

World 921

Chapter 921: Sneak Attacks

Jeanny knew their situation wasn't good, but their objective was to keep Abdu's army from disrupting the Dragon Army. At least until the Dragon Army could rout as many soldiers from Verremor's first army so they could afford to divert their attention to guard their back. Hence, they needed to keep Abdu's army occupied for as long as possible.

However, it was easier said than done. The orc army was at a disadvantage due to their initial chaos, but they were not amateurs in warfare that broke apart at the first sign of trouble. With enough time, they could reorganize themselves into the effective fighting machines they were. With a superior number, they were now hitting back.

Jeanny herself didn't have a good time. After the successful hit she scored at the initial ambush, she almost never landed any blow on Abdu after that. All she did is try her best to stay alive under Abdu's relentless assaults. Even with the support of the players around her, she was still having trouble.

She also had the King of Beast bloodline. Her hair had turned red after activating the bloodline's first skill, Wrath of the Beast. But the attribute increase still couldn't bridge the power gap between her and Abdu.

She tried to lure Abdu deeper into the human army's rank, but their formation was also in chaos now, the same as the orc army. Many orc soldiers had pushed deeper following their lord chief. They were fighting on equal ground now. She was good at leading and raising morale, but she was not like John, who could adjust their army's formation on the spot to deal with various situations.

"Be careful!" Swellgoing warned. He had been supporting her from a safe distance. His summoned minions had been trying to harass Abdu to give Jeanny some breathers, but most had died leaving only his avatar and feral tiger.

His avatar carried a spear and a shield. Swellgoing controlled it and the feral tiger assaulted Abdu recklessly to draw Abdu's attention away from Jeanny, but Abdu understood that eliminating the leader of the enemy army would serve to lower the morale of the enemies and boost the morale of his army. Hence, he didn't let Jeanny go.

He performed a wide swing that created the same fiery wave that had previously swept away the two native human soldiers. Now it was Swellgoing's avatar and feral tiger that were swept away. With the obstacle gone, he readied a strong attack.

His spear burst with an intense dark flame. He swung it twice. Flaming whips slashed to Jeanny's left and right, closing off her escape path. Abdu then thrust his spear forward. The flame around the spear twirled rapidly and formed a flaming drill, which rushed toward Jeanny.

Jeanny braced herself to receive the attack. She was aware of the possibility that she would be a goner after this, but there was nothing she could do. The gap in strength was just too wide.

While she lamented her most likely demise, the ground before her erupted. Dirt and soil came up around her, forming a shell.

The drilling flaming spear struck the earth's shell. The shell at first resisted the flame, but its drilling force slowly bore through the thick and sturdy shell.

Jeanny could feel the earth's shell losing ground using her mana sense. She quickly jumped away, the flaming whips that blocked her sides had passed by. Just as she left the protection of the shell, the flaming drill bore a small hole through the shell and intense fire burst from that hole. It scorched the area where she was a second ago.

A giant dirt golem came in front of Jeanny, protecting her. Further behind was Uvira, who was casting another spell.

"Hmph! One worm after another," Abdu grunted. He didn't feel threatened, the newcomer spellcaster was ten levels below him.

He continued to chase after Jeanny. Uvira and Swellgoing tried their best to protect her. The other human players and soldiers tried their best to keep the orc army from coming to Abdu's help. It was difficult already dealing with him alone, it would be a disaster if he had the support of his soldiers.

But they were losing. Both their number and average levels were below the orc army. A large majority of them were also players. As time went on, their number continued to dwindle.

Despite winning, Abdu was not happy. They had wasted time with this lot. It was already more than an hour. They were supposed to hit the Dragon army's rear in conjunction with the first army. Now the first army was fighting by themselves, with an all-in approach that caused more casualties than the usual battles, all because he had told the first army that his army would be coming from the enemy's rear. Now, he was being hindered from carrying out this task.

"DIE, ALL OF YOU...!!!" The large runic symbol appeared again above Abdu. The flaming spears flew and struck everyone all around. Abdu himself was covered with crimson tattoos, his strength and speed had increased.

Swellgoing had been killed. Uvira had only half her HP bar. Jeanny was still madly dodging Abdu's relentless attacks. She had been fully focused throughout the fight. Any wrong move might cause her life. It was extremely tiring to continue concentrating non-stop like this. She couldn't afford to slip even for a second. If her mental power was not strong enough, she wouldn't have lasted this long.

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Up above the sky, Makubwa was still tussling with Emris.

"Give it up! Your army is failing," Emris said.

"Never!" Makubwa exclaimed.

However, despite his ardor, he couldn't deny the situation of his troops. They had started today's battle without proper equipment, some's HPs were also in bad condition. They were even fighting more recklessly than usual, all in the bid for a decisive battle by pinning the enemies from two opposite sides. However, now the one who had proposed this strategy was instead getting halted. Their casualties were increasing with each passing minute. If that lord chief still didn't come soon, then both their forces won't have enough numbers to make a difference even if they pinned the human army in between them.

Makubwa looked at where Abdu's army was. They were visibly winning, but the human army continued to cling and refused to disengage. They were deadly serious about holding Abdu's army, even at the cost of their lives.

