

World 881

Chapter 881: The Enemies Arrived

As the army moved closer, Jack saw the rune diagram on the wall. The diagram looked more complicated than the one on Fort Garadhor. Around the fortress was a wide moat filled with water. A bridge had been laid down to let the incoming army cross the moat and entered the fort.

"Go and get some rest! You all deserve it!" Jack addressed the soldiers. Armstrong led the army inside while Jack stayed outside and waited until all the soldiers were in. Paytown stayed by Jack's side.

The troops that came here were all native soldiers. Outworlder troops were still following Jeanny. John didn't want to rush them because he still wanted them to do formation drills during the march. After they arrived here, the army would be rearranged into a mix between natives and outworlders.

One-third of the army was to be stationed within this fort, and Armstrong would take command of this army. The other two-thirds would take positions on the hills north of the fort, and Jeanny would be the leader of that force.

Jack looked at those hills, they were not too far. If the enemies tried to hit Jeanny's troops, not only would they have to fight an uphill battle, the troops from the fort could flank the enemy as well. Moreover, John said there were long-range artilleries inside the fort. The area before the hill was still within the artilleries' range.

The army slowly trickled into the fort. Once the last of the soldiers crossed the moat and went into the fort, Jack and Paytown entered as well. The drawbridge was then slowly lifted. A metal portcullis slid down after the two passed the gatehouse, sealing the fortress from the outside world.

Inside the fortress, Jack saw several officers who were originally manning the fort standing in a line.

"Attention!" The right-most officer uttered and all the officers saluted Jack as he entered. Jack felt weird. He was still a nobody outworlder not long ago. Now, native officers were saluting him. He was still wondering how almost everyone accepted his position as their general so well. He concluded it must have something to do with his high Diplomacy and Influence levels.

"At ease," Jack replied to them. "The most senior officer please inform me about the state of this fort. The rest please get back to your post." As he was saying, he spotted a familiar face among these officers.

"Guss!" Jack called out.

"General," Guss addressed back with deference.

At the same time, the remaining officers left except for one. This one approached Jack. "General, my name is Bordo. I am in charge of this fort." Jack's Inspect informed him that Bordo was a level 70 special elite.

Armstrong had just finished leaving his instructions to the troops and came over. Jack said to Bordo, "Good, show me and Armstrong around this fort. Guss, please follow us as well. There are things I need to speak with you."

"Yes, general," Guss answered.

'Ah... I truly not used to this general thingy,' Jack thought.

The five walked together, including Paytown, following Bordo's lead. While walking, Jack told Guss, "Gruff is worried about you. He lost contact with you after Theseval fell. I believe he will be glad when I send him a message that you are safe in this fort."

Jack had already sent a message to Tip, telling him to send someone to the League of Champions building to leave a message to Gruff about Guss.

"Yeah, I too believe he will be glad. He will be glad that the debt I owe him isn't gone," Guss replied.

Jack paused hearing that. "Huh?"

"Oh? He didn't tell you? I owe him a considerable number of coins. I bet that is what he is worried about."

"Uh... he sounded genuinely worried when he talked about you."

"Really? Well, we will see after this war is over. I am not exactly safe yet. Unless, of course, if you order me back to Thereath right now?" Guss asked with an expectant face. At this moment, Jack felt like he could better believe this person for being Gruff's brother.

"Harharhar...!" Guss laughed and clapped Jack on the back. "I'm just kidding, kid. I wouldn't miss this war for anything. I will sneak back here again if you ask me to return to the capital."

"You! Show some respect! He is our general," Armstrong reprimanded.

"Ah, yes! Forgot there for a second. Forgive me, general!" Guss said.

Jack didn't mind. He actually preferred it when Guss treated him casually. Bordo continued to take them on a trip around the fortress. The fortress was very large. A large village could probably fit inside here. At the center of the fort surrounded by a wide courtyard was a large keep. The army that came with them had retired to resting quarters inside this keep.

Several trebuchets were seen in the courtyard near the wall. Bordo told Jack and Armstrong about the fort's armaments as they walked.

Bordo informed them that this fortress was equipped with eight trebuchets and four catapults, positioned around the fort near the curtain wall to allow them to hit any direction. Six magic towers along the curtain wall would automatically shoot an energy beam at any hostile that came near. A collision with the beam would result in an explosion that dealt magical damage in a wide AOE range.

The wall itself was filled with arrowslits. Behind these arrowslits were corridors where archers and other range attackers could fire their attacks from the narrow apertures. Lining on top of the walls were several large cannons and ballistae. The ballistae covered medium range against enemies on the ground or in the air, while the cannons shot Greek fire. This fire would deal with anyone trying to climb up the curtain wall or against any flying enemies that came near.

The moat outside was covered with water, but there were openings at the bottom of the curtain wall where the defenders could pour out the oil. If enemy troops tried to swim through the moat, they would be met with a surprise flame bath.

The rune diagram that lined up the wall was an advanced one. Especially in the area where the magic towers were. Energy shields were protecting the towers. One needed to deplete these shields with relentless attacks before causing any damage to the towers. If the assault halted, the shield would regenerate, and the rate by which the shield regenerated was faster than the HP recovery of the wall.

Hearing about the fort's defense, Jack felt that this fortress could withstand a lot of punishment. As long as it had enough troops to man its defenses, it could probably hold out against enemies even more than ten times its number. If this was the case, why John had to put so many soldiers in this area? Shouldn't it be better to send more troops to follow the army that targeted the supply line?

Jack had sent John a message asking about it. John said to just stick with his plan. John told Jack that Jack's expertise was in the brawn, while he was in the brain. So, Jack did not need to use his brain and second guess his plan. Jack sent a message to John that said, "Screw your brain!"

After taking one tour around the fort, Jack decided he wanted to retire to the sleeping quarter as well. He was also tired, after all. But as they were about to enter the keep, a loud horn was heard.

"That's a warning of incoming enemy troops," Bordo informed. He ran at once in the direction of the curtain wall that was facing the eastern side. Armstrong and Guss ran after him. The troops around the fort also became lively as they rushed to their defense posts. Some of the troops that were resting inside the keep came out after hearing the horn.

Jack and Paytowin looked at one another. 'Guess it is goodbye to rest,' their faces said.

They both ran after Bordo as well.

Coming up to the wall, Jack saw a sea of orcs in the distance. They were lining along the wide gap in between the mountain range that came into the Slaughterer Plains. Jack's Dragon Eye could see that the army was mixed between natives and outworlders. Native troops wore uniformed armor while the outworlders were equipped with more varied sets of armor.

"They didn't bring any siege weapon," Jack said.

"Those are shock troops. They were sent here with the hope to catch these forts before we arrive," Armstrong said. "They looked to number around 100,000. Luckily, we arrived here first. If not, even with the defenses of this fort, they might still find a way to infiltrate. Only less than 5,000 troops manned this fort originally."

The Verremor troop seemed to also realize that they were late. They just stood there in formation without going any further.

A blink and Duchess Isabelle was suddenly standing beside them. She had originally retired with the other troops to the resting quarters inside the keep.

"Are we under attack?" She asked.

"Doesn't seem so," Jack answered. "They must have noticed us beating them to this place and now are just staying there waiting for the rest of their army to arrive."

"See any war chief among them?" She asked again.

"Can't tell from here," Armstrong replied.

At this time, a soldier ran towards them urgently. After arriving, he uttered, "Reporting, sir! We just got a message from Fort Themisphylae that enemy troops had mounted an assault there. A war chief was spotted among them!"

Chapter 882: Anticipation For a Battle

"I guess that's my cue," Duchess Isabelle said. "I will leave this place to you, people." With those words, she turned into a flash of light and disappeared. Jack knew she had teleported herself into the keep and would use the portal inside to teleport to Fort Themisphylae.

"Will Fort Themisphylae be all right? Ahab's troops should still be a few hours away," Jack asked.

"Fort Themisphylae was even better fortified than here," Armstrong replied. "With Isabelle dealing with the war chief, there should be no problem. The ones that were attacking there should also be the shock troops, not the main army."

With that assurance, Jack returned his attention to the orc army standing at the edge of the Slaughterer Plains. The two armies just stared at one another.

After some time, Jack said, "Let's go and meet them."

"Huh? Why? If we stay here, we can easily beat them when they attack, right?" Paytowin asked.

"But they won't be attacking anymore. Not until the rest of their army arrive," Jack said. "Our current troops might be equal in number, but from the look of it, almost half their troops were composed of outworlders. Under normal circumstances, we are at an advantage. This might be a chance for us to reduce their number before the rest of their army arrives."

"You are just itching for a fight, aren't you? Aren't you tired after all that march?"

"They should also be marching non-stop to get here. They should be as tired as us. We are still at an advantage here." Jack then looked at Armstrong. "What do you say?"

"You are the general. We will follow your decision," Armstrong replied.

"All right. Prepare the troops then, we will head out and give them a welcome," Jack said. He then turned to Guss. "Guss, I have a different command for you."

"Oh? What do you need, general?" Guss asked.

Jack gave his order, to which Guss remarked, "General, is this not your trick to keep me out of harm's way? Do you owe my brother something? Because I tell you that I don't want to be treated special. My job is to fight when the enemies come and I find dying for my kingdom an honorable thing. That rowdy brother of mine should know this as well."

"Please don't talk about dying so casually," Jack said. "Anyway, this is an important matter, truly. You can join the fight after you carry out this command. Take a squad and make sure to lay them out evenly in a wide area. Cover them with sand to mask them."

"All right. Consider it done, general!" Guss uttered.

After leaving his command, Jack went and met the army that had now gathered outside the fort. Armstrong had organized them and briefed them on the coming confrontation. Jack went to the front of the army. Along the way, he didn't see any tired or complaining expressions on the soldiers' faces despite them being denied their rest. The troops here were indeed very disciplined.

"My brothers and sisters!" Jack shouted. "Allow me to call you that because that is what we are in this moment. We are in this struggle together. We are here to drive away the invaders that have so audaciously violated our territory with impunity! I know you are tired. So am I, but so do our enemies! This is the moment that we show them that there will be consequences to their action. We will show them that their invasion is one big mistake, that they have invited malediction upon themselves for violating the territory of this great kingdom. And we will show them now! Everyone... To battle!!!"

Loud battle cries rose amongst the soldiers.

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The Verremor army that was preparing to set up their camps was startled by the cries. The fort's gate was facing the Western's side, away from them. So, they didn't see the army that had gathered outside the gate. When they heard the battle cry, they were preparing to send scouts to go check on things. But before they do, they saw a large number of soldiers came marching from behind the fort towards them.

"Do they want to fight?" Hubesi Loudroar asked the warlord, Abasi Raretooth. Abasi had been tasked by his father to lead these shock troops in an attempt to take down this pass before the Themisphere army arrived.

They had known about the existence of the two passes near Theseval. Their expeditionary forces had been successful in taking down Theseval in a surprise attack, but they weren't without casualties. They also had to defend the town and prepared it to become the base for their main army. Hence, they hadn't made any move on these passes before the main army arrived.

Once the main army arrived, they took a portion from the main army with fast movement speed and rushed over here with haste. If they could take over these passes, it would further solidify their positions to invade deeper into Themisphere's territory.

Unfortunately, though, the Themisphere army also moved fast.

"Hmph! I never expect them to mobilize their army this fast," Abasi harrumphed. "I thought they are still in confusion after their civil war. For the most inexperienced prince, that third prince reacted rather fast to this invasion."

"Perhaps they have a heads-up," a voice joined their conversation. They turned and saw it to be the outworlder leader in their army. It was Four Winds. Water Lily was next to him.

Abasi gave Four Winds a slight glance before saying curtly, "It was the Grand Chief's order to have you joined us, but don't think you are a part of commanding officers. Just stay at the side and do what you are told!"

Abasi still held a grudge because Four Winds' team didn't follow his instructions during the world tournament.

"That's okay. We are just here for the contribution rewards anyway," Four Winds replied, to which he earned Abasi's glare.

"Everyone, go back to your posts! Battle formation! If they want a fight, then a fight they will get!" Abasi bellowed. He then turned to Four Winds, "That includes you! Fight for your rewards if you desire them!"

Four Winds turned and walked away without a word.

Another player was there. He only spoke after Four Winds left, "That person has always been cocky. He thinks himself to be the greatest in the world. Warlord Abasi, you shouldn't let him disrespect you so."

"Hmph! Shut your mouth, you opportunistic outworlder. I have been assisting you all this time but why is your guild still not yet dethrone the Cipher Flight as the number one guild in Verremor?"

"I... I need more time, my warlord. They are not that easy to be beaten." This player was named Phithion. He was the leader of a guild in Verremor called Warsong Rising. His guild had always butted head with Four Wind's Cipher Flight because of the ranking list. His guild was currently the second rank in Verremor's guild chart list. But no matter what he did, his guild wasn't able to overtake Cipher Flight's position as number one.

After the world tournament event, Abasi approached Warsong Rising. He wanted to aid the guild to replace Cipher Flight as the number one guild in the nation, as a punishment for Four Wind's defiance during the tournament. However, the investment had not shown any result.

"Hmph! You are a disappointment. Go back to your post and prepare to fight!" Abasi roared.

"Ye—Yes, my warlord...!" Phithion said and hurriedly scurried away.

Four Winds wasn't aware of the two's dealings. No matter what tricks the opponents use, he would deal with them with his strength and the support from his friends. That's how he had grown Cipher Flight to its current height.

"Isn't it you who have given that Storm Wind the heads-up?" Water Lily said to Four winds as they walked back to where their guildmates were gathering.

"I just told him about the orc army's activity on the border. I honestly didn't expect the Verremor nation to go through with this radical act of invading another country. But I think this is a good experience. The contribution rewards will surely be more than normal."

"If we win."

"That's where you are wrong. I have checked. For a war between countries, even if we lose, we will still get contribution points. Well, not that I am intending to lose."

"Do you think he will be here?"

"Who?" Four Winds asked.

"Don't be coy. You know whom I meant," Water Lily replied.

Four Winds chuckled. "If he is here. It will be more interesting, won't it?"

They came to where a large group of players had been waiting. All the ones here were members of Cipher Flight. They immediately got into ready positions when Four Winds showed up.

"Be ready! Prepare for battle! The Themisphere army is coming," Four Winds ordered.

"They are? Won't they be more at an advantage if they just wait for us to attack the fort?" Disco Rain asked. The four women who came with Four Winds to the world tournament were all here.

"We won't be attacking. After seeing the Themisphere army had arrived first at the fort, warlord Abasi had ordered us to set up camp here and wait for the main army," Water Lily informed.

"And the Themisphere army comes out of the fort because of that?" Purple Mist asked. "Do they think they can take us on before our main army arrives?"

"Hah! We will show them what happens if they underestimate us!" Violent Blizzard uttered. "I prefer this, it has been nothing but boredom with all the march. I need action!"

Four Winds grinned. "You will have your action soon enough. Now, look alive! We will give them one hell of a fight!"

Chapter 883: Jack's Declaration of Battle

"Lily, be ready to call out our guild troops," Four Winds said.

Water Lily looked to the side. Another group of players was there. "Those Warsong people will also call out their troops. Should we do it before or after?"

"Doesn't matter. Do it when you see an opportunity. Unless you are not confident of our troops?"

"Haha. I'm just afraid that if we summon ours first, they won't have the face to call out theirs."

"Hahaha," Four Winds laughed. "I will leave a squad for your protection. The rest of you, come with me to the front line."

"Should I be on the protection detail again?" A towering Sentinel in heavy armor asked.

"No, Coca. You follow me to the front line."

"Yes!" Coca uttered. "No offense, Lily, but it is boring to stay at the back and do nothing."

"It's boring to stay near me?" Water Lily said teasingly.

"Uh... You know that's not what I mean..."

Violent Blizzard came and shoved Coca forward. She said to Water Lily, "Stop teasing the boy. You know how simple he is."

Violent Blizzard had her arm behind Coca and said, "Come, let big sister show you what it means to tear through the opponent's rank."

They slipped themselves through the mass of native soldiers and stood at the front line. They were used to this already. The native soldiers also didn't seem bothered by the players placing themselves in their rank. Four Winds and the others came to the front so they could have a better look at the incoming army. From the size of the army, the enemy seemed to be equal in number to them.

"They were all natives. I don't spot any players. This might be tough," Disco Rain said, but then she added, "Wait...! That one at the lead with the flaming horse..."

Everyone looked over after hearing Disco Rain.

"It's him!" Purple Mist uttered.

"Good! I can finally have my revenge," Violent Blizzard said.

"Hehe, he truly is here," Four Winds said.

"What are you people talking about?" Coca asked.

"Remember our story about one guy beating us all in the world tournament?" Disco Rain replied. "The guy on the flaming horse, that's him."

"He?" Coca had heard about the tale, but he found it hard to believe that the five strongest players he had ever known were defeated by one person. He looked at Jack from the distance. He felt fire building up inside him. He tightened his grip on his large tower shield. With him here, it would be different. He would be the shield that stopped this person while the others sent their assaults.

"But why does he run in front of the army?" Purple Mist asked. "Won't the native soldiers be offended by his act? Or are the Themisphere soldiers much more lenient than Verremor's?"

While they were guessing, the human army stopped after arriving at a certain distance. The two armies now stared at each other with a wide-open field between them.

Abasi and two other orcs came forward and walked toward the human army.

Seeing the gesture, three from the human army also did the same. What surprised Four Winds and the others was that one of the three was Jack. Not only that, Jack walked in the middle while two natives followed behind him.

"Don't... Don't tell me that he is actually leading that native army...?" Purple Mist said.

"No way...," Disco Rain said.

"Hahaha. He truly is," Four Winds laughed.

"Why are you so certain?" Violent Blizzard asked.

"Because I've just asked him. I have added him to my friend list."

"What?! Is he for real? Is being a tournament champion not enough? Now he has to go and be an army general? And why are you still laughing?" Purple Mist asked Four Winds.

"Why not? He is an interesting friend. It just shows that I didn't make a wrong judgment about him."

"A friend whom we are about to have a life and death battle with."

"So what? A true friend is one that is forged in battle."

"Where the hell did you hear that? There is no such saying!"

Coca looked at Jack in fascination. This was the first time he had heard their leader regard someone so highly, even calling the person a true friend. He became more curious about this Storm Wind fellow.

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On the field in between the two armies, the three human leaders and three orc leaders came face to face. Jack was with Armstrong and Bordo, while the opposition was led by Abasi Raretooth.

Jack used Inspect on the three orcs when they came near. Abasi had increased by two levels since Jack last saw him. He was a level 66 rare elite now. As for the two orcs beside him, Jack hadn't seen them before. However, Abasi was actually the lowest level among the three.

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Lubanzi Skullcrusher (Rare Elite Orc, Overseer), level 76

HP: 910,000

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Bishara Stormcaller (Special Elite Orc, Overseer), level 73

HP: 420,000

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Lubanzi on Abasi's right was a very large and broad orc with a pair of unusually large tusks. He carried a two-handed hammer that was almost as large as his hulking body. Bishara on the left was a female orc. Slung on her waist was a long axe, but she also held a magician's long staff. Could she like him? A warrior who was also a spell caster?

"You!" Abasi uttered after getting a good look at Jack.

"Do you know him?" Lubanzi asked.

"Yes, he is the outworlder who killed Wangombe and also the human team champion in the outworlder world tournament," Abasi answered. "Too bad Badu is not here. Otherwise, he will have the chance to avenge his son personally. Never mind, I will do it for him. We will start this war properly before we start the killing."

Abasi then turned to the three humans before him. "Who among you two is the general of this human army? Why do you let an outworlder stand here before me? If you mean to insult me by throwing in my face the outworlder whom I have a grudge with, you have only disgraced yourself."

"Watch your tongue! He is our general," Armstrong replied.

Abasi paused for a bit. He was wondering if he had heard wrong. "There must be something in the wind. What did you say just now?" Abasi asked.

"He says that this outworlder before you is our army general, you deaf ugly orc!" Bordo uttered.

"I will smash that foul mouth of yours!" Lubanzi smashed his giant hammer onto the ground. It created a small tremor.

Both Armstrong and Bordo's hands went to the hilt of their weapons.

"Halt!" Abasi called. "We are not dishonorable creatures that hit someone without a proper declaration of battle, unlike the backstabbing race of Themisphere. So, this is what I'm going to say. As the leader of the Verremor army here. I, Abasi Raretooth, challenge your filthy human army for a battle. What do you say, humans!"

Armstrong and Bordo were silent, they looked at Jack who was supposed to be the leader. Jack was silent as well.

A few seconds passed. Abasi frowned. Did they treat his declaration as a joke? If so, he would just go ahead and crush the human army. But before he could give the order to attack, Jack's arm was lifted, showing two fingers.

"I have two things I want to say to you," Jack said. "The first one!"

Jack's outstretched arm slapped to the right. He then lifted it high. Then that arm made a circular pattern down while the other arm went up with a mirror movement.

Abasi was taken aback by Jack's weird arm movement. In fact, not only him. Armstrong and Bordo besides Jack and all the others who were watching were also confused, both in the human and the orc armies. Lubanzi and Bishara were slightly alert. Was this human doing something that signal an attack? Was he planning some traps? They had known the human race to not despise playing dirty, so this possibility was not out of the question.

"What is he doing?" Coca asked Four Winds.

Four Winds didn't answer, because he also didn't understand.

"Perhaps it is a signal for a hidden troop?" Purple Mist conjectured. She had the same thought as Abasi's aides. Jack's arm movements had become increasingly complex by then. Even his body tilted around to follow his arm movements as if dancing.

Of the entire audience who were spectating, only two people understood what Jack was doing. One was Peniel, who had retreated into her hidden dimension because she felt too ashamed. She had been scolding Jack via her mind ever since Jack started. The other was Paytowin, who was back at the front of the human army. He was facepalming himself.

"Oh, dear lord... He truly goes and does it," Paytowin muttered.

Jack finally finished his hand movements by crossing his arms in front of his chest. He then yelled loudly, "Transform...!!!"

Jack's body was replaced by a humanoid dragon.

Complete silence on the battlefield.

Coca turned to Four Winds and asked, "Is... Is that the champion of the world tournament...?"

Violent Blizzard also turned and asked, "You truly add that person into your friend list...?"

Four Winds looked down without saying anything.

At the place where the six leaders were standing. The three orcs were unable to understand what Jack had done. Was the dance before transforming meant anything particular? Most of the natives were also lost, only players knew what Jack had done just now, and they were too stupefied to react.

"And this is the second thing I want to say to you," Jack said to Abasi. "ATTAACCKKK...!!!"

Chapter 884: Open Field Battle

Finished announcing his declaration, Jack used Blitz Slash. His body zoomed past Abasi who was still dumbfounded by Jack's unconventional declaration. The slashes caused by Jack woke the warlord up.

"You despicable human outworlder! How dare you sneak an attack!!" Abasi bellowed. He brandished his gigantic axe and turned around to chase after Jack.

Armstrong and Bordo were similarly confounded by Jack's abrupt declaration and first strike, but they soon made their moves as well. Lubanzi and Bishara reacted at the same time. Armstrong clashed with Lubanzi while Bordo took Bishara on.

"What are you complaining about? I've already announced it before I made my attack! It's you who are being sloppy!" Jack returned Abasi's accusation.

Jack didn't stop and battle Abasi, he continued forward after going past the three orc leaders. The human army had also started charging forward after Jack's attack command, but they were still far behind. The scene appeared as if Jack was going to clash against the entire orc army by himself.

The players who were with the orc army thought to themselves, 'Who is this lunatic player? First, he did a perplexing imitation from the seventies kid show in front of everyone. Now, he is charging without fear at an enemy army all by himself. Does he think he has a cheat code that makes him invincible?'

Jack cast Magic Wall just as the first barrage of range attacks came. His magic wall broke soon as he cast Barrier and erected Magic Shield while using Charge to increase his rushing speed. Many of the follow-up range attacks missed him because of his charge.

The melees at the front line were not going to back down from a single attacker. They came forward when Jack came close enough. Jack used Wings of Devastation then. The energy wave from the skill

covered a large area. Many were afflicted with Bleed and Dizzy after the wave hit them. The dizzy status caused their advance to stop.

Jack multi-cast a seven-runes spell then. The opponents who were not afflicted by Dizzy were alarmed seeing the number of runes. The orc players were especially astonished. Firstly, many of them were not aware yet of Jack being a multi-class player. Jack had used several physical class skills moments before and was now casting a spell. Some of them had heard about such a human player, but they just treated the news as baseless rumors. Secondly, they never expected any player to have gotten a spell with so many runes yet.

The spell was completed very fast due to Jack's multi-runes casting method. An electric orb appeared as lighting elements from the surrounding rushed into this orb, including several lightning strikes that came down from the sky above. This orb then exploded and uncountable lightning snakes fanned out, hitting everyone in the area directly in front of Jack.

The lightning snakes from this Perpetual Lightning Judgement spell caused massive damage. All basic natives within the affected area were killed outright as well as elite natives of level 50 and below. Players who had lower HP than natives were of course not spared. The area where Jack's spell had passed by was instantly devoid of players.

Several high-level orc soldiers rushed out to come after Jack, they were not going to let Jack off after causing such casualties.

Jack flapped his wings and rose into the air. He flew back to his army. He was not suicidal enough to fight the entire army all by himself. He was simply stealing the first strike advantage.

A figure appeared before him in the sky. Abasi had used his flying tool when Jack took to the sky.

"Don't think you can escape!" Abasi roared and made a slash. His axe swing created a fiery slash.

Jack didn't intend to fight it out with this orc warlord. Abasi was a rare elite nine levels above him. He might be able to cross swords with the warlord for a bit but he was not confident he could win. Jack used his dragon form's inherent Wind Jet and shot away, dodging Abasi's slash, before resuming his flight. He also cast Magic Bind which hindered Abasi for a while.

"Hey, come out! I need your boost to my recovery!" Jack said when he didn't see Peniel around. Although he had used defensive skills, he was still hit by a multitude of ranged attacks during his charge.

Peniel came out but was showing a grumpy face. "Do you have to do that?! It is so embarrassing! I will hit you now if we are not in the middle of a battle!" Peniel scolded. He was mentioning Jack's silly act before transforming into dragon form.

"I can't help it! The idea is stuck in my head. I have to do it at least once or else it will keep on gnawing at me," Jack explained.

"That is a ludicrous explanation! I will stay in my hidden dimension and not help you anymore if you do that again!" Peniel warned.

"Yes, ma'am! That's a one-time thing. I'm satisfied enough to fulfill my childhood dream at least once," Jack replied with a laugh.

Abasi wanted to give chase, but the human army had closed in enough. It would be unwise to just charge forward recklessly like what that outworlder human did just now.

The two armies were in the range of ranged attacks. Colorful spells, arrows, and bullets started crisscrossing on the battlefield.

Arriving back in the army, Jack summoned his minions, Arlcard, Ice Demon Fiend, Therras, spirit weapon, and his ten wolves. Arlcard had increased another level again to level 62, while Therras was at level 58.

Arlcard looked at the clashing armies before him. "Are you a war magnet?" He asked Jack.

"You are happy I invited you to one again, aren't you?" Jack returned.

"I ain't complaining," Arlcard replied and brandished his crimson rapier.

"Everyone! Attack at will!" Jack shouted.

The front melee soldiers had started clashing with the enemies. Jack first cast Magic Field among the mage soldiers behind the front line, he then cast most of his spells, hoping to take advantage of the 60% probability of triggering a double cast.

Out of all the spells he cast, several received double cast, namely Tracing Beam, Lightning Strike, and Acceleration. The two pillars of lightning came down from the sky and slammed into the enemy's front line. Since everyone was packed together, even after they saw the symbols on the ground that marked the area that would be scorched by the lightning strikes, they still couldn't dodge. They could only brace themselves with defensive moves to endure the lightning attacks.

Jack had also cast Myriad Venomous Vipers. This spell, unfortunately, didn't trigger the double cast. The fifteen green vipers were binding the enemy orc soldiers, allowing the human soldiers to freely deliver punishment.

As for Acceleration, the double cast allowed him ten targets. He placed the enhancement on himself and his four minions aside from his wolves. Another he placed on Paytowin who stayed near him as well as Brave King. The remaining three he gave to the highest-level native soldiers nearby. He wanted to give the spell to Armstrong or Bordo but they were not nearby.

With the acceleration buff, they went to the front line except for Jack's spirit weapon. Jack had commanded his spirit weapon to use his ranged mode to support them. Therras used supersonic mode, Ice Demon Fiend used its ice spears rain to hit a large area, while Arlcard cast his Sonata of the Night and Perpetual Sword of Death.

Paytowin climbed on top of Brave King and stormed into the enemy's ranks. He used his pistol to shoot at enemies. He planted Beam Turret on the ground and then placed several traps around the turret.

"Hey, George. Don't go too far!" Jack called.

Acceleration didn't last long. Paytowin had barged in a bit too deep because everyone appeared too slow. This was the first time he was under the effect of such a drastic time-warping spell, hence it had made him too confident. When everything was back to normal speed. He felt slightly overwhelmed because there were enemies all around. He immediately commanded Brave King to retreat.

A whistling sound was suddenly heard as a giant bolt came at high speed. Paytowin was taken by surprise. The bolt hit him, dealing almost 1,000 damage. Paytowin was at level 53 now. The damage was not a problem for his 4,360 HP, but the bolt had a knockback effect. The impact caused him to fall off Brave King's back.

Jack looked over and recognized the one who had shot the giant bolt. It was the same native orc chieftain who had been chasing him during his first war with the orc army, Jomo Sharpstone. This elite orc was now at level 50. Jack had no problem dealing with this orc now but Jomo stayed at the back, shooting using his giant crossbow.

Paytowin, who had fallen to the ground, was now beset by enemy soldiers. He was slightly dazed because of the fall. His position was far from Jack, Jack won't arrive in time to save him. The Brave King was also being crowded by the orc soldiers, making it unable to save its master.

Chapter 885: Spectacular Explosion

When Paytowin was in a critical situation, Jack used Wind Slash and sent five wind energies his way before getting blocked by orc soldiers. The five wind energies were very fast and they cut through the soldiers that were about to hit Paytowin. This interruption granted Paytowin a precious second, which he used to activate his Brave Techno Suit.

Layers of golden-white metallic parts appeared and covered his body, turning him into a humanoid cyborg. Paytowin immediately activated his techno suit's first skill, Overdrive mode. Multiple jets of vapor were released from his suit followed by high-pitched sounds. His speed increased. He did a backflip, escaping just in time as the orc soldiers resumed their assaults.

Brave King used its brave blast at this time, blasting all the soldiers who were holding it down. It then used its projectile punch. Its fist swooped down on the orcs that were trying to finish Paytowin.

Paytowin stood back up. With Brave King's long-ranged assist, he managed to put a space between him and the enemies. He aimed his gun and fired. He was still in overdrive mode, so his rate of fire was fast. With the aid of the reticle in his sight, his rapid gunfire hit all targets without any miss.

"Danger! An invisible enemy coming from three o'clock!" Paytowin heard a voice from his helmet. He instinctively looked to the right and saw in his vision a humanoid shape in red and yellow color.

'It is infrared vision!' Paytowin thought.

This red and yellow figure was coming at high speed at him holding a short weapon. Paytowin hurriedly shifted his left hand that held a dagger and parry the incoming attack. When the two weapons hit, a woman materialized. Her eyes were wide. She must not have expected Paytowin to manage to block her sneak attack. Paytowin recognized her as one of the finalists in the world tournament, Disco Rain.

"You can also sense mana?" She asked.

Paytowin replied by firing his gun at her face point blank.

Disco Rain reacted swiftly and dodged the shot. A phantom dagger came out of her at the same time she dodged. Paytowin was still in overdrive mode, so his response didn't lose to Disco Rain. He jumped back before the phantom dagger hit. Disco Rain's Unblockable Stab failed to reach Paytowin.

The other orc soldiers resumed their approach again. Paytowin's visor glowed at this time. A thick golden beam shot out from the visor. It struck one of the orcs and knocked him back. The beam didn't vanish, Paytowin swiped the beam to the side, hitting every orc and preventing them from coming near.

The visor beam was another of his Brave Techno Suit's skills. One that was available when Paytowin leveled up his Brave Techno Suit to level 10.

When the visor beam came at Disco Rain. She disappeared. She turned into a blur and zoomed past Paytowin, who received multiple slashes as she passed by. However, Paytowin didn't receive any damage. The Brave Techno Suit possessed a golden shield that absorbed damage equal to 100% of his HP. The shield was almost depleted though, showing how deadly Disco Rain's skill was.

Disco Rain was rather surprised to see her opponent didn't lose any HP. She thought her skill should bring Paytowin's HP to critical if not outright killed him. Her surprise caused her to pause. She was just about to follow up with a finishing blow, but due to her pause, it was enough time for Paytowin to flee. His Brave King activated the flying jetpack on its back. It flew by and swooped up Paytowin and brought him away.

Brave King was aiming its flight to bring Paytowin out from behind the enemy's line. However, large blue sword energy struck Brave King's flight path, and the resulting force caused the techno golem to stumble back and Paytowin to fall to the ground again.

Before Paytowin could get back on his feet, he saw an orc come at him with a jump assault. He also recognized this orc as Four Winds, the leader of the runner-up team in the world tournament. Paytowin crossed his dagger and gun to block the inevitable attack, but a humanoid dragon suddenly appeared before him and blocked Four Winds' assault.

"Jack!" Paytowin uttered after recognizing Jack's draconic back. Jack's spirit weapon hovered beside him.

"Dude, why didn't you call Mihos to protect you?" Jack asked.

"Oh, right...", Paytowin had completely forgotten that he already had a companion. He took out his companion token. However, Jack stopped him.

"Wait! Summon him later. I have a plan. You move back first!" Jack said.

Paytowin didn't waste time by questioning Jack's plan. He retreated following Jack's request.

"Hah! You might have saved him, but you have delivered yourself instead!" Four Winds uttered. His body grew to an impossible height. Jack remembered Peniel mentioned this was the skill of the Titan bloodline, a unique-grade bloodline.

Despite his body size multiplied, Four Winds' speed was not affected. His two axes turned into blurs as they created uncountable starlight. The starlight seemed about to engulf Jack, but Jack's two claws also turned into a blur. At the same time, Jack yelled, "Pegasus meteor slash...!!!"

Jack's claws appeared to explode and turned into uncountable swords. These swords slashed all over the place, clashing with the starlight.

Four Winds was more startled by Jack's yell compared to his sword art, but his self-control allowed his movement to not be affected.

Countless sparks resulted from the impacts between the slashes and the starlight. At the end of the exchange, it was Four Wind's titanic body that was pushed back several steps. Four Winds was amazed that even with his titan strength, he still lost in raw power against Jack.

"Amazing! Not considering your weird yell, your swordsmanship has improved to another height again since we last fought," Four Winds said with admiration.

"Of course. If I don't improve, that means I'm declining," Jack replied with a smile.

Violent Blizzard, Purple Mist, and Coca arrived then, joining Four Winds and Disco Rain.

"Oh? Where is the Elementalist chick? Replaced by this sentinel?" Jack asked when he noticed Water Lily was not around.

"What are you people conversing with our enemy for? Attack!" Abasi came from the sky with his flying tool. The other orc soldiers also rushed in on his command.

"You won't escape this time!" Abasi yelled at Jack. Since Jack had penetrated behind the enemy's line to save his friend, Abasi won't let this chance go. He had ordered the orc soldiers to cut Jack's escape path. Two orc mages with flying spells also cut Jack's escape path from the air.

"General!" Armstrong shouted. Seeing Jack surrounded, he tried to barge in to save Jack. But Paytowin who had returned said to him, "No, let him! He has a plan. Don't worry, he will be okay!"

Jack had sent a message to Paytowin asking him to prevent anyone from coming near him. Armstrong was a bit hesitant, but he had seen how close the two outworlders were during the march. He decided to trust their bonds.

"I will aid you, my lord!" Phithion uttered. He had followed after Abasi. Seeing the warlord's animosity with this particular player, he was not going to let go of this opportunity to garner favor from his backer. He was a technocraft, one at level 52. He was now using the skill that technocraft got at level 50, Bombardment.

As he executed the skill, a disc-like thing appeared in the air. It looked like a small UFO. Multiple missiles were released from this round aircraft. The missiles were so many but Jack's eyes managed to count them to fifty.

Peniel informed him that it meant that the skill had been max-leveled. A level 1 Bombardment would fire thirty missiles. Every increase in level added another missile to the skill. When the missile hit a target, it caused an AOE explosion that dealt physical damage. This skill was a very effective skill for group battles.

The missiles shot from this skill were homing missiles. Since the area covered by the skill only had Jack as a single enemy, all fifty missiles rearranged their flight paths and flew at him.

Jack didn't panic seeing either the missiles or the enemies surrounding him. The faster missiles arrived first. Jack activated Gold Dragon Armor and then his two claws again exploded with the burst attack of

Formless Flowing Sword Style. Each incoming missile was met with a sword slash. None of the missiles hit Jack, they exploded after getting slashed by his sword art.

The resulting explosion still caused AOE damage but Jack's Gold Scale Armor dampened the received damage.

When the explosion settled, Jack was still standing and only lost less than ten percent of his HP. A spell formation with five runes was in the process of forming on his left hand.

"Get him!" Abasi roared.

"Peniel, do it!" Jack uttered. Peniel followed Jack's cue and cast Invulnerability on the spirit weapon.

Jack's spell was completed then. With the spell completion, his body vanished with a flash of light.

"Te-Teleportation...?!" Abasi uttered when he identified the cast spell.

Jack's Teleportation was still at level 1, but the fifty meters distance displacement it provided was enough for him to escape the encirclement.

At the same time he disappeared, the spirit weapon broke apart and its center core expanded. Four Winds and his friends who had mana sense knew that a strong attack was coming.

"Destroy that spirit weapon!" Four Winds instructed.

He and the others immediately sent their attacks. Abasi was not ignorant of what was happening with the spirit weapon. He also delivered his attacks. However, the spirit weapon was protected by Peniel's invulnerability spell.

The invulnerability only lasted a few short seconds, but it was enough for the spirit weapon to complete its finishing mode detonation. At the same time, twenty large lightning balls came at them.

Four Winds knew Jack had planned this, which meant that these attacks would be his ultimate attacks that had a high probability of decimating them. He immediately called his teammates, "Coca, final sacrifice! Everyone, gather!" Four Winds reverted to his normal size before grouping near Coca with the others.

Jack had purposefully only brought his spirit weapon when he rushed to save Paytown. He had instructed the others to stay back. Terras who was waiting behind had been preparing as well. It was in its sovereign mode and a glowing yellow core was formed in front of its maws. It fired this earth core toward where Jack's spirit weapon was. At the same time, Jack also unleashed his soul breath.

The four attacks combined and created a spectacular explosion.

Chapter 886: Cipher Flight's Guild Army

After the explosion subsided, the large area affected by the explosion was filled with still bodies on the ground. Jack's combined explosive assault that merged four different elements was enough to take away more than thirty percent of a level 70 rare elite like Garland who was stronger than his equal counterpart. What more of these common soldiers?

All basic and elite orc soldiers were wiped out. All special elite below level 55 shared the same fate. Higher-level special elites were mostly left with critical HP. Rare elites below level 60 mostly lost more than half their HPs. Even Abasi had only half a life remaining.

All players in the vicinity were wiped out except for Four Winds' team. Jack was surprised to find that those five still stood. No, four! The Sentinel named Coca was lying on the ground as well.

Coca had used a very rare non-standard sentinel skill called Final Sacrifice. The skill created a bubble that reduced damage. The bubble was not large, it could hold only around five to six persons. All the damage that passed through this bubble was transferred to the sentinel who used the skill. All allies that hid within the bubble won't receive any damage as long as they were inside the bubble.

Hence, all the damage that Jack's combined assault generated was absorbed by Coca, sparing four Winds and the others from demise.

When the explosion happened, Coca had also activated all his defensive skills. Protection Field, Shield Stance, and Impenetrable Wall. Impenetrable Wall was Sentinel's level 50 standard skill. It created a giant shield image that followed the user around. It blocked damage equal to 300% of Sentinel's maximum HP and reduced all damage by 35%. The Sentinel was also immune to all movement restrictions when the skill was active. This skill lasted five seconds at its first level.

However, even with all the defensive buff, Coca's HP was still depleted from the combined explosion.

Purple Mist could actually use mass teleportation, a spell that she had shown during the world tournament. But Mass teleportation had a shorter range compared to the individual teleportation spell. Four Winds was not certain how wide the blast area was from Jack's attack. He didn't want to take the risk. It would be a disaster if after they teleported, they were still within the blast radius. So, he chose the more certain method of Coca's Final Sacrifice.

The pressure on the human army in the area where the blast happened dropped drastically. The morale of the human army also increased seeing many casualties on the opponent's side. Jack issued the command to charge. They pressed forward.

Paytowin had summoned Mihos then. The golden champion just looked at the situation with a flat expression. He glanced at Paytowin, pulled up his golden greatsword, and uttered a battle cry that gave all allies a buff before charging into the enemy's rank.

'What's the deal with him?' Paytowin wondered. Then an understanding came to him. Mihos was still in grief and fury for losing his faction. He must have lots of pent-up anger to unleash at the moment. This war was the perfect place for him to do it.

Mihos used his super jump assault and sent himself right in the middle of the enemies. He then used a double whirlwind slash, cutting everyone around him, before following up with Swords of the Braves. Eight golden swords struck the stronger enemies nearby him.

Paytowin sighed. Forget about having Mihos protect him. That champion was not in the frame of mind to listen to commands. Paytowin just let him wreak havoc within the enemy's rank. With his Mythical grade, the champion should be all right. Paytowin stayed at the back and used ranged attacks.

The orc army was generally one to two levels higher than the human army, but Jack's War General title helped bridge the gap. Now with the increase in morale, the human army was at an advantage. They continued to push the orc army back.

Jack also followed the charge. He advanced again to where Four Winds and the others were located. These players still hold their ground. Abasi himself had retreated to the back line covered by his trusted lieutenants once he found his HP was down to half. Seeing their general retreat caused the orc army to lose even more fighting spirit.

When Jack was heading to Four Winds, he saw Coca rise. His HP was only 1 point though. Before Jack could react, Purple Mist already used her Full Heal on Coca.

Jack's speedy flight brought him to Four Winds' group before his army arrived. "Sacrificial dummy?" Jack asked.

"Yes, it's a very rare item. We only found two so far, and you have forced us to waste one," Four Winds answered.

"Hehe, do you bring the second one? You are going to have to use that one as well if you all are still stubborn about not retreating. Now, let's see how you deal with the skill that killed you in the world tournament!" Jack uttered. His body broke into multiple shadows.

"Everyone!" Four Winds uttered after seeing the familiar Hundred Shadow Strikes.

When Jack's twenty shadows came, the five took positions that covered all angles. At the same time, an apparition appeared above Four Winds, it was Berserker's level 50 standard skill, Ancestral Possession. This apparition above him clashed with two of Jack's shadows. Disco Rain was by the side with twin daggers, each dagger stabbed and struck one shadow. Violent Blizzard was on the opposite side of Disco Rain. She used Parry. Her large greatsword allowed her to parry another two shadows.

Coca was behind, he used Shield Stance again and used the large tower shield to block two shadows while the longsword on his right hand parried another shadow. Purple Mist cast Words of Prayer in the area where they were standing. Increasing all their attributes and defense and also increased HP recovery. At the same time, she used her martial art using a staff to parry one shadow.

Four Winds used his Starlight Field martial art to deal with the rests. But even with the compact defense, three shadows seemed unaccountable. These three almost hit Purple Mist when a figure rushed in with crisscrossing sword lights that clashed with the remaining three shadows.

The twenty shadows converged back into Jack. Jack looked at the new figure with amazement. It was a native orc who wielded a long katana blade. The orc was named Muwaje Sharpblade, a level 58 rare elite. But Jack was more amazed by the cooperation between Four Winds and the others. They still lost HP, but their cooperation allowed them to survive attacks that would have otherwise killed them.

"Are you okay?" Muwaje asked Four Winds. "I saw the big explosion and rushed here."

"It's fortunate that you do. Thank you for the save," Four Winds replied.

"Your companion?" Jack hazarded a guess.

"Yeah," Four Winds replied. As he answered, a healing light covered all of them. Jack turned and saw a lesser angel some distance away. He knew one because he had seen one when he was fighting Master. This one must have been summoned by Purple Mist as soon as the explosion was over. He didn't see any other priest-class player nearby.

"I admit we are still not your match," Four Winds uttered. "But I have promised to show you the might of Cipher Flight. You will witness it now."

Four Winds pointed in a direction after finished speaking. A legion appeared from the side of the orc army. This legion hit the human army's right flank. The legion numbered around 10,000 soldiers.

Then another legion came again, close behind the first one. The number in this legion almost matched the first one.

"Your guild has trained twenty thousand soldiers?" Jack asked in astonishment.

"No, that second one is from another guild. The leader is that technocraft whom you killed just now with your explosive attack," Four Winds uttered.

"Well, I will go meet this guild army of yours after finishing you lot here."

"As I said. We might not be your match, but we will win this war."

Jack noticed then Purple Mist was casting a spell. He recognized the spell formation. It was mass teleportation. Jack used Sword of Light. However, a prismatic shield appeared and blocked his attack. It was the protection spell from the lesser angel.

Purple Mist's lesser angel was not as powerful as Master's. Probably due to the intelligence stat modifier. Jack's Sword of Light shattered the prismatic shield and still hit Purple Mist, but the power had been greatly reduced due to the shield. Purple Mist received damage but was not high enough to be alarmed. Her concentration was solid. Jack's interference didn't disrupt her casting.

The spell was cast and all of them disappeared from the place. Jack saw them reappeared behind the orcs soldiers that were advancing.

Since Cipher Flight's team didn't want a direct confrontation with him, he didn't force the issue. He flew away before the sea of humans and orcs refilled the empty field he had created from his combined explosion assault. He left Arlcard, Terras, and Ice Demon Fiend to continue supporting the human army while he flew to the side where the human army was being flanked by the enemy guild armies.

Paytowin rode Brave King and flew behind Jack.

"Those are guild armies from Cipher Flight?" Paytowin asked. They were in the air watching.

"Those are armies from two guilds," Jack informed.

Both of the armies were almost equal in number, but in terms of quality, the first army was much better. Almost all the standard units were upgraded versions. Some units were clearly not standard. There was a company of armored minotaurs wielding giant axes, a battalion of spear-throwing trolls, and a platoon of cat-like warriors carrying flaming sabers.

Not only that, there was a large-horned panther that spearheaded the guild army. The panther had dark blue fur that seemed as rigid as steel. It had two long whiskers that ended with tentacle-like suckers filled with sharp hooks. Its tail was long and ended with a long blade. Its footsteps left behind residues of black smoke.

"That is a Hellion Panther," Peniel informed. "A large-sized rare elite demon."

"I assume that is their guild guardian," Paytowin remarked.

"And the one on top of that panther must be their guild hero," Jack said.

On top of the Hellion Panther was a female orcish archer. She brandished a very large bow. Every shot she fired produced an ice arrow. Ones who were struck by these ice arrows were either slowed or frozen.

"Cipher Flight indeed lives up to its name," Jack remarked.

With additional 20,000 guild soldiers, the right side of the human army was having trouble. If this continued, the advantage Jack had secured would be slowly negated.

"I think it's time they meet Everlasting Heavenly Legends' army," Jack said.

Chapter 887: Summoning the Guild Army

"I will set up the summoning platform at the backline," Jack informed Paytowin. "Try to hold them when I'm gone but don't rush in too deep."

"Don't worry, I won't make the same mistake," Paytowin replied.

"Don't go near that Hellion Panther," Peniel warned Paytowin after Jack left. "It has an ability called Consume Soul. Aside from dealing large soul damage, it also has a 5% chance to instant-kill a target with that skill."

"I don't plan to fight close, but will it affect my Brave King?" Paytowin asked.

"Techno golem has no soul. So, no, the instant-kill effect does not apply to Brave King," Peniel answered.

"What about that other guardian?" Paytowin pointed to the second guild army, the one summoned by the guild Warsong Rising. Phithion might have died but it was his aide who was controlling the army. With this army was a large icy cockatrice monster.

"That is Glacier Cockatrice, also a rare elite monster. Stay away from it as well. It has an Icy Stone Stare that can petrify a target. But that skill has limited range. As long as you don't go near or stare at its eyes, you won't get hit by the petrifying skill." Peniel explained, before adding, "Techno Golem is immune to the stare as well."

Jack had already landed at the back of the human army. His dragon form had run out when he landed. Peniel stayed near Paytowin to see the action.

Aside from a guild guardian, Warsong's guild army also had a guild hero. Their hero was a spear-wielding orc warrior.

The two guild armies were gaining the advantage because they hit from the flank which was mostly composed of fragile units like mages and healers. The human army tried to adjust to deal with this flanking attack but it caused their formation to become a mess.

Paytowin had Brave King fly down. His Techno Golem couldn't fight while in flying mode. They landed a little bit behind the fighting lines. Brave King headed to the front to battle the enemies in melee while Paytowin shot his guns from behind. Peniel used Healing Field where Brave King was, healing it as well as the human melee soldiers fighting beside it.

"I have promised Jack to hold the enemies, I intend to keep it," Paytowin uttered and used his level 50 skill, Bombardment. However, his bombardment was different from the one exhibited by Phithion. Instead of a mini UFO, it was a large aircraft that appeared.

"Did you use Advanced Seed on your Bombardment skill?" Peniel asked after seeing the huge aircraft.

"I did," Paytowin replied with a smile. "Callan gave me a few tasks to perform during the march. The Advanced Seed was the reward for those tasks."

Actually, Paytowin thought those tasks were rather simple. It was just about killing some monsters or gathering some materials. It was so simple that Paytowin thought ghost Callan was just giving these tasks as an excuse to give him things. Perhaps the divine priest wanted to help Paytowin become stronger but he was bound by rules so he couldn't just give away everything from inside the legacy orb.

Paytowin had done those tasks when the others were doing formation training under John's guidance. Since Jack had announced Paytowin as a special core member, he was not obligated to join the training.

The large aircraft now hovered above the orc guild armies. Within the guild army also some guild players. These players were now looking up in fascination.

As they were watching, scores of missiles were launched from the craft. When they were alarmed by the missiles that were now falling, another wave of missiles was launched. Not only that, there were guns mounted on the craft. These guns now opened fire, raining bullets down upon the armies below.

"What is that?!" Coca uttered when he saw the large ship above their guild army. He and the rest were moving to join their guild army to fight together.

"Is it a skill?" Purple Mist conjectured. "It just appeared out of nowhere."

"It looks similar to Technocraft's bombardment skill. Only like... a million times more powerful," Disco Rain said.

"If it is a skill, it won't last long. Let's hurry. We will locate the user and make sure he can't use this skill again for the remaining of this battle," Four Winds said.

Paytowin's bombardment skill was indeed many times more powerful than the standard version. The Advanced Seed that was used to evolve the skill, was a unique-grade seed. Furthermore, Advanced Seed was most suited to evolve tech-themed skills. Callan didn't award this seed to Paytowin randomly.

After using the Advanced Seed on the Bombardment skill, the skill's name changed to Mothership Bombardment.

The missiles that hit the enemies exploded with explosions that covered a larger area compared to the normal Bombardment. The damage it produced was also higher. The rapid gunshot raining from above had an armor-piercing ability. It ignored thirty percent of defense.

Most of the players mixed within the guild army didn't survive the continuous bombardment. The guild soldiers also lost much HP.

Paytowin had maxed level this Mothership Bombardment skill. Normal Bombardment skill added the number of missiles when it leveled up, but Paytowin's Mothership Bombardment was different. It produced a fixed number of attacks at an interval. The level-up increased its duration. At its max level, the Mothership Bombardment lasted twenty seconds.

During those twenty seconds, it was hell for the guild armies and the players below. Their advance stopped. Allowing the human army to adjust their positions to better engage the enemy guild soldiers.

Jack, who was watching from afar, couldn't help but be amazed. His opinion that Technocraft was the coolest class in this game world was again affirmed.

Although he paid attention to the event, he wasn't idle. In his hand was the guild army summoning crystal. He first cast the Body Double spell. His three copies appeared. He sent the copies in different directions. One was heading to where the enemy guild armies were located.

He then activated the guild army summoning crystal. The mini commanding platform appeared before him. He saw the 3d map above this platform and the general layout of the battlefield.

There was no strategist like John on both sides so the battle proceeded in a direct manner. It was brute force against brute force.

Jack worked on the map and selected the place to summon their guild army. The guild army could only be summoned a certain distance away from the commanding platform. He could not just summon the army anywhere. He selected the summoning spot on the right side, nearest to where enemy guild armies were.

Multiple green dots appeared there, signifying allies.

He had checked their guild army roster during the march. After the last war, heavy investments and efforts had been placed to increase the size of the army. The coin incomes from the joint venture underneath the Valley of Tempus and the training boost from the kingdom faction greatly helped in the effort.

The Everlasting Heavenly Legends currently had almost fifteen thousand soldiers. These soldiers were comprised of 4,500 squires, 2,500 bandit archers, 1,200 imperial knights, 2,000 armored cavalries, 1,800 mages, 1,500 devout healers, 550 Eagle Rider Hunters, 500 Blood Counts, 250 Twilight Champions, 15 Ice Cannon Tanks, and 1 Brave Golem.

The total number was not as many as the joint armies between Cipher Flight and Warsong Rising, but Jack didn't hesitate as he set the two guild armies as the main target.

Jack was never good at micromanagement. That was John's specialty. Once he set the target for the guild army, he left them to act as they saw fit. Directly commanding the guild soldiers was not

compulsory. The guild soldiers would automatically attack nearby hostiles. John always did it simply because he enjoyed it and the results were always better when the guild soldiers moved under his direction.

Jack changed place with one of his copies. It was now his copy who stayed behind with the platform. The platform would remain as long as the person who activated the platform stayed close, even if it was a copy. His Body Double lasted twenty-five minutes. He could join the guild army in a direct fight for that duration before he had to return to the platform again.

Jack had placed his copy near where the guild army appeared, so he was now rushing forward with them. One thing he noticed. The guild army adjusted themselves into formation. They separated into three fronts.

One front was spearheaded by the Ice Cannon Tanks followed behind by imperial knights and bandit archers. The second front charged from the flank. It was composed of armored cavalries followed by light-armored squires. Mages and devout healers supported from the back of the two charging fronts while the blood counts hid within them, waiting for opportunities for sneak attacks.

The twilight champions were with Uruk, forming the third front, shock troops that took on the enemy's strongest units. They were supported from above by the eagle rider hunters

It seemed that even without John's directives, the army could still coordinate well. Jack didn't know that John had made it a regular exercise for the guild soldiers to do war drills. Hence, each of the guild units already knew what to do even if they didn't receive specific commands.

Everlasting Heavenly Legends' army had the initiative since Cipher Flight and Warsong Rising's army were still engaging the human native army. Uruk uttered a battle cry as he delivered the first blow. The troops behind him followed his lead and crashed into the enemy's armies.

Chapter 888: Guild Armies Match-up

"Flying units...?" Four Winds said after seeing the flocks of eagle rider hunters in the air. He had just joined his army and was now fighting with them against the human native army.

"Are those from Everlasting Heavenly Legends?" Coca asked.

"I don't see any other guild player in this army. It should be safe to assume that they are," Purple Mist replied.

"How did they get flying units?" Violent Blizzard asked. "I haven't heard any Verremor guild possessing a flying unit. Do you think it is special to the Themisphere country?"

"I think it is special to only that guild. Look! They not only have one type of flying unit," Four Winds pointed at amongst the flocks. A large figure was within the flocks, raining red beams down to the battlefield below.

"Is... Is that a dragon...?" Disco Rain uttered with disbelief.

"No, it is too small for a dragon," Four Winds replied. "Hurry, the fighting against that guild is on the other side. We need to head there!"

"Shouldn't we just focus on the human native army here?" Coca said as he fought a human native soldier. He had the slowest movement speed. He was not keen on traveling another distance again. "Let the Warsong's army handle them. They are closer."

"I believe the key to winning will be the Everlasting Heavenly Legends. If we can't defeat that guild, we won't win this war," Four Winds replied. "Disco, I have another task for you," He whispered something to Disco Rain before running forward. Violent Blizzard and the others followed. Coca grunted before he unwillingly followed as well.

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Supported by the twilight champions, Uruk tore through the enemy's rank. His charge didn't seem to stop even after he punched through the enemy's front line. The enemies who were trying to focus on him were blasted by the ice beams from the Ice Cannon Tanks. The tanks had been enhanced with Offensive Formula rune diagrams. Rune symbols adorned their metallic bodies, boosting their firepower.

"Barbarian! Face me...!" The spear-wielding hero from Warsong Rising uttered.

Uruk was not going to back down from a challenge. He swung his large two-handed club at the opponent's hero.

The spear-wielding hero turned out to be more agile. Uruk's heavy club failed to hit him while his spear jabbed Uruk several times.

Uruk was annoyed by the harassment. He made a strong blow which produced a strong shockwave. The shockwave unbalanced the enemy hero. Crimson tattoos then filled his body. His speed and strength multiplied. This took the enemy unaware, Uruk had already arrived before the enemy hero before he knew it.

The enemy hero tried to parry the incoming blow using his spear, but it was knocked aside by the powerful blow. The large club came back without losing momentum. This time it struck the side of the enemy. The enemy hero flew away as if a baseball receiving a homerun hit.

The twilight champions cheered from their leader's triumph over the adversaries.

"With me!!" Uruk yelled as he charged forward. This was a war, he wasn't going to entertain a duel for too long. The Twilight Champions followed as they cast their spells to support Uruk as he resumed his assaults on the enemy hero. They wanted to finish the enemy's hero while they still had the chance.

The one who controlled Warsong's army must have seen their guild hero's predicament. Their guild guardian, the Glacier Cockatrice, was sent to provide aid. But before it arrived, it was intercepted by a being as large as itself. It was knocked back when this being came charging and rammed its solid body.

The Glacier Cockatrice balanced itself and looked at its adversary. It was a large metal human.

When Jack saw it, Jack was reminded of the titanic brave statues that were the Council of Virtus' defensive mechanism. This Brave Golem was much smaller than those brave statues but it was large enough to contend against a large-size monster.

This was the first Brave Golem that they had produced. Kirsi was the one who had crafted it. Many blacksmith players aided and learned through the process. John informed that these blacksmith players

were now in the process of crafting more Brave Golems after the experience. They didn't have enough materials to craft many but John said that by the time the fight to disrupt the enemy's supply line began, they should have more than one.

The Glacier Cockatrice made an ear-splitting cry. This cry caused negative status to all the enemies in the vicinity but the brave golem was unaffected. The cockatrice's eyes also glowed bright blue. It was its icy stone stare, but the brave golem was not petrified. The brave golem was immune to all negative effects.

The brave golem lunged forward. Even though it was large, it was not slow. Its speed took the cockatrice by surprise. Before the cockatrice knew it, it had been punched in the face by the golem. The cockatrice reeled backward with a dizzied head.

The brave golem's punch was no joke. It had an Offensive Formula rune diagram engraved on its body. Its original power was already astounding. Added with the offensive buff, the simple punch generated 10,000 damage. Any player who got hit by that punch would die in a single hit. Even Jack would lose more than half his life, providing he didn't use any defensive skill, of course.

The Glacier Cockatrice, despite losing the melee exchange, did not retreat. It fluttered its feathery wings. Icy spikes were formed following the wind produced by the wings. These spikes then battered the advancing brave golem.

Each spike caused damage, but the golem had a very high defense. It just barged through the ice spikes and made another punch. But this time the cockatrice was ready. It jumped to the side before agilely jumping back and slamming the golem's side with its two large claws.

The golem made another swing. The cockatrice repeated its dodge and counterattack.

The glacier cockatrice was seemingly at an advantage with this tactic. But on the fifth time when it was dodging the brave golem's punch. The air around the spot where the brave golem punched started to shimmer before it exploded into a shockwave blast. The cockatrice who thought it had evaded the punch was hit by this blast, causing it to stagger.

The brave golem took advantage to come near at this time. It made a strong downward blow, sending the cockatrice to the ground. It then used one foot to step on the cockatrice, using its weight to pin the monster, before started pummeling the hapless cockatrice using its two fists. Other guild soldiers immediately aided by sending additional attacks considering the cockatrice was immobilized.

Jack, who saw it from some distance away, was amazed by the golem's ruthless fighting style. He led the imperial knights and engaged the enemies who were trying to give aid to the glacier cockatrice. Brave King was nearby while Paytowin supported using gunshots from the back. Paytowin's Brave Techno Suit had run out of duration, he was now back to his normal self.

Jack was cutting down any player or guild soldiers that were in his way. It was not only the burst attack of his sword art that improved after his Formless Flowing Sword Style reached the third phase, its flowing style also underwent major improvement. His swords' movements were more fluid. They swung unpredictably from all angles. Whenever Jack moved, sword lights seemed to dance around him, as if two rivers were flowing beside him, bringing about an unstoppable flood that could wash away any obstacle.

Additionally, the Orb of Eurus installed on Storm Breaker generated additional attacks on all melee exchanges. Four wind energies constantly swirled around the sword. They struck any enemies that came into contact. Hence, there were like two sword rivers and four wind slashes that constantly followed Jack around, cutting everyone he passed through.

Many of Warsong Rising's guild players that happened to be on Jack's path died without realizing what had hit them. They didn't even get the chance to use their skills. Jack had incorporated mana manipulation in his attacks. Despite only using standard attacks, they still caused high damage.

Even though Jack moved continuously, he wasn't oblivious to his surroundings. His guild soldiers were also a class above the enemies. Not because they were upgraded units, but because of their fighting styles. Jack could see his grandfather's mark on each of them.

Domon had carried out Jack's suggestion and gave these guild soldiers martial art drills. Although they couldn't be said to have become experts, the precision and efficacy of their movements were a league above the standard of native soldiers. When a guild soldier from Everlasting Heavenly Legend fought against a similar level and grade from the opposing guild, Everlasting Heavenly Legend's soldier could easily secure victory.

In the sky, Penny, their mythical guild guardian, rained down lava terror on the enemy's mid ranks, throwing their formation into disarray. At this time Penny was already a level 62 Lava Dragonet. It also displayed a new ability to cast spells. She cast Flame Wrath, the same spell that was cast by the Grim Flame Drake when Everlasting Heavenly Legends were hunting for their guild guardian. Multiple tracking fireballs flew around and struck the fleeing orcs.

Only a short moment since the two guild armies clashed, it became a one-sided massacre.

'By the way, where is Nilrem?' Jack wondered. He had been expecting to see that mythical elven heroine in action, but she was nowhere in sight.

'Did she look down on this battle? Damn it! Maybe I should go back to the platform and manually control her,' Jack thought. However, the current battle was in their favor. Even without that second guild hero's aid, it seemed that they should win this battle easily.

While Warsong Rising's guild army was decimated, a large portion of Cipher Flight's guild army disengaged from the fight with the human native army and circled around their comrade. They then came at Everlasting Heavenly Legend from the side. Leading them were Four winds and the Hellion Panther.

Cipher Flight's guild hero riding on top of the Hellion Panther initiated the attack by shooting a large arrow into the sky. The arrow broke into numerous ice darts that rained down upon Everlasting Heavenly Legends' soldiers. The ice darts not only caused damage but also slowed their movements.

The slow status caused them to be unable to respond well against Cipher Flight's army that crashed into them. Cipher Flight's guild soldiers were better compared to Warsong Rising's. Everlasting Heavenly Legends' guild soldiers didn't have as easy a time as before. The side where Cipher Flight had attacked started to get pushed back.

Jack was about to head over to provide backup when suddenly the sky above shone brightly. The cloud above parted way and a humongous greatsword fell down from the sky.

Chapter 889: Mythical Guild Hero

Cipher Flight's guild soldiers looked up and saw the menacing greatsword that was hovering above them. The gigantic greatsword seemed to be slowly descending, but it suddenly picked up in speed. The guild soldiers below tried to run away from the point of impact, but the greatsword was now speeding like a falling meteor. It left a blazing trail as it cut through the air and pierced the ground.

A massive explosion erupted from the point of impact. The shockwave from the explosion reverberated a few times, covering large distances. Most of those who were unfortunate enough to be within the area of impact were obliterated, while the ones hit by the shockwaves suffered large damage. And it was not just one time, the shockwaves hit repeatedly, generating damage again and again.

Many Cipher Flight's guild soldiers perished from that one single attack.

"Who...?!" Four Winds uttered alarmingly after seeing his disarrayed army.

"Up there!" Purple Mist said while pointing up.

They looked up and saw a small figure wearing a green robe slowly floating down.

When it was close enough for an inspect, everyone in the range used that auxiliary skill.

"My... Mythical...?" Purple Mist said with disbelief.

"So, that's where you are," Jack, who was a distance away, said after seeing this green figure.

The floating person with a green robe was Nilrem, their mythical-grade hero. Since she was summoned, she had been spending her time inside the Training Hall. She had increased three levels by then. She was now at level 58.

Nilrem looked at the fighting army below with contempt. An ice arrow suddenly flew at her. Abrupt spell formation formed on Nilrem's staff before the arrow hit her. The arrow halted a couple of meters from Nilrem and just stayed still in the air.

'Telekinesis,' Jack thought. He had experienced that spell when he was inside the ancient battleground.

Nilrem flicked her fingers. The ice arrow swiftly turned around before shooting back where it came from. The one that fired the arrow was Cipher Flight's female guild hero, named Kishale Trueaim. She was a level 56 rare elite orc. She fired a few rapid shots. One arrow went to block the ice arrow that returned, another four were heading to Nilrem.

Nilrem flicked her fingers again. The ice arrow that she controlled stopped in its track. It then abruptly zoomed around at incredibly high speed. It broke all five arrows shot by the orcish heroine before resuming its flight path back to Kishale.

With the increased speed, Kishale failed to react fast enough. The arrow was about to hit her, but a shadow swept past and broke the arrow before it did. The shadow was one of the whiskers of the Hellion Panther Kishale was riding on. The Hellion Panther was a level 59 rare elite demon.

The Hellion Panther looked up and roared at Nilrem. Despite being one grade lower, the panther didn't appear intimidated. Its two whiskers with the hooked ends swayed around as it growled menacingly.

Nilrem viewed such antagonism as an affront. She glared at this demonic beast and pointed her staff down. Spell formation again formed. Upon the casting of the spell, a great flood poured forth. The flood washed ahead in a very wide area. As it flowed, the water in the flood turned turbulent. Violent waves washed over as the water formed numerous kelpies galloping over the flood.

These kelpie-riding waves hit the ground, including where the hellion panther was at. A black shell was formed around the panther when the flood hit. It resisted a few waves but the black shell eventually broke. The large panther was knocked back by the force of the waves. The kelpies that were riding the flood battered at the panther's body, delivering damage with each hit.

If even the large hellion panther was unable to resist the wave's force, what's more of the guild soldiers? They were swept away, damage numbers continuously popped up as the kelpies trampled on them.

Nilrem had targeted the mid-section of Cipher Flight's army with her two spells so that she didn't harm friendly allies. Hence, Four Winds and the others at the front were spared from the devastation. But currently, Four Winds looked at what had befallen his soldiers with a grim face. It was not cheap to train those soldiers.

Four Winds made a decision then. He sent a message to Water Lily, "Lily, pull the soldiers out. We are retreating."

Water Lily also saw the dots representing their guild soldiers disappearing en masse on her map projection. She had been struggling with whether she should withdraw the troops, but Four Winds usually insisted to charge forward despite impossible odds. But she guessed the current situation was even more depressing than impossible odds. It was simply too one-sided.

Water Lily started exerting her control over the guild soldiers, having them make a strategic retreat.

Everlasting Heavenly Legends' army wasn't letting them go just like that. They continued harassing the retreating enemies, incurring more casualties as they kept the pressure. Four Winds' team, Kishale, and the hellion panther tried their best to cover the retreating army.

As the retreat continued, a commotion suddenly occurred among the Cipher Flight's army as a regiment of orc native army barged through. In the lead was the warlord, Abasi. His HP had been healed back to full.

"Keep fighting! Keep fighting, you worthless outworlders!!" Abasi roared. The orc native army started clashing with Everlasting Heavenly Legends' army.

Four Winds was hesitant, but Warsong Rising's army did not. They were in debt to Abasi and their leader Phithion, who had been killed in the early clash, had given the order to support the warlord by any means necessary. Hence, Warsong's army came charging back following Abasi's regiment.

The troops the warlord brought over were mostly elite troops with high average levels. Even though Everlasting Heavenly Legends' outnumbered them, they couldn't beat these native troops as easily as the prior two guild armies. With support from Warsong's army, the pressure shifted to Everlasting Heavenly Legends.

Seeing the situation, Four Winds wasn't going to be a coward. He sent a command to Water Lily to have the army returned to the fight. He knew speed would be the key here. With Abasi repositioning a regiment here, the main army would be weakened. They must rout the Everlasting Heavenly Legends' guild troops before the main army was defeated.

Abasi took to the sky with another orc. Jack used his Inspect and found this other orc was named Sogora Windcaller, a level 70 rare elite. They approached Nilrem and started clashing with her. Abasi fought from close range while Sogora attacked from ranged, calling wind energies and tempests to strike Nilrem.

Although Nilrem was one grade higher, the two native orcs were much higher in level. Hence, the battle was somehow balanced. Furthermore, Nilrem was a magical ranged type. She was excellent at decimating a large number of enemies but when she had to deal with melee, she was somewhat hampered.

Jack, Paytowin, and Uruk led the twilight champions and fought against the native army that Abasi brought. Blood Counts followed closely behind, sneak-killing enemies who were low on health. The Eagle Rider Hunters continued shooting from above. A few special elites flew up to fight the eagle rider hunters but they were too few. The eagle rider hunters continued to rain down arrows unobstructedly.

Even so, Jack and the others knew the key to victory was in the fight between Abasi and Nilrem. Another three rare elite orcs above level 60 took to the sky as well. It seemed that they intended to finish Nilrem before she caused more death tolls to the army.

But before the three could reach Nilrem, a sky-shattering roar was heard. A thick lava beam swept by where the three were. Two managed to fly away from the beam, the last one was struck. It suffered high damage and received burn status. It also lost its flying ability and fell to the ground.

A large figure appeared then. It was Penny, the level 62 mythical-grade lava dragonet. Penny flew at high speed and smacked the two rare elites before flying to where Nilrem was. Its huge claws came clawing at Abasi who countered with a flaming swing. The claw and axe collided and Abasi was thrown away.

Sogora cast a spell and the wind around him formed three thick tornado dragons. The tornado dragons came crashing at Penny, but they were stopped by a runic shield covering the dragonet's body. The dragonet roared as it contended in power with the tornado dragons, refusing to be pushed away.

Nilrem, who saw the reprieve, flew back and down to the ground. She then started casting two spells in succession. The first one was a defensive spell that erected a water curtain around her. When she cast the second spell, a very large rune symbol appeared above her. The second spell was a mega spell!

Abasi knew that it would be a disaster if he let Nilrem complete her spell. He left Sogora to deal with the lava dragonet while he flew towards Nilrem. Despite it being a mega spell, Nilrem was casting it swiftly. There was no time to waste!

Chapter 890: Protecting Nilrem

Four Winds, who saw the casting, also knew the predicament. They couldn't allow Nilrem to finish the casting. He clung to the hellion panther's side and instructed it to barge through.

Nilrem had placed himself in the middle of Everlasting Heavenly Legends' army so that she was protected during her casting. Yet, Abasi and the hellion panther seemed unstoppable. Abasi was flying so only ranged attacks could bother him. But even though he suffered damage, none of the ranged attacks caused movement restriction. So, he continued unhindered.

The hellion panther was very agile. It jumped through Everlasting Heavenly Legends' troops at high speed. Kishale also continued firing her ice arrows, impeding the enemies from obstructing them as well as slowing them down with her ice arrow's effect.

Four Winds continued hanging by the side of the hellion panther and cleaved anyone who came near. He also used Berserker's Cry of Rage. Some of the enemy melee units possessed movement restriction skills, especially blood counts.

Cry of Rage removed all movement restrictions and made allies more resistant to subsequent movement restrictions. Moreover, Four Winds had already max-leveled this skill. At level 20, the resistance to subsequent movement restrictions was one hundred percent and its duration increased to five minutes. This meant he, the hellion panther, and Kishale was immune to all movement restrictions at the moment.

Aside from Kishale's arrows, the two whiskers beside the hellion panther also smacked all the soldiers who tried to stop it. The whiskers' hooked suckers dealt high damage with each swing and also caused knockback. Its bladed tail also slashes anyone that tried to attack its rear.

When Nilrem was in sight, Four Winds readied himself. He needed to send a strong enough attack to disrupt the casting. But suddenly a huge figure came rushing from the side.

The figure slammed itself into the hellion panther. The hellion panther might be able to brush aside the attacks from the small guild soldiers, but the one who had just come crashing had a body as large as its own. It was the brave golem.

The hellion panther paused due to the body slam. Utilizing the pause, the brave golem did its shockwave punch. The panther resisted the knockback due to being immune to movement restriction, but the explosive wind still tore Kishale and Four Winds off from the panther's body. They fell and were surrounded by the guild soldiers, while brave golem grabbed the hellion panther's whiskers and held it down forcefully. All three of them were now unable to reach Nilrem.

"Hmph!" Abasi had seen the failed attempt. It seemed in the end, it all depended on him. He had flown close enough. Several of the eagle rider hunters tried to fly down and blocked him but his axe struck them all away.

Nilrem was now in range. Abasi lifted his giant axe. His axe conjured an imitation that was ten times bigger than the real weapon. This gigantic axe image then erupted with ghoulish dark-red flame. He then brought down this flaming axe image onto Nilrem.

Nilrem frowned when she sensed the power behind Abasi's attack. Her water curtain might not be enough to protect her from the attack. She was about to let go of her casting and fight Abasi directly. But she spotted something and she decided to continue her casting. When Abasi's gigantic flaming axe came cleaving from high up, someone came floating into the air between the two.

It was Jack.

His copies had run around the battlefield. When Nilrem landed, one was nearby, Jack immediately controlled it and had it headed toward Nilrem. Before he exchanged places with that copy, he had Peniel cast Second Life on him. He knew that Abasi was going to use his strongest attack to pierce through Nilrem's water curtain to disrupt her casting. He was not sure if his available defensive skills could tank through the attack or not. Since Peniel's invulnerability was still on cooldown, Second Life was the other sure skill that could help him survive.

After exchanging places with the copy near Nilrem, Jack cast Soar and floated up since Abasi came attacking from up in the air.

The flaming axe hit Jack squarely. The gigantic image completely engulfed him. Jack felt as if he had been split apart by a guillotine and was burned at the same time. His body slammed down into the ground from the impact. His HP was zero.

Abasi had failed to disrupt Nilrem, but seeing Jack's dead body, he felt satisfaction nevertheless. He had finally avenged Wangombe. Badu might regret for not being able to kill Jack directly, but he would understand.

Abasi only allowed his feeling to affect him for a beat. He immediately returned his attention to Nilrem. He struck the water curtain with his axe. The water curtain felt as solid as steel.

'Damn!' He cursed within. Without that strongest skill he just used, it would take some time to break through this defensive spell.

When he was about to continue hacking at the water curtain, something in the corner of his eyes caught his attention. He turned and saw Jack standing back up, his HP was full again.

'How?!' He thought questioningly. He didn't see any high priest around who might have the resurrection spell. Even though he wanted very much to kill Jack again, he had no time. He needed to destroy Nilrem's water curtain and disrupt her from completing her mega spell.

However, a shout caused him to change his mind.

"Kill the outworlder! He summoned the army, killing him will unsummon the guild army here!"

It was Four Winds who had shouted. Before he engaged Everlasting Heavenly Legends' army, he had tasked Disco Rain to do her out-of-body experience to find out the position of where the enemy's guild army controlling platform was. If they could take out the platform or the player controlling the platform, the enemy's guild army would be unsummoned.

After finding out, Disco Rain informed Four Winds via messages. Knowing that it was Jack who was controlling the platform, his plan to ambush the platform site was scrapped. Even if they reached the

platform, he doubted they would be able to do much against Jack. He was still surprised though, to find out that Jack had a skill that allowed him to be at two places at the same time.

Four Winds had expected all of Everlasting Heavenly Legends' guild soldiers to disappear when Jack crashed into the ground from Abasi's attack. But when they didn't, he knew something was wrong. He continued to look at Jack. When Jack got back up, Four Winds wasn't surprised. He figured Jack must have used a life-saving tool like a sacrificial dummy. Probably a higher-grade sacrificial dummy, that's why Jack came to life with full HP instead of 1 HP.

Four Winds immediately shouted the information about Jack controlling the command platform to Abasi, since the warlord was the closest to Jack at the moment.

After hearing Four Winds' words, Abasi no longer tried to break Nilrem's water curtain. Killing Jack would be the same as canceling Nilrem's spell as well. He came to Jack and uttered, "I will kill you again, pesky outworlder!"

Five flaming shadows with axe images came cleaving, sealing Jack's escape path. Abasi was hell-bent on finishing Jack.

Jack didn't underestimate Abasi. Now that Peniel's two ultimate protection spell was gone, he had to use all the defensive skills he had available. A sharp golden light burst out of his body. His total HP increased to two times his previous number. His HP was now over 30,000. It was Gold Dragon Vitality, the third skill of his bloodline.

At the same time before Abasi's axe struck, Jack activated Lightning God Suit and Dragon Eye.

Electricity erupted from Jack's body, striking enemies in the vicinity. Abasi's axe cut into Jack, but the damage was less than one-third than it should be. With Jack's HP being double from before, this was not enough to pose any danger.

With his perception of time slowed. Jack rose and executed the burst attack of Formless Flowing Sword style. He had an easier time directing the ninety-six slashes with the slowed time. Since he had just learned this third phase, his control was not that good yet. The Dragon Eye helped overcome this flaw.

With better control, all ninety-six slashes landed on Abasi's body before he could react, but Jack also felt great fatigue. Fully controlling the third phase of the burst attack consumed a lot of stamina. Abasi received large damage due to the combo multiplier, but Jack was not yet finished with his assault. He followed up with Brave Slash.

A long Golden light expanded from his sword. He then made a slash forward.

Abasi tried to parry the attack with his huge axe. Jack twisted his hand before the two weapons made contact, he didn't want to waste this attack by getting parried. At the same time, his off-hand weapon came up with Flame Strike. The flame strike hit Abasi's axe and pushed it slightly, his brave blade then slipped through and slashed Abasi's left arm.

An unsuspected thing happened upon contact. The brave blade produced a critical hit, but that was not what surprised Jack. It was that after the brave blade struck, Abasi's arm was cut off.

Abasi roared painfully as he reared back. His left arm was now a stump slightly above the elbow. His cut arm was on the ground before Jack.

Jack halted for a bit due to this unexpected event. He remembered again the description of the skill. High chance to wound opponents. So, this was what it meant.

A sense of incoming attack from his back snapped him back to alert. He used Flash Step and dodged a large paw that struck the ground where he stood. But once he did, another attack came from the side. A very fast one. Jack couldn't dodge this one and he was struck.

He felt himself getting held by the thing that struck his side. He turned and found out it to be the hellion panther. One of its whiskers with hooked ends tried to lodge itself onto Jack's body, but because of Lightning God Suit, it was unable to. The whisker instead rolled around Jack's waist to forcefully hold him in place. The panther then opened its wide mouth. An eerie phantom with the shape of a cat's head appeared and bit Jack.

This attack was what Peniel had cautioned Paytowin before, Consume Soul.