they dismount and kill any monsters they saw while making their way forward.

A day before they reached their destination, Jack's human age reached its twelfth month of age. His passive race skill, Limitless Potential, was upgraded to rank 8. The boost this skill now provided were HP +1800, Stamina/MP +220, and all attributes except luck +8.

When they finally reached the place marked by the coordinates, Grace said, "There is nothing here."

Jack looked around. There was indeed nothing there. Just a stretch of flat barren land with rocks, stones, and dead trees.

Grace summoned her Runestone of Detection but found nothing. Jack didn't put much hope when Grace summoned her runestone, his Godeye monocle didn't detect anything as well.

"That Janus person must have given you the wrong coordinates," Grace said.

"He doesn't strike me as a person who makes such a careless mistake," Jack said. "He said that the energy trace from the Eye of Illios ends here. Let's look around, maybe there is a clue."

"What kind of clue?"

Jack shrugged. "Beats me. Try using your mana sense as well, perhaps we can sense that trace of energy that Janus mentioned."

"All right," Grace said, but her voice didn't sound optimistic.

The two spread out and searched around the place. They circled a few times, starting from the exact spot of the coordinates and slowly going further. Finding nothing, they circled back until they met where they started.

"Nothing," Grace said. "Not even a trace of unusual mana."

"Same...," Jack replied. He kicked one of the stones on the ground. "Nothing but rocks and dirt."

"I think he gave you the wrong coordinates," Grace said again.

Jack didn't refute that idea this time.

"I'll go look around one more time," Jack said, not willing to give up.

Seeing Jack's persistence, Grace didn't want to disappoint as well. She circled in a different direction as she combed through the ground with her eyes. Peniel also did not follow Jack this time, she flew in another direction and helped with the search.

They took longer this time, scrutinizing everything. They returned after almost an hour. Grace just shook her head without saying anything.

"I don't even know what I'm looking for," Peniel said.

Jack couldn't help but get disappointed. Did they come all this way for nothing?

"Maybe the clue shows up at a different time? Should we stay and wait to see if anything changes?" Grace offered.

"If there is something in a relation to time, Janus should have mentioned it. But then again, the Order of Magi's people are as baffled as we are. They simply followed the trace here and are not sure what to do from here."

"Well, then I say our condition is the same. I don't see how we can find what they can't," Peniel said.

"Sigh... You are right. Perhaps we have only wasted our time for coming here," Jack said and again kicked a stone out of frustration.

"Hm?"

"What is it?" Grace asked after noticing Jack's reaction.

"I think that's the same stone I've kicked before...," Jack said.

Chapter 836: The Moving Stones

"How can you tell? All the stones here looked the same," Peniel said.

"What's so special about kicking the same stone?" Grace asked.

"Because I kicked it at the same place. Here, right at this spot," Jack said.

"Maybe it's another stone," Peniel said again.

"Yeah, there might be two similar stones here," Grace agreed.

"No. When I first kick the stone, I'm pretty sure there was only one down here at my feet," Jack insisted.

"Are you saying the stone rolled back here by itself?" Grace asked.

"You are probably standing at a different place. It all looks pretty much the same here," Peniel said.

"Let's sit and wait," Jack said.

"Wait for what? Are you telling me you are going to wait and see if that stone rolls back here?" Peniel asked.

"Yeah," Jack said and sat on the ground.

Grace and Peniel looked at each other and shrugged. Grace sat near Jack while Peniel flew around again. Jack had his eyes fixed on the stone he had kicked before.

After a couple of minutes of seemingly nothing, Grace heard Jack say, "It truly is moving."

"What? For real?" Grace uttered. She didn't truly think much about the possibility of the stone moving by itself. She thought it was just Jack's wishful thinking. After Jack's words just now, she was also giving that stone her attention.

After keeping her eyes on the stone for a few minutes, she said in excitement, "It truly is moving!"

Peniel had come back. "What? Are you telling me this buffoon's imagination turns out to be real?" She asked Grace.

Jack used his finger and nudged Peniel away, her small body ended up tumbling in the air.

"Hey!" She complained.

"That's for calling me a buffoon," Jack said.

Peniel flew to the top of Jack's head and started pulling his hair.

"Hey, stop that!" Jack uttered.

Grace ignored the two children. She came to the stone. "It moved very slowly. If one doesn't pay attention, one won't notice the stone to be moving. From the look of it, it is trying to return to its original position."

Grace then picked up the stone and put it around the place where Jack had kicked it. She then paid attention to the stone again.

"It is still moving, in the same direction. We will have to wait for it to stop moving before confirming its final position."

"We might not need to wait that long, I can hasten it up," Jack said. Peniel was still on top of his head pulling his hair. He ignored his fairy friend and took out his magic staff. He then cast Acceleration on the stone.

The spell accelerated the stone's speed to five times the normal speed. With that acceleration, the stone's movement became more apparent.

"It is indeed moving," Peniel said. She lost interest in pulling Jack's hair and flew down to where the stone was.

Before the ten seconds duration of the spell ended, the stone had stopped moving.

"It stopped moving," Peniel informed.

"Thanks, Sherlock," Jack said.

"Who's Sherlock?" Peniel asked in confusion.

"Never mind that," Jack said. "Now, we know this is the stone's fixed position. It will return to this place if it is removed."

"Strange, I don't feel any mana. What do you think caused it to return here?" Grace asked.

"Not sure. But more importantly, why? What's so significant about having the stone returning here?" Jack asked while using his hand to clear up the dust on the ground around the stone. He even picked up the stone and cleared the ground below it. There was nothing special, the ground was hard clay soil. He didn't see anything out of the ordinary.

He put the stone back on the ground again. The stone slowly adjusted itself to its previous spot.

"So, what now?" Grace asked.

Jack looked around.

"I don't think only this stone is special," Jack said.

"You mean there might be other stones like this?" Grace asked.

"Let's find out," Jack stood and started kicking other stones around there. "We used that one stone we have found as the center. We will kick all other stones away from it. See how many of these magical stones are there."

Hearing the instruction, Grace went opposite from Jack and started kicking the stones on that side. Even Peniel helped by using her hands to lift a stone and threw it away. They soon cleared an area of around ten meters in diameter to become devoid of any stone, leaving only the first stone which they had confirmed its fixed position. They then waited.

"There really are some," Grace said after noticing some stones started moving. "Can't you use your spell to accelerate them again?"

"It's on cooldown for one hour. Plus, I can only target one stone at a time," Jack answered. "We can only wait."

"If you increase the spell's level by five, you will be able to add an additional target," Peniel informed.

"Good to know. I will prioritize my skill points on this spell then," Jack said.

After a while, Jack said, "This looks like it's going to take some time, let's go hunt some monsters while we wait."

"Okay," Grace said.

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They went and kill a few monsters and returned around two hours after.

"Thirteen stones," Grace said after seeing the number of stones that were now within that ten-meter diameter area.

"Let's clear up some more, perhaps whatever affected these stones is not limited to this small area. Maybe there are more of these magical stones," Jack said and started kicking the stones outside of the cleared area, increasing the diameter of the cleared area.

"Do you have an idea what to do after finding all the magical stones?" Grace asked.

Jack shrugged. "Let's just find out all the stones first. We can think of the next step after," Jack said.

Grace was not that optimistic, but it was better than doing nothing, so she also helped Jack clear more area.

The cleared area then increased to twenty-meter in diameter. They left to hunt monsters again for another couple of hours before returning and found out there were more stones inside the area they had cleared. So, they went on to clear more area and waited. They continued to repeat like this.

When the sun was about to set, they had cleared an area of fifty-meter diameter. There were thirty stones within an area of thirty-meter diameter. The twenty-meter extra areas were empty.

"I think that's all," Grace said. "Even if we clear up more, I think it will be the same. Only these thirty stones are the ones that had the magical ability to return here."

"Rather than magical, I think it is more like gravity," Jack said. "The stones kept returning here because something is pulling them back."

"With what energy? I don't sense any mana at all. Your mana sense is better than me, do you sense any mana?" Grace asked.

"No," Jack shook his head. "But even if we can't sense it, doesn't mean it is not there. Perhaps these stones are made to keep returning here is a clue that there is something here, even if we can't see or sense it. Perhaps it is masked or concealed. Can there be something like that? Something that conceals mana?" Jack asked Peniel.

"Well, now that you mention it. It is possible," Peniel answered. "Looking at the positions of these thirty stones, they most likely mark the node points of a rune diagram. There is a way to conceal a rune diagram."

"Like how Master made a rune diagram to become invisible? But I can still sense its mana despite being invisible."

"Which means the concealment here is of a much higher level. It not only makes the diagram invisible but also conceals its mana, so no one can sense it."

"So, is there a way to break this concealment?"

"There is. The Dispel spell," Peniel answered.

"Crap... Do I have to return to Order of Magi and get enough points to learn that spell?" Jack said dejectedly.

"Um, if it is a dispel spell, I have a magic scroll containing the spell here," Grace said as she took out the scroll.

"Yes! You, lady, are a life saver!" Jack uttered. "Let's cast the spell then."

"Wait, let Jack use the scroll," Peniel said.

"Why?"

"Because aside from the spell level, the power of a Dispel spell is also affected by intelligence stat. The stronger that stat, the more effective the spell. We don't know how strong the concealment is, better not waste the scroll. Jack's intelligence stat should be higher than you."

"Really? What's your intelligence stat?" Grace asked. She started as a magician, so her intelligence stat was not low.

"853," Jack answered.

Grace stared at him for a while before handing him the magic scroll. "Here," She said.

Jack accepted the magic scroll. He took position right at the center of the thirty stones before activating the scroll, targeting the spell onto the ground below. A spell formation of six runes was formed.

"Wow! Dispel spell has six runes?" Jack exclaimed after seeing the spell formation.

"Dispel spell is slightly special," Peniel explained. "If you cast it as your own spell, you can choose to use three runes or up to six runes. Of course, the more runes it is, the more powerful its dispelling power. But casting six runes take a longer time. If you are in a battle and only need the spell to break a weak enchantment, then casting a fast three runes is enough. So, this is a spell that can be adjusted based on the situation. The magic scroll version although just a level 1, uses the max six runes as a standard."

"I see," Jack said.

While they were chatting, the spell took effect and a wave of light washed around the ground Jack stood on. This wave of light fizzled for a moment, before suddenly vibrating heavily and they heard a crashing sound. The light wave vanished then.

"What happened?" Jack asked.

"... The spell failed," Peniel replied. "Whatever this concealment is, it is stronger than I expected."

Chapter 837: Hidden Portal

"Shit... So, what now?" Jack asked. "Do I have to get that dispel spell personally and save up skill points to level it up until level 20 before returning here?"

"I don't see any other option. The concealment is just too strong for a level 1 dispel," Peniel replied.

"How about Greater Dispel?" Grace asked.

"Greater Dispel?" Jack asked.

"How do you know about Greater Dispel?" Peniel returned the question.

Grace took out another magic scroll from her storage. "Because I have one here. I assume from the name it should be a stronger spell than that Dispel just now?"

"You have a Greater Dispel spell?! Wow...! Where do you get it? This is a very rare find!" Peniel exclaimed.

"Aren't your response a bit too exaggerated? It's just a stronger spell to dispel a diagram or concealment, it's not like it increases one's battle capability. What's so special about it?" Jack commented.

Peniel gave him a condescending stare. "You good-for-nothing-but-fight brute. Can you imagine someone using this spell on Fort Garadhor's wall? This spell can literally strip it of its rune diagram which enhances its defensive and restorative ability. Without the wall's self-repair, Prince Therribus' army won't even need siege weapons to destroy it."

"Holy... Where can I get this spell? I have to learn it!" Jack uttered.

"You wish! This spell is too rare, you can just dream about getting one," Peniel said. "Even getting a magic scroll containing this spell is a great fortune."

"This thing is so valuable? Then perhaps I should just keep it...," Grace said as she retracted her hand that was holding the scroll.

Jack showed a disappointed expression at her gesture.

Grace laughed and extended her hand back. "I'm kidding. Take it."

"Uh... Are you sure? You heard Peniel. This thing can turn a tide if used under the right circumstances," Jack said.

"Helping you in need is the right circumstance. Take it," Grace said.

Jack accepted the scroll with gratitude. "Thank you," he said sincerely. He then turned to Peniel and asked, "Are you sure this spell can dispel the concealment?"

"If it can't, I can't think of any other spell that can," Peniel replied. "One thing to note, though. This concealment, if it needs a greater dispel spell to unravel, whoever that place this concealment here is a truly powerful being. I'm not sure meddling with this affair is wise."

"It's just an SS quest, we have dealt with an SS quest before, right?" Jack said.

"Probably the SS is for the deal up to here. You can just report back to Janus and tell them about this finding. They should have people that can dispel this concealment and find out about what it hides. You can then save that Greater Dispel magic scroll and still complete the quest, ain't that a smarter move?" Peniel said.

"Completing the quest will require me to confirm the Eye of Illios' location. I have not yet confirmed it, this is just another clue," Jack said. "Furthermore, being careful is never my style."

With the magic scroll in hand, Jack returned to the center of the stones' formation.

Peniel was about to talk more, but Grace said to her, "Forget it. His curiosity always gets the best of him. Unless there is an overleveled monster in sight, it is unlikely we can deter him. And honestly, I'm also curious to find out what is hidden here."

As Jack was unfurling the magic scroll, he stopped and asked Peniel, "Will this greater dispel also dispels the rune diagram hidden by the concealment?"

"I said that I suspect a rune diagram was hidden under this concealment, I never said that I'm sure. To answer your question, no. If there is a rune diagram, it is considered a separate entity from the concealment. You will need a second Dispel if you want to dispel both."

Jack nodded. He continued unfurling the magic scroll in his hand. A spell formation containing nine runes appeared. Jack simply made a silent wow expression upon the reveal.

A thicker light wave than before washed the stone formation. It stayed atop the formation and shimmered. Slowly, rune drawings were revealed. It was indeed a rune diagram. All three of them could also sense the mana from the diagram now.

It was as Peniel had suspected, each of the stone positions marked the node of powers in the diagram.

Jack studied the diagram in silence. This was a puzzle diagram. It looked complicated. More complicated than the diagram that locked Pandora. But his mana sense had also improved significantly since then, so after some observation, he felt confident that he could solve this one as well.

Without further ado, Jack started to work on the diagram. When he moved its node of powers, the stones followed. Now that the concealment was lifted, they could also sense the mana from those stones which was linked to the node points.

"These stones are infused with enchantment to always follow the node points. No wonder they kept on returning to the same places after we kicked them away," Grace said.

"Makes you wonder, isn't it?" Jack said. He had no problem talking while concentrating on solving the rune diagram due to his Hundred Synchronous Thoughts. "Why go through the trouble of hiding this rune diagram and then place the enchantments on those stones for clues? It's like whoever made this diagram wants it to be found."

Grace and Peniel could only watch as Jack worked the diagram. There was nothing they could do to help. Grace's mana sense although had improved, was still not as good as Jack's. Peniel was even worse.

The fairy soon lost interest and went back to flying around the place. Grace stayed by the side and watched Jack work, at the same time she focused her mana sense to learn what Jack was doing.

Night soon came. Jack continued to work. Grace cast the Illumination spell to light up the place. She had also bought the spell from the Magic Association shop.

"Holy crap... This takes longer than I thought. Should have just rested and worked on this rune diagram in the morning," Jack said.

"Then just leave it and continue the next morning," Grace said.

"If I do, it will revert to its original state. I will have to redo everything again," Jack said.

Peniel added, "Some rune diagrams also contain the chance of a backlash if you stop midway during their unraveling process."

"Can you tell if this one contains that kind of backlash mechanism?" Jack asked.

"Nope."

Jack sighed. "I will just finish it and rest later. You two go to rest first."

"I will stay guard. What if a monster comes by? You can't fight it without stopping what you are doing," Grace said.

"I don't think any monster will come near here," Jack said. "We have been here for a long time, none ever comes near. There must be something in this area that preventing them from coming near this place."

"I will stay. I want to study how you do what you do."

"Well, you two have fun," Peniel said and vanished into her hidden dimension.

Jack didn't persuade Grace anymore, he focused to increase his pace. Although the diagram was complex, with his superb mana sense, he could discern its intended composition. He moved each node through linked pathways until it arrived at the position that Jack sensed to be correct.

It was a tedious and long task. It was almost dawn when the rune diagram was rearranged into something completely different from its original formation. It had become a single line. All the thirty stones were crowding at the same spot.

The line then shone and shot a beam of energy forward, which struck a dead tree not far from there. The dead tree grew. Its trunk that was struck by the beam split open, becoming an oval opening big enough for one person.

Jack and Grace watched the oval opening on the dead tree with fascination. Peniel had also come back out from her hidden dimension after sensing the commotion.

"What now?" Grace asked.

"I think we should enter," Jack indicated the opening which was clearly a portal to another place. There was nothing but void behind the opening.

"Are you sure?" Grace asked.

"No," Jack replied.

They stared at the opening in silence.

"Hey! It is slowly closing!" Grace uttered.

"Damn it! It doesn't give us much time to think. Okay, I will enter first. You wait here. If I'm okay inside, I will send you a message then you enter," Jack said to Grace.

"Are you sure you want to enter?" Grace asked again.

"No," Jack gave the same answer, but he still headed over to the front of the dead tree.

"Wish me luck," Jack said and stepped inside.

As soon as Jack's body disappeared into the oval opening, the opening closed abruptly. Peniel who was still beside Grace phased out at the same time, leaving Grace alone and staring at the dead tree that had shrunk back to its original size.

"What the...", Grace was lost for words at the sudden turn of events.

Chapter 838: Hidden Sanctum

Jack appeared inside a cave hall. He looked back. He couldn't see the portal that brought him here.

"Grace?" He called. He tried sending her a message, telling her that he was okay, but a notification soon told him that he was unable to send messages. He wondered if she followed him and go through the portal. He waited for her to appear.

Instead, it was Peniel who suddenly appeared beside him. She had been forcefully teleported here. She seemed to be at a loss.

Seeing that Grace didn't follow, Jack actually felt relieved. She would be safer outside. He didn't know what menace was inside here. Jack looked at the cave hall around them. Tree roots were seen along the walls. This informed Jack that they should be underground. Perhaps they were under the ground from where they used to be? Jack looked at his radar. Nothing. If they were under where they used to be, he should see one green dot on his radar, which was Grace.

'At least there was no monster,' Jack thought of his empty radar.

"Where is this place?" Peniel finally said. "I felt like I was being pulled from a very long distance."

"Really? I felt like I was simply stepping through a door," Jack said.

Peniel looked at him annoyingly. "You are going through a proper portal. I can be said to have been forcefully hurled here."

They both looked at the cave hall again. It was empty. There was only one opening in the wall.

"Only one way to go," Jack said.

Peniel looked back, searching for the portal. All she saw was just wall and tree roots. She said, "I don't think we can go back using the same way we came."

"We can always use the Town Return Scroll."

"If that doesn't work here?"

Jack shrugged. "We will just look for another way out then," he said as he walked to the only exit from this cave hall.

Peniel rolled her eyes, but she was used to Jack's take-it-easy attitude already. She flew behind him.

The exit took them to a long narrow cave. The cave became wider as they advanced until they came to another cave hall, one much more spacious than the one they came from. Not only that, this cave hall seemed to contain a full ecosystem. With trees and plants, there was a small lake in the distance. Jack even saw several small animals running around the place. He couldn't see the end of this place. This cave hall was probably the size of a small village.

"Weird," Jack said.

"Yeah, to see what looks like a small forest inside this place," Peniel said.

"That, and also the light," Jack said. "I thought it is my Dragon Eye that allows me to see this place so clearly, but it looks like the light just exists by itself around here."

"Hey, you are right. I can see just fine here, but I see no obvious light source."

"Something else, the mana around here. It feels all over the place. It is denser than normal, but I can't gauge how much dense it is... I don't think my mana sense work in this place. A monster might attack me right next to me and my mana sense won't be able to detect it. What kind of place is this that it can even negate mana sense?"

"Luckily, you still have your radar, right?"

"... There are times when a monster fools my radar, so I can't fully rely on it as well," Jack said. "Well, doesn't matter. I will just treat it like I'm back to before, relying on my good old eyes, ears, and nose."

A stone path marked the way. Jack simply followed it. He paid attention to the forest on his left and right. His weapons were in his hands, ready for action at a moment's notice.

He soon came to the small lake he had seen from the distance. The water was very clear. He could see some fish swimming near the surface. There were also some small birds flying above the lake. This place felt outdoor despite he was clearly in a cave.

As he followed the stone path, he saw a clearing on one side of the lake. Several wooden huts were there. If there was someone in this place, it should be there. Jack walked over.

He observed the huts after arriving. They were very small. They also didn't have doors. It was just a large opening, showing the room behind. Only one room inside the hut. Multiple trinkets filled the floor of the room.

Jack came to one of the huts and observed the mess on the floor. He then heard a gasp from Peniel.

"That's... That's the Chalice of Life! And that's the Grail of Temptation. This one is the Pottery of Angel Summoning... Ouch!"

Peniel had tried to touch the trinkets on the ground but she felt a jolt of electrocution when her hand neared.

"What is it? Are they that impressive?" Jack asked.

"Impressive? They are legendary items!" Peniel exclaimed.

"Le-Legendary...?!" Jack stammered. "Then why didn't my monocle tell me of such valuables?"

Jack tapped his monocle. No response. This meant his God-eye monocle was deactivated in this place, no wonder his radar was empty. He tried using Inspect, but the description of the item came out as junk. Jack figured whatever that was preventing Peniel from touching the item was also masking it from people's Inspect skill.

"My mana sense is dulled here. My monocle isn't functioning either. If not for you, I might have walked past this place thinking all of these are just mere rubbish," Jack said.

"Even the other ones are all unique-grade items. This place is a treasure trove," Peniel said.

Jack crouched and his hand went close to one of the things on the ground, the one Peniel called the Chalice of Life.

"Wait! There is a..."

Jack already felt the same jolt that stung Peniel while she was still talking. The sting hurt. He took a deep breath, braced himself, and then forced his two hands to touch the Chalice of Life. He figured if he could force his hands close to the item, even if just for one touch, that should be enough for him to send the item into his storage bag.

However, his palm hovered an inch over the chalice, not moving any further. Jack felt the pressure he was pushing at was increasing. Until finally, it exploded. Jack was sent flying tens of meters back. He crashed into a tree before falling to the ground. He lost 5,000 HP from that repulsive force, which was almost half of his life.

"Are you okay?" Peniel asked worriedly.

"Damn... My whole body hurt. That protection field is no joke," Jack said and walked back to the hut. "It is also not of a pure lightning element. If not, I might be able to abuse my Lightning God Suit to try to brute force it... Hey, could it be... Peniel, follow me!"

Jack went to the other hut and then asked Peniel, "Do you see that Eye of Illios inside here?" Jack never bothered asking Janus what the Eye of Illios looked like because he believed his God-eye monocle would inform him once he laid his sight on that legendary-grade item. Never would he think that the item would be masked from both his monocle and his Inspect ability.

"No, but there are other bunches of Legendary items," Peniel answered.

Jack brought her to the next hut. "What about here?"

"Here... Ah, there it is!" Peniel exclaimed as she flew over and pointed to one of the items on the floor. The item looked like some kind of a small trophy that people get after winning a competition in his past world. There was an eye-shaped sculpture held on its two ends by a crescent-shaped cast that was resting on top of a tiny metal box.

Jack came to the item indicated by Peniel.

"Be careful! Don't touch it or you will get burnt," Peniel warned.

"With that protection field, I doubt I can even touch it if I want," Jack said. He then took out the Glass Cube that was supposed to be able to contain the Eye of Illios. He was thinking maybe the enchantment in this glass cube could bypass the protection field?

Jack brought the cube close to the eye, but it was the same as when he did it using his hand. Something was preventing the cube from touching the eye. Jack didn't try to force it. If the repelling force broke the cube, he wouldn't be able to get the Eye of Illios even if he found a way to circumvent the protection field.

Jack stored the glass cube and tried to look around inside the hut for any clue. He wondered if he destroyed the hut, would that help to dispel the enchantment that protected these items on the ground? While he was having the thought, a voice was heard from behind.

"A level 50 outworlder? When I sensed someone entering my sanctum, I thought it will be at least a level 80 adventurer. Did you solve my entrance puzzle all by yourself?"

Jack turned and found a tall young man. The young man was shirtless and wore simple black long pants. His hair was white with a short undercut style. He had dark-rimmed eyes with no eyebrows. He was looking at Jack with an expression that showed equal laziness and fascination.

Jack tried using Inspect on the man, but all he got were question marks.

When he was wondering how he should respond to this person, he noticed Peniel had frozen up.

'Hey Peniel, do you know who this person is?' Jack sent his thought to her.

'... Just comply with whatever he wants,' Peniel replied.

'Hm?' He felt like he had heard Peniel say the exact same sentence before. The memory soon came to him.

'Wa—wait... Are you telling me this young man before us is a divine being...?'

'... He is the God of Greed.'

Chapter 839: Greed's Hospitality

'F*ck! One of the bad ones?!' Jack exclaimed in his mind. He was on full alert at once. He thought about summoning his weapons, but what good would that do?

The young man, who was God of Greed, simply looked at them with half-smiles. He appeared to be amused by the changes in Jack's expressions.

"Are you two talking behind my backs? I can sense some exchanges between your minds," Greed asked.

Jack and Peniel weren't sure how to answer. So, both of them keep their minds blank, afraid that those telepathic signals might offend this divine being.

"Hm... So quiet now? You two are rather talkative when I'm still hidden. Well... I guess I can't blame you. I do have that kind of charisma to shut people up."

Greed then turned and walked away. "Come!" He said without looking back.

Jack only paused for a beat before following the instruction. Peniel did tell him to comply with whatever this person wanted. Peniel flew silently behind Jack. It didn't do her any good to hide inside her hidden dimension. As had been proven during their encounter with Fear, these Godly beings could easily rip her out of that dimension.

Greed took them into the small forest. After a short walk, they came out to another clearing. A big wooden hut was at the center of that clearing, much bigger than the huts that housed the legendary and unique trinkets.

The door to the hut opened by itself when Greed came near. Greed entered the hut. The door stayed open.

Once Greed disappeared into the hut, Jack stopped and hurriedly took out his Town Return Scroll. He activated it without delay.

Nothing happened.

"I blocked most signals to and from this place. That thing is useless," Jack heard Greed's voice from inside the hut.

A pause, then Greed's voice was heard again, "Don't do that again."

Seeing no choice, Jack took a deep breath and walked into the hut. The inside was spacious and luxurious. It didn't reflect the simple-looking façade of the outside. Multiple modern and comfortable-looking leather sofas were laid out in the large living room. Above, a second-floor balcony was overlooking the living room. Greed was up there on that balcony, sitting on a leather throne chair.

"Make yourself at home," Greed said from up there.

Jack looked around before deciding to sit on a sofa that directly faced Greed.

"So, what is your purpose coming here?" Greed asked after Jack sat down.

"I am looking for the Eye of Illios," Jack answered truthfully.

He didn't think lying to this person was wise. Greed didn't kill them immediately after appearing. This meant that there might still be a chance to get out of this seemingly perilous situation. He just needed to wait for the right opportunity. Although Serenity had said that she would come to his assistance if he was at risk of being harmed by another divine being, he didn't dare to put his hope on that. This place had weird enchantment that nullified his monacle and mana sense. It was not out of the question if he was out of reach from Serenity as well.

As if to confirm his worry, Greed said, "I see that peace-loving auntie has placed her mark on you. But don't you count on it, she can't sense you here in my abode. Blame yourself for coming into my sanctum. No one will be able to help you here. Even if you kill yourself, you will revive back here, so don't try anything funny."

Jack was seriously depressed after hearing that.

When Jack kept quiet, Greed continued, "You are quite an interesting fellow, I must say. That's one of the reasons I didn't simply blast you to oblivion after finding out that the one entering my place is just a weak outworlder. You not only have the mark of my divine peer, but also the mark of the creator. Unfortunately, both are useless to me, so don't count on them. Anyway, what do you want with the junk you said you come here for?"

"Junk...?" Jack was confused at first, but then he realized what Greed meant by the junk.

'Did he just call a legendary artifact as junk?' Jack thought with amazement. But then again, with the way the Eye of Illios was piled up haphazardly with the other items inside the huts, perhaps Greed wasn't kidding.

"I was tasked by someone to find it," Jack answered.

"Who?"

"A league faction called Order of Magi."

"Order of Magi... Oh, it's the faction that brat made. I see that he also bequeathed his special class to you. So, how is Majus doing?"

"Majus?" Jack was at a loss.

'Hey, isn't Majus that old ghost who oversaw the Time Sage trial?' Peniel said to Jack in his mind.

"High Fairy, talk in the open! I don't like it when people talk behind my back. You can be saying bad things about me, for all I know. Don't make me ask that again," Greed said with a hard stare at Peniel.

"I—I'm sorry, Your Holiness... It won't happen again," Peniel hurriedly said.

"Don't call me that!" Greed then asked Jack, "So, from your response, you don't know Majus? Then how did you become a Time Sage?"

"I know a residual spirit who called himself Majus. He was the one who gave me the trial that allowed me to become a Time Sage," Jack answered.

"A residual spirit. So... the brat has passed away? Then who runs the Order of Magi now?"

"I'm not sure," Jack replied. "The one who tasked me is a mage called Janus."

"Janus? Hm... Never heard of him. Well then, I don't care about that Eye of Illios. All those trinkets were those I've collected during my fit of greed. But I also don't see why I should give it to you."

Hearing that, Jack became hopeful. He asked, "In that case, is there anything that I can do for your divineness? In exchange for the Eye of Illios?" Greed had been upset when being called holiness, so Jack made up another title for him.

Usually, in a game setting, this was the perfect moment where the NPC gave the player a quest with the reward for the item the player came looking for. But instead, Greed said, "What the hell kind of thing that I need from you that I cannot do myself?"

"Uh...," Jack was at a loss.

"Hm... Stay here. We will see what's what. Perhaps I will give you the Eye if you entertain me enough."

"Huh?"

"Okay, get yourself accustomed. I will be back tomorrow," Greed said and vanished.

"Huh?" Jack was at a complete loss.

*

Jack stayed seated for an hour, unsure of what to do. He was even so quiet that Peniel start to tease him.

"Hey, are you not afraid he is still watching us in secret?" Jack said to her.

"I am, but I just can't help it seeing how obedient you look," Peniel said with a giggle.

Jack rolled his eyes at her. She could still joke. Did she forget already how she got killed by Fear in the past? This time Serenity won't be able to come to their rescue anymore. Luckily, this Greed didn't appear as murderous as Fear. He was still scary though, but Jack thought that as long as they played by his rule, their lives shouldn't be in danger.

'Are you sure he is Greed?' Jack asked in his mind. Greed might be able to sense that they were communicating telepathically, but he couldn't discern the contents of their mind talks.

'Are you questioning my knowledge again?' Peniel returned.

'No. It's just... He didn't look that bad. Eccentric maybe, but not as bad as I expected. I thought that any of the bad Gods would have just slaughtered us without any words if they find us in their lair.'

'Well... I have that impression as well.'

'And he is not what I expected. Yes, there are heaps of legendary and unique items in his huts, but I expect someone that is the personification of greed to be a little more... extravagant. This place, although looks luxurious, is rather dull for a God. Heck! He even isn't wearing a shirt. And what's his deal living in an empty cave with nothing but a fake forest and lake? When we fight against his army inside the Ancient Battleground, I imagined him to be someone that lives in a grand castle surrounded by millions of minions.'

'Well... The story that I know about him does mention him to be like that.'

'So? Are you sure the one just now is truly the God of Greed?'

'How about you try attacking him and find out then?' Peniel said annoyingly when Jack kept asking the same question.

Jack stood up. "I'm going out for a walk," he announced.

"Didn't you say he might still watch us?" Peniel asked.

"He did say to make ourselves at home," Jack countered. There was no response after so long, Jack thought Greed might truly have left them to be on their own, or that he simply didn't care what Jack did, so Jack thought it should be okay for him to check the rest of the place.

Jack came out of the hut and entered the forest. He walked around. No hostile monsters, just small animals that scurried around the forest. Jack walked for a long time. The cave hall despite being big, was not too big. After a few hours of walking, he had pretty much walked the entire place.

The place only consisted of the forest, the lake, and two small clearings. One with the hut where Greed took them to, the other with the series of huts containing legendary and unique items. There was no visible exit.

Aside from the items in the huts, only one other kind of thing interested him in the whole cave. Portals inside the forest. During his walk inside the forest, he found several large trees with a portal opening, very much similar to the one that had brought him to this place.

He was now standing in front of one of these portals.

Chapter 840: Never Ending Waves

"Are you sure you want to enter?" Peniel asked.

"Not really," Jack replied. "But I don't see much of a choice. One of these portals might take us out of here. This time when Greed is not around, it is the best time to find out."

Peniel didn't say anything further. She also admitted staying here was not good. They couldn't expect Greed to continue being a good host. He was one of the bad Gods, after all.

Jack took a deep breath. Both his weapons were at the ready. He then stepped through the portal.

He came out to another world. He was on barren plains with red soil that stretched as far as his eyes could see. There was nothing at all. Even the sky looked barren. There was no cloud. The sky was empty and also red in color.

Although the scenery was slightly different, he felt as if he was back to the time when he was undergoing the Time Sage's trial.

He looked back. The portal was still there. He heaved a relief. This should mean that he could go back if he chose to. But the portal was red. He didn't think much about it, probably it was in line with this place which was mostly red.

He looked around the place again. There was nothing. He was not keen to go exploring this barren land that seemed to have nothing. The place looked truly large. What happened if he lost his way and couldn't find his way back to this portal? He could be trapped here forever.

He wondered if the other portal was the same. When he was about to return through the portal, he saw something in the distance.

It was hazy at first, some things were appearing on the horizon. As time passed, those things became more apparent. They were humanoid and they were approaching. When they were near enough for Jack's Dragon Eye to see, he found that he recognized these humanoid creatures. They were the black armored mutated soldiers that he had seen before inside the Ancient Battleground.

From the way these soldiers were coming, with their weapons waving around and their mouths shouting battle cries, Jack could safely assume that they didn't come in peace. Jack checked his radar. It was working here, those soldiers were registered as red dots, indicating hostiles.

He readied himself. He cast Barrier and Magic Weapon. He then used Inspect when the soldiers were in range. They were level 50 basic Outlaws.

'Just basic?' Jack thought disappointedly.

Despite the enemy being at an equal level as him, since they were only basic grade, they didn't pose much threat. There were ten of these enemies.

Jack went over to meet them. They started attacking once Jack was in range. Since the opponents were just basic grades, Jack just used standard attacks utilizing his Formless Flowing Sword style.

Half of the ten soon fell. At this time, he noticed some more red dots approaching in the distance.

"Hm?" Jack looked over. There were more enemies this time. Twenty new enemies approached.

When they got near, Jack used Inspect and found that all of them were also level 50 basic grade.

Jack snickered. He got no problem against these opponents. "Is this all you got?" He shouted as he finished the remaining five of the first wave just before the second wave arrived.

As he fought against the second wave, a third wave appeared. Thirty basic-grade outlaws.

It continued on. Fourth wave. Fifth wave. Until the tenth wave, there were one hundred basic-grade outlaws.

"Crap! Is this place meant for me to be overrun by weak enemies? Bring it on!" Jack started to use his AOE skills and spells. Shredding Fang, Whirlwind Slash, Arcane Turbulence, and so on. He mowed down enemies with speed.

The next wave appeared in the distance when he was still fighting the existing enemies.

"More weak enemies? Come then!"

But when this eleventh wave came near, Jack noticed some among them were of the elite grades. Their levels were still 50, though.

It was still opponents that he could deal with. So, he continued.

By the time it was the twentieth wave, all the new enemies were level 50 elite, no more basic grade. The number was fixed at one hundred per wave starting from the tenth wave.

"Uh-oh, I think I can see where this is going," Jack said. He stole a glance at the portal not far away. If his hunch was right, he might need to escape at one point. He was glad that he was not too reckless and let himself wander too far away during the battle.

Special elite enemies started appearing on the twenty-first wave. Jack tried to fight conservatively because he would need his powerful skills later, but it was getting harder and harder. The new wave

appeared every time the previous wave was down to half. If he didn't finish the previous wave before the next wave arrived, he would be fighting against more than one hundred enemies.

He started to struggle. This was a never-ending mode where the enemies became stronger with each wave. He was not unfamiliar with this mode. Some past games had this mode as well. The good thing about this mode was he received exp points from defeating all these enemies. No loots, though. He sent a part of his mind to check his Container of Souls in his storage, no increase. This place was similar to the Training Ground. It only provided exp points.

He was slightly relieved about this place. He was not sure how long he would be trapped inside Greed's sanctum. If he was trapped for a long time without an avenue to level up, he would again get left behind by the others. With this place, at least he could keep up.

By the time it was the thirtieth wave, every enemy was a special elite. He had utilized most of his skills and spells except for the ultimate ones that had a long cooldown. Normally, he was still able to cope, but fighting non-stop at an ever-increasing intensity took a toll. Luckily, Jack had a large pool of skills, he had been cycling his skills continuously.

He had also summoned Therras and his wolves. The ten wolves couldn't last that long. They were good when they coordinated against a single opponent. But when they were outnumbered, they pretty much lost their edges. The last of the ten wolves had just died when the thirtieth wave hit. His Therras, fortunately, was still going strong. With its armor, it could survive lots of punishment. Not to mention with the increased speed its armor provided, he was able to dodge many attacks.

When Jack saw the thirty-first wave in the distance, he wondered if he should call it a day. There would definitely be a rare elite in that wave.

He decided to continue. When this next wave arrived, Jack summoned his Spirit Weapon. He had also tried summoning Arlcard but failed. Like Greed had said, he couldn't send a signal out from here, so he couldn't call Arlcard to his aid.

Together with his Spirit Weapon and Therras, Jack faced the thirty-first wave. Inside this wave, there were three level 50 rare elites. Jack activated Asura. With four additional limbs holding Storm Breaker's copies, he faced the three rare elites at the same time while Therras and Spirit Weapon dealt with the rest.

Each pair of hands clashed with one rare elite. His Hundred Synchronous Thoughts allowed him to divide his attention three ways, wearing the rare elites with both his martial arts and skills.

After a grueling battle, he finally took down the three rare elites. As he was catching his breaths, he saw another wave appearing in the distance. He could still go on! His Blade Dancer was close to level up already, one more wave should do it. After the level-up, he would call it quits. He cast Magic Field and started to spam all his spells, trying to clear up the remaining enemies before the next wave arrived.

When the next wave arrived, he spotted six rare elites. Since he was planning to exit after this wave, he decided to use his big guns. His spirit weapon also almost run out of duration. He waited until the six rare elites converged on him before he cast Myriad Venomous Vipers to hold them in place. He then activated Overlimit and used Lightning God Barrage. At the same time, his spirit weapon executed its finishing mode.

The resulting explosion vanquished many other special elites while the six rare elites' HP was down to less than half. He then used the Ultimate Beast skill. Terras transformed into its hulking sovereign mode. Together, they beat up the six half-dead rare elites.

Jack's Blade Dancer increased to level 51 then. After the feat, he used Charge and ran towards the portal, just as the next wave appeared in the distance. He threw himself into the red portal.

CLANG

He felt as if he had crashed into a solid metal wall.

"Aw, hell..." He looked at the portal in consternation.