Makubwa gritted his teeth, 'Damn that lord chief! Shouldn't have trusted his proposal,' he thought. Now, it was Abdu's sneak army that threatened his own strategy to fail. And what about the interceptor army that was sent to protect the supply lines? Why were there still no supplies arriving by now?

All these depressing thoughts caused Makubwa's concentration to waver. He was hit by Emris' spell. A lightning lasso bound his huge body before walls of ice encapsulated him from all directions, creating an ice coffin. The coffin fell to the ground, which had now turned into a pool of lava. The ice coffin submerged into the lava as it slowly melted.

Emris took the chance when his opponent was locked inside the lava pool to cast a spell and send it to the army below. The spell took shape into hundreds of small firebirds. These firebirds flew down onto the battlefield and home in on enemy soldiers. The orc soldiers whose bodies were invaded by these firebirds were burned from the inside out. Their HPs continued to fall until they were nothing but ash.

The lava pool exploded. Makubwa flew out with rage. "I WILL KILL YOOUUU...!!!" He shouted.

"Haha, that's the second time I have dragged you to the ground. While you have not yet fulfilled your promise about dragging me down," Emris mocked. His body turned intangible again when Makubwa's gigantic club came swinging.

As Makubwa swung his club frantically. A large commotion was heard from the Eastern side. The side opposite Abdu's army's position. Both Emris and Makubwa couldn't help but look that way.

In the distant east where Thenitsa was, they saw this border town was currently being surrounded by a considerable force.

Makubwa left some troops behind to guard the town, but not that many. The human army needed to go through them to get to the border town anyway.

What's more important was that the border town was not an actual fortress. They might have walls, but they didn't have offensive artilleries. The defensive weapons had been automatically destroyed ever since the town was occupied. They could only be repaired after the war was over. The artilleries the first army possessed were the siege weapons they brought from Verremor. At this moment, these siege weapons were behind the first army, providing artillery support to their army that was engaging in the front line. Hence, aside from walls and the troops stationed inside Thenitsa, there was no other defense.

The force that was surrounding Thenitsa was human soldiers. They were scaling the walls from all four directions. Because of insufficient troops, the orcs couldn't defend all walls. Some human soldiers had managed to climb up the wall and fought with the orcs inside the town.

"What happened? Where did those soldiers come from?" Makubwa uttered in consternation.

Emris was similarly baffled.

Chapter 922: The Three Spear Experts

The human soldiers that were sieging Thenitsa at this time were led by Commander Armstrong.

Four days ago, Ahab sneaked out of Themisphylae fort and went to Theseval. When he arrived, he found out that the border town had almost no enemy.

The third war chief who was maintaining a façade in front of Themisphylae fort received a report about enemies suddenly appearing near their captured town. He hurriedly tried to go back to prevent the border town from being retaken, but Duchess Isabelle came out and forced him to stay.

At the same time, Ahab sent a part of his force to halt the army under that war chief and also had Fierce Flame send a message to her friend who was with Commander Armstrong inside the fort in Slaughterer Plains. Commander Armstrong immediately brought his force out of the fort once he received the message. Together with Ahab, they retook Theseval.

The next day, Ahab stayed inside Theseval to guard it while Commander Armstrong took half of their army and headed toward Thenitsa. After three days of marching, they arrived and hit Thenitsa from the back while the dragon army and the first army were fighting.

If they had arrived a day sooner, they won't be able to do this sneak attack because Verremor's army was fighting from inside and around the town. Today, the first army had come out and fought the dragon army on an open field to synchronize their planned pinning attacks with Abdu's force, leaving Thenitsa with minimum defense. Hence, they had managed to breach into the town in such a short time.

Seeing some enemies had already climbed inside the town and fought with the orc guards inside, Makubwa uttered a command to have the army return to defend the town. However, Emris issued a command to forgo defense and redouble their offense, forcing Verremor's first army to stay.

Makubwa wanted to fly back to the town but he was in a similar situation as his army, Emris blocked and harassed his every attempt in retreating.

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"No!" Abdu shouted. He saw the first army start to move away. He was not aware of what was happening in Thenitsa because it was too far away from where he was at. He simply considered the first army had suffered too many losses that they no longer wanted to wait for him to pin the dragon army from behind.

He realized then he had wasted too much time with Jeanny's army.

"Damn you!" Abdu thrust at Jeanny, but the attack was blocked by Uvira's earth wall. Abdu then turned away, no longer interested in finishing Jeanny.

Abdu issued a command to disengage from the human army they were fighting and went after the dragon army. Jeanny's army had reduced to less than half after the forceful battle. They were not in the condition to hold Abdu's army down any longer, but they still chased and stop as many soldiers as they could from leaving.

Abdu didn't bother about the ones that were blocked by the enemies, he urged the others to move, leaving those that couldn't follow.

They charged forward.

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"Oh, now you come?! Such incompetence!" Makubwa scolded. He saw Abdu's army that was rushing over, but he didn't care anymore. All that was important now was preventing the border town from being retaken. Hence, he continued to command his army to retreat to the border town.

Emris also saw Abdu's approach. Now that the first army was busy trying to retreat to the border town, it could be said that his army had no pressure. He ordered a portion to detach and engaged the incoming Abdu's army, while the rest continued to hinder the first army's retreat.

Abdu was confused as to why Makubwa was still retreating when he was already charging over, but then he saw the smoke and noises from the border town in the distance. He realized then what had happened.

Part of this was his fault as well. If he hadn't left Thesewal behind, the enemies wouldn't have been able to sneak attack them from behind. He couldn't help but pity his fate. He had planned to pin the enemies from behind, but it was instead his action that allowed their army to get hit from behind.

Abdu lost all spirit to fight. He started to slow down before stopping altogether. His army stopped with him. They were confused. They were charging fervently a few seconds ago, why were they stopping now? All of them turned to Abdu, but the lord chief just looked to the front with a blank stare.

Even when a part of the dragon army sent by Emris was seen coming toward them, Abdu was still being silent.

"Lord Chief...? Lord Chief! What should we do?" One of Abdu's aides asked him.

The human army was coming. From what they could see, the size of the army coming at them was equal if not more.

"Lord Chief...! What should we do?!" The aide asked again.

Abdu's hand clenched tightly on his spear. His breath started to turn heavy. His eyes were savage.

"FIGHT...! FIGHT!! FIGHT TILL YOUR LAST BREATHHH...!!!" Abdu roared and ran forward. The soldiers around him uttered their battle cries and followed after him.

Abdu was the first to charge into the incoming human army. He now no longer thought about winning. All he wanted to do was just fight and fight, and kill as many enemies as possible.

His spear kept on stabbing unceasingly. He fought without a care for himself. The crimson tattoos on his body flared brightly, even more brightly than normal. This was an enhanced Berserk skill. His state of mind had put him into a berserk state. With both mind and body in tune, the berserk skill granted him even more power than usual. None of the human soldiers could stand in his way.

Inspired by their leader's berserk way, the orc soldiers also fought with a ferocity that was beyond normal. The human army was surprised. The orcs here fought even more fiercely than the first army they fought just now.

Abdu continued to rampage amongst the human soldiers. Until suddenly his spear clanged with another spear. He looked at the enemy who had stopped his stab. It was a high-ranking human officer.

"My name is Claudius. State your name, orc!" The spear-wielding human uttered.

"RAARRGGHH...!!" Abdu was no longer in the mood for conversation. He didn't care about custom, honor, or glory anymore. All he wanted to do was just stab the enemy in front of him to his death.

His spear burst with dark fire as it turned into a blur. Hundreds of flaming stabs assaulted Claudius. Claudius jumped back and twirled his spear. Rocks and dirt were sucked up and danced in front of his spear, forming a protective wall. But Abdu's flaming stabs were just too numerous. After blocking half of the flaming stabs, the rock wall crumbled and the remaining stabs hit Claudius.

Claudius continued to retreat while suffering multiple flaming stabs. Each stab ate away at his HP. Luckily, when the rock wall covered the first half of Abdu's assault, he activated another defensive skill. A layer of hard earth covered his entire body. It reduced the damage he received.

Despite mitigating his wound, Claudius was losing. He was four levels below Abdu. Additionally, Abdu's condition triggered a special power-up from his berserk skill, thus increasing the gap even more.

When Abdu was about to continue his assault, a large earth hand appeared above him, trying to grab him. Abdu swung his spear at the hand, creating a flaming wave. The wave destroyed the earth hand. While he did, Jeanny appeared from behind and stabbed him.

Despite her army suffering heavy losses, Jeanny never planned to quit. She commanded whoever still survived to chase after Abdu's army. When Claudius' army clashed with Abdu's, Jeanny's army caught up and hit them from behind.

Seeing Jeanny again, Abdu's rage turned even more intense. His crimson tattoos flared another degree brighter. He again tried to kill Jeanny. With the increased power, his every swing now created a shockwave that caused damage to her even when his spear didn't touch her. Luckily, her body was protected by rock armor. It was a protective spell cast by Uvira. Jeanny's spear was also covered by a layer of earth. It was another enchantment spell cast by Uvira, enhancing Jeanny's spear with the earth element, allowing her to deliver decent damage even for her low level.

Uvira herself cast a spell from the side. Multiple rock darts flew and struck Abdu. Her giant dirt golem was by the side, smacking any orcs that were trying to support their lord chief.

Seeing Abdu's intention was diverted, Claudius rushed over and joined the fight. His and Jeanny's spears alternated in clashing with Abdu's. Claudius and Jeanny glanced at one another during the fight. They had never fought one another but they knew they were enemies during the civil war. They never imagined that the two of them would fight side by side like this.

The three spear experts continued to exchange moves as the battle raged on around them.

Even though outnumbered, Abdu still seemed to be at an advantage. Until during an occasion, a gunshot was heard. Abdu reeled back after the gunshot. He covered his right eye. A bullet had accurately hit that eye, causing critical damage as well as momentary blindness.

Jeanny turned in the direction of the shooter and saw it was Mils who had taken the shot.

"Don't get distracted!" Mils shouted at her while he continued shooting.

"Cover me for a bit!" Claudius shouted. He jumped back and took a low stance. With Abdu momentarily incapacitated, this was his chance to use a big move. The image of an eastern dragon appeared and flew circling him.

Chapter 923: Let Go with a Sigh

The blind effect from the eye hit only lasted a moment. Abdu could see again when Jeanny's spear came. His spear quickly twirled and smacked Jeanny's spear away, while his thick arm came and punched her hard in her belly.

Jeanny felt all the air inside her being forcefully pushed out. She reeled backward as her HP dropped one-third of her entire HP. Even though she was protected by the rock armor and even though Abdu used an unarmed attack, it still caused high damage.

Before Abdu could continue his offense, a hail of bullets assailed him. Mils used Gunner level 50 skill, Bulletstorm. It discharged a torrent of bullets that dealt 50% physical damage for each bullet and ignored 30% defense. If there were anything close to a machine gun in this game world, it was this skill.

Normally, it was very difficult for a gunner to aim his gun when this skill was active. If the gunner let the skill auto-target by itself, the guns would shoot all around the gunner, hitting everyone in the vicinity. What the gunner experienced would be like constant ricochets that threw his aim all over the place. But Mils had learned to master this skill. He was able to forcefully control his aim to stick on Abdu despite the unnatural ricochets from the skill.

Uvira also cast another spell that tossed rock pellets at Abdu, trying to prevent him from further wounding Jeanny.

Abdu rotated his spear at high speed in front of him, deflecting all the hail of bullets and rock pellets.

Jeanny didn't let her wound stop her. Once she regained solid footing, she also unleashed her level 50 skill. A large spear appeared in the sky above Abdu and fell on him. The skill was called heaven's spear. The falling spear dealt 500% damage and ignored 70% of the target's defense.

However, before this heaven's spear impaled his head, Abdu's free hand shot up and caught the falling spear. It stopped just as its tip was about to hit Abdu's scalp. Abdu clenched his hand that was grabbing the spear. The incredible strength granted by his augmented berserk let him destroy the spear with brute force. The spear disintegrated into particles of light.

Jeanny never stopped her offense. The moment after she executed Heaven's Spear, she also used the Domain of Spears. Spears pierced out of the ground around her. Since Abdu was in range, he was hit by the spears. With his one hand blocking Mils' and Uvira's attacks, while his other hand blocking heaven's spear, Abdu was unable to defend against the ground spears. The ground spears pierced him from underneath and caused damage.

"RAARGGH...!!" Abdu swung widely after those attacks were over. He didn't seem to bother about the pain caused by Jeanny's spears. Instead, the pain fueled his rage, further augmenting his berserk state.

A fire ring radiated out. Jeanny jumped back while using his spear to parry the incoming fire ring. He felt extreme heat when the fire ring touched her. She received burn status and her HP fell to critical. She

dropped to the ground and rolled back, trying to put more distance from Abdu. She could hear Abdu coming after her.

Uvira and Mils were also hit by the fire ring. They similarly lost HP and received burn status. Uvira didn't care about her condition, she shot ranged attacks from her staff, trying to hinder Abdu from chasing Jeanny. But Abdu ignored her attacks. He just let those attacks hit while running toward Jeanny.

When he jumped and was about to deliver a killing strike on Jeanny, he felt strong pressure from his side. He turned in time and saw a long-bodied eastern dragon coming at him. Claudius had completed the preparation for his ultimate skill, the Heavenly Dragon Spear. The same skill that had killed Miller during the civil war.

Abdu's spear, which was about to impale Jeanny, changed direction and stabbed at this incoming dragon. As during the fight with Miller, the dragon swerved in its flight and dodged the spear. It was about to coil itself and broke Abdu's spear, but the spear vanished. Abdu retracted the spear with light speed and stabbed again. This time it hit the dragon. The dragon recoiled but came back again.

Abdu landed and moved back. He couldn't focus on Jeanny with this dragon gunning at him. The dragon continued to come as Abdu unceasingly repelled it using his spear.

Jeanny and the others were not going to just stand around and watch. They immediately attacked Abdu from his back. Jeanny also took the chance to drink healing potions and other restorative potions to bring her HP back to safety again. With Abdu focusing on the dragon, he was unable to prevent them from using potions nor defend himself from their attacks.

No matter how many times Abdu stabbed and hit the dragon, the dragon seemed to be undying and continued to come at him. Abdu's rage intensified because of this. The crimson tattoos on his body flared even brighter. The flame on his spear burned even more fiercely. Yet, the dragon persisted. It even started to use its claws to block Abdu's spear when it came stabbing.

The enhanced berserk might have given Abdu increased strength and speed. But like the normal berserk, this enhanced berserk also reduced the user's defense. Thus, every damage he received was increased. Even though Abdu kept the dragon from touching him, his back was continuously assaulted by Jeanny and the others. His HP continued to fall.

Jeanny even used her spear art, Seven Spears Assaulting Heaven. Since Abdu was occupied, all five stabs landed on him. The five stabs hit in rapid succession, causing combo multipliers. Each hit also produced higher damage than the previous.

"GRAAHHH...!!" Abdu shouted and swung his spear to his back. He finally couldn't ignore the attacks from behind.

His rage augmented his berserk, but at the same time, the berserk also slowly influenced his mind. He was no longer thinking straight. All he felt was rage. His swinging spear produced a flaming wave that was larger than before. The wave swept the three combatants, damaging them and throwing them to the side.

Luckily Jeanny had drunk recovery potions. Otherwise, she would have lost her life from the flame wave just now.

Because Abdu had stopped repelling the dragon to strike Jeanny and the others. The dragon managed to finally hit Abdu. It entered Abdu's body and ravaged the lord chief from the inside.

"RRAARRGGHH...!!!" Abdu screamed in pain as multiple spears stabbed out of his body repeatedly.

Once the dragon managed to enter Abdu's body, Claudius fell to the ground. He had to mentally control the dragon or else the skill would collapse. That's why he hadn't joined the assault with the others just now. Each passing second caused heavier pressure on his mind. If Abdu didn't lose control as he did just now, Claudius was not sure if he could maintain his skill for longer.

Abdu continued to scream as he swung his spear blindly. Jeanny and Mils quickly drank recovery potions as they rose. Then together with Uvira, they resumed their offenses. Jeanny used her skill, Radiant Javelins to attack from a distance. Abdu's wild swings still looked dangerous enough.

This time, Claudius also joined the others to attack. With Claudius, their damage output increased. Abdu was still under the effect of Berserk, which reduced his defense. With the Heavenly Dragon Spear rampaging from inside and the attacks from Claudius and the others from outside, Abdu's HP was quickly diminished.

The Heavenly Dragon Spear although powerful, wasn't endless. It ended just as Abdu's HP reached a critical low.

Jeanny and the others hastened their attacks, afraid that Abdu might try something that could reverse the situation or escape. However, when he was close to the end, Jeanny saw Abdu instead calm down. He let go of his spear and sighed.

Both Jeanny's and Claudius' spears hit Abdu then. One from the front and one from the back. Jeanny was in the front. He saw Abdu's face as his HP reached zero. His expression was oddly at peace.

Abdu then fell to the ground.

The other orcs who saw their leaders die. Some cried in sadness, some cried in rage. None of them fled. They continued to fight. As did the battle ahead at the border town.

The battle didn't last long though. Makubwa led his army trying to retake Thenitsa, but Armstrong's force had occupied its wall. They switched to defending it from Makubwa's attempt to re-enter the town. With the dragon army harassing them from behind, they couldn't mount an effective siege. After a hard struggle, they had no choice but to retreat away from the border town.

Makubwa looked long and hard at the town that was now being protected by the combined forces of the dragon army and Armstrong's. After a long silence, he turned east and said, "Let's return."

Samuhn by the side didn't utter any objection. Nor did any of the soldiers. They were defeated both in body and spirit. With the supplies still not in sight, if their leaders still not ending this war, they might leave by themselves instead.

Verremor's first army started to make a slow march toward the Fulgur region.

Chapter 924: The End of the Invasion

As the orcs were marching back in the direction of their home country, a legion of the human army approached them. Makubwa looked at this legion with a frown. 'Do they still want a fight?' He thought.

The legion was led by an outworlder woman. Behind her on her horse was the corpse of an orc. Makubwa raised his hand to halt his army. He then approached this woman with Samuhn.

The woman was Jeanny. The corpse on her horse was Abdu. Jeanny came down from her steed and brought Abdu to the two orc leaders. He laid Abdu on the ground without getting too close to the two. Emris and Armstrong followed close behind her, in case the orc leaders tried something.

"This is your comrade. Please take him back for an honorary burial," Jeanny said to Makubwa and Samuhn.

"Hmph! He is a disgrace," Makubwa said with a disdainful grunt.

Jeanny pulled out her spear upon hearing it. Her spear was different from the one she used in the fight before. In fact, her spear was Abdu's spear. It had dropped as loot after Abdu died. The spear alighted with dark fire. It was a unique-grade spear.

"Take that back! He is a great warrior!" Jeanny exclaimed.

Makubwa was taken aback. Never would he imagine an outworlder, a human to add, would speak highly of his race, of her enemy.

Samuhn stepped forward. He kneeled before Abdu's corpse and uttered some prayers, before picking him up.

"Thank you for bringing him to us," Samuhn said to Jeanny. Jeanny replied with a nod.

Samuhn walked back. "Let's go," he said to Makubwa.

Makubwa gave Jeanny and Emris another stare before turning away. He didn't say anything. He gave a silent signal for the troops to resume their march.

Jeanny and the others watched the orc army slowly move away. It was over. The invasion had ended. They heard loud cheers from the border town. All the soldiers were cheering there. Armstrong looked at Emris and Jeanny with a smile.

"It's finally over," Armstrong said.

"We don't know yet about the phoenix army," Emris reminded.

"We can send a message from Thenitsa. If they need help, we can head over to help, but I doubt it. Without any delivery of supplies, the orc army there should be in a bad condition as well."

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It was as Armstrong had said. The Phoenix army was at first losing at the start of the war because of their slightly lesser number. But ever since supplies stopped arriving, the advantage slowly tipped toward the Phoenix army. When Verremor's first army retreated, the second army had dwindled to become less than the phoenix army.

One day after the first army's retreat, the second army received the news and began to vacate the border town they were occupying. They wouldn't be able to continue for long without supplies anyway. Even now, there was still no clear sign of when the supplies will arrive.

They had lost hope of the supplies ever arriving. Since the first army had already packed up, they had no point in staying. They decided to leave before the rest of the Themisphere army came and surrounded them.

When the second army crossed over to the Fulgur Region, it officially marked the end of the war. All the Verremor's forces were now no longer on Themisphere's soil.

As for Jack and the shock army, after they split up and ran in all directions, a large portion of the players used Town Return Scroll once they were out of combat. A few ran back in direction of Themisphere to join the fight with the main armies.

As for the native soldiers, they had also split out into many groups during the escape. Many also rode back to join the main armies. These native soldiers and players who rode back, watched the fight between the Dragon army and the first army from a distance. When they saw Armstrong's force hit Thenitsa, they immediately joined.

The rest of the native army that split up found each other in the desert and merged into a larger group. Duke Alfredo and Commander Quintus led this group. Jack found them and instead of going back to join the main armies, they decided to continue roaming the desert, trying to find the next supply carts that were sent.

After losing the supply carts, Umeza tasked his entire force to guard the next supply carts. While Abasi's force stayed and guard the supply depot they had retaken.

With a much smaller force, Jack couldn't destroy these supply carts that were being transported. But he still used guerilla tactics to harass Umeza's escorting force. Playing cat and mouse, hit and run, causing the supply carts' movement to slow.

This drove the elder orc crazy. They couldn't spare too many soldiers to chase after Jack's harassing force. What if there were other hidden troops? If they left these supply carts with minimal guards, then what happened a few days ago would repeat itself. The enemies would use the opportunity to destroy these carts. They couldn't afford it.

So, they just endure and chased the harassing force away every time they came. These humans kept on circling around and disturbed them, like flies on a carcass, slowing their advance.

Once they refreshed the military rations in the supply depot, they headed out immediately. Abasi took a portion of his army and followed Umeza, leaving the rest led by Lubanzi to continue guarding the supply depots. He needed to make sure for himself that these supplies reached their destination. But after a couple of days, they saw the first army coming in their direction. Seeing this army could only mean one thing, there was no need to deliver the supplies anymore.

Makubwa just looked at Umeza without any words. He was not in the mood for conversation. This defeat was a stain he had to carry forever in his life. When he saw Abasi amongst Umeza's troops, he

instructed people to bring Abdu's body to the young warlord. Samuhn took it upon himself to deliver the body.

When Abdu's body was laid before Abasi, Abasi lost all his words. He just knelt before his father's body and stayed silent for a long time. Samuhn stayed there and let Abasi process his grief. Makubwa resumed their march, bringing his army back to Verremor.

Umeza, after reviewing the situation, decided to turn back as well.

"Who did this?" Abasi finally asked after a long time.

"Your father's force was surrounded when he tried to attack the enemy's rear," Samuhn informed. "He fought against many opponents. But from the report of surviving soldiers, the ones who dealt the final blow were a human soldier named Claudius and an outworlder named Jeanny."

Samuhn could hear Abasi's breathing turn rougher upon the knowledge of his father's slayers. He said, "I understand your desire for revenge. However, I can't let you send more of our soldiers to death for your rage. I will take over this remaining army. I hope you can cool your head and return to Verremor as well. This war is over now. Your late father wouldn't want you to throw your life away for the sake of a petty emotion."

Samuhn then called the superior officers there and assumed control of the army. He issued an order for a retreat. Everyone started to march following him. Only Abasi's private force stayed, which was not many.

Abasi clenched his fist and looked at his missing arm. "Storm Wind, Claudius, and Jeanny," he muttered. "Father, I swear to you that I will claim this vengeance." He picked up his father's body with one arm and then told his soldiers, "Let's return to Verremor."

*

Jack and the others saw the event from far away, ready to run away if needed. They had continued provoking Umeza's army but after seeing Makubwa's army appear, they hurriedly put a safe distance.

Seeing all those orc forces marching back in direction of Verremor, they knew then that the war was over.

"Finally!" Commander Quintus exclaimed.

"Your sacrifice is not in vain, Laurent," Duke Alfredo muttered softly.

They waited until the last of the orc army disappeared on the horizon. Jack lifted his sword high and loudly declared, "VICTORY!!"

Everyone cheered then.

After the cheering ended, Jack said to them. "Let's return."

*

Jack brought them to Thesewal. There, he checked to make sure Guss was safe as well. He had promised Gruff after all.

Duke Alfredo met his wife there and told her about Laurent. Duchess Isabelle was visibly sad. Laurent was their long-time friend. He was practically a family to them.

Seeing that Guss was all right, Jack said goodbye to everyone. Duke Alfredo and the others would be going back by steed. Jack used the Town Return Scroll and teleported to Thereath.

On the day that Verremor's second army departed from Themisphere, every player who was participating in the war heard a victory notification. Everyone received a report on their contributions. Jack did as well.

*

Fight enemy's troops = 1,182,751 war contribution points

Participate throughout the war = 200,000 war contribution points

Successfully protecting the country and repelling the invasion = 1,000,000 war contribution points

Lead the army as a general = 1,000,000 war contribution points

Play a major part in helping ally troops arrive in Slaughterer Plains Fort before the enemy = 500,000 war contribution points

Successfully achieving a major victory in the battle at Slaughterer Plains = 1,200,000 war contribution points

Wound a high-rank officer = 300,000 war contribution points

Play a major part in hastening the shock troop to arrive at the supply line = 300,000 war contribution points

Kill two mid-ranked officers = 400,000 war contribution points

Successfully disrupting the supply line = 2,000,000 war contribution points

Chapter 925: War Gains

The total war contribution points received by Jack were 8,082,751 war contribution points. It was more than double the points he got from the previous civil war. But thinking about it, the previous war was domestic while this was a war between two nations. This war also lasted longer. It had been more than a month since this war started. So, it made sense that the awarded war contribution points were more. Even the points given for just remaining throughout the war was double than previous.

The first three lines from the contribution report were for general participants. Every player who participated in the war and remained until the end would receive those points. While the rests were more personal, granted to individuals with specific achievements during the war.

Even for players who simply joined the war without any particular achievement, the general contributions already awarded them more than one million war contribution points. It was much more generous than the previous civil war. But of course, there were more casualties resulting in this war. Some could no longer afford to buy the Amulet of Rebirth and had to start from the beginning. These

players had stashed their valuables and coins inside the bank or guild vaults. Hence, they only lost their levels and the equipment they wore.

After the war, there was a significant influx in player requests to use the leveling ground under the Valley of Tempus. This boosted Everlasting Heavenly Legends' coin income. With the number of guild soldiers lost during the war, they needed the coins to retrain the soldiers.

Those who had died in the war received exp boosts as in the previous war, while guilds received training boosts to speed up the training of their guild soldiers.

Everyone received exp, mana cores, and coins aside from the war contribution points. Jack received 41,000,000 exp, 2,400 mana cores, and 370 gold coins. He also reaped massive exp points from the long battle to defend the supply depot. He gained exp from both his kills and the native soldiers' kills nearby him. Hence, his gain was not comparable to others. This gain combined with the exp reward after the war ended, helped Jack to level up a total of ten times!

His Brave Swordmaster increased by three levels to level 62. His Time Sage increased by four, it was level 62 as well. His Beastmaster increased by three and was now level 61. In terms of level, he now left the average players in the dust. The average players were still around level 55, while those who had survived and performed decently during the war were around level 56 to 58.

With the previously unused points, Jack had 48 free attribute points. He decided to just throw them into his Dexterity stat this time. Enhancing his already strong point. His stats were all past 1,000 points by now, except for Luck.

He received two new skills from Brave Swordmaster and Time Sage when they went past level 60. For Beastmaster, he didn't receive any skill as it was still an elite class.

*

Swords of the Braves, level 1/20 (Active skill, range, requires sword)

Conjures 5 golden swords that home in on targets, dealing 500% light damage.

Stun targets for 2 seconds.

Range: 30 meters

Cooldown: 5 minutes

Stamina: 300

*

Time Domain, level 1/20 (Active spell, requires magic weapons)

Create a sphere with a radius of 30 meters around the caster. All hostiles within the sphere are slowed to 50% of their original speed. All allies within the sphere are sped up by 100%.

Duration: 1 minute

Cooldown: 3 hours

Mana: 400

*

He remembered the Swords of the Braves as one of the skills Mihos used, but he was more excited about the Time Sage's new spell. If he activated this Time Domain, every enemy in his vicinity would become a turtle. He was itching to max-level them the moment he received those skills. He had 12 free skill points for both Brave Swordmaster and Time Sage, while his Beastmaster had 28 free skill points. He still didn't have any new Beastmaster's skill so this load of free skill points was still unusable.

Before he used the Brave Swordmaster and Time Sage's free skill points, he checked his Container of Souls first. It had amassed quite a sum of souls. The container had achieved another record again. Inside, there were 6,924,358 souls. The souls were more than the final battle during the civil war even without killing a high-level officer like Garland. It was because the battle had gone on for a much longer time. Additionally, the natives and players who died during the battle this time had generally higher levels than in the last civil war's final battle.

Without further ado, Jack used 1,400,000 souls in conjunction with 12 free skill points from Brave Swordmaster and Time Sage to max-level his two new skills.

Brave Swordmaster at level 20 conjured ten golden swords. Each sword dealt 800% damage. As for Time Domain, each level increased its duration and its area of effect. At level 20, Time Domain lasted for three long minutes and covered an area of 50 meters radius. With his already crazy speed, if Jack just stayed inside this domain, nobody would be able to touch him.

For the remaining 5,524,358 souls, Jack used 1,900,000 souls to max-level Penta Slash. The first slash from this skill now delivered 300% physical damage. The later four slashes' incremental damage was also higher because of the increased first slash's damage.

He then used another 1,900,000 souls to max-level Dispel. Aside from increasing the success chance, each level also increased the range of the spell. At level 20, Dispel could affect a target 120 meters away.

For the remaining soul points, 1,300,000 were used to max level Tracing Beams, while 400,000 were used to level-up Blitz Slash to level 14. Level 20 Tracing Beams shot thirty beams dealing 70% magic damage. At level 14, each slash from Blitz Slash dealt 165% physical damage.

Several of his battle skills also increased in star proficiencies. One skill received its first star, Wings of Devastation. Each star of this skill increased the width of the energy wave, allowing it to hit an even larger area compared to its already large AOE.

After the war, Therras increased by two levels to level 61. It didn't gain any exp from the kills made by native soldiers under Jack's command, so its improvement was not as extreme as Jack's. But Jack never stopped giving it rare-grade pet food daily to help it gain exp.

Arlcard increased a level to level 64. He was glad by the improvement but displeased when he saw Jack was catching up to him. He left with a determined expression after the war ended.

Aside from the standard exp points, mana cores, coins, and war contribution points received after the victory notification, everyone who was a member of the Themisphere kingdom faction received an additional reward in the form of merit points.

This reward was not granted during the civil war, Peniel explained that it was because the civil war was among their countrymen. This time, it was against foreigners for the honor of the country. Hence, the merit points reward. This was like a bonus for those who had successfully joined the kingdom faction. However, Peniel also explained that every kingdom faction member received a different number of merit points. Just like the war contribution points, the merit points awarded were based on achievements during the war.

Jack received 102,264 merit points from the notification. His total merit point achievement was now 163,234 merit points, he just needed 86,766 merit points to become a duke. Probably once he completed his kingdom faction chain quest, the merit point reward should be enough to let him become one.

As in the previous civil war, participating guilds also received many rewards. Especially the guilds that used their guild soldiers in the war. The participating guilds received reputation points, coins, and resources. The guilds that had guild headquarters received additional rewards this time in the form of training boosts as well as free recruits to be trained into guild soldiers. They also received Country Blessing, a buff that increased the income of all resources; food, minerals, woods, and mana.

Everlasting Heavenly Legends was awarded 3,924,000 reputation points. After becoming level 4, they needed to collect 10,000,000 reputation points to become a level 5 guild. This reward had already covered almost half of the required number.

The rank of contributing guilds in the war was publicly announced. Everlasting Heavenly Legends was placed number one, which meant Everlasting Heavenly Legends received the highest number of reputation points. Everlasting Heavenly Legends was already the first guild to reach level 4. With this achievement, it was most likely to be the first again to reach level 5.

Except for Death Associates, all the top ten contributing guilds were those that had guild headquarters. Gluttonous Despot and Crowd of Sins got the second and third ranks respectively, due to their war tools. The next in rank were the remaining ones who fight to block the supply route. They deserved the ranks for the number of guild soldiers they lost in that battle.

The representatives of the ten guilds were called to the kingdom representative office where an additional prize was given to them.

Jeanny went there as Everlasting Heavenly Legends' representative, and she was given a unique-grade blueprint to construct a guild structure. It was called Mana Fountain. It was similar to their basic guild structure, Mana Cell, which produced mana for guild usage. Different was, this Mana Fountain produced ten times the amount produced by the Mana Cell.

Chapter 926: Duplicating Unique Equipment

"Hey, is this the guild structure you mentioned before that can help us with our mana income problem?" Jack asked Peniel when Jeanny showed them the Mana Fountain blueprint. They were currently lining up to exchange their war contribution points in the kingdom representative office.

"Yes, the kingdom is rather generous to give this blueprint," Peniel remarked.

"Perfect! With this Mana Fountain and the coin income from the Valley of Tempus training operation, the limit to the number of guild soldiers we can train will increase exponentially," John said.

"Yeah, I will have our workers construct this structure once I am back at headquarters," Jeanny said.

"What did the other nine guilds get?" Jack asked.

"I don't know, we are called in to be given the reward privately," Jeanny replied. "But I did see nine other similar blueprint scrolls on the desk. I was the first one being called, so it should be safe to assume the others also received a guild structure blueprint."

"But I doubt they are all given Mana Fountain blueprint as well," John said. "Since they are all lower ranks than us, the blueprints they received should be of the lower grades."

"Oh, my turn!" Jack said when the counter he was queueing at was vacated.

He had over to the counter. The clerk took his data and said, "You have 10,509,008 war contribution points. Impressive, sir. The highest I've seen at this time. Do you wish to exchange these points?"

"Yes, please," Jack said. He should be able to exchange for unique equipment now if the list was still the same.

He reviewed the list displayed by the clerk. Most were still the same. The cheapest unique-grade armor cost around 5,000,000 war contribution points while the weapon cost around 6,000,000 points. He could get two unique-grade armors with his war contribution points, but if he exchanged one or two of his current armors, he would lose the full set bonus of his Sword Fiend's Gear set. If he had no other option to choose, then perhaps he would do that. But at the moment, of his two weapons, one was still in super rare grade.

So, Jack focused on the unique-grade weapon section. He studied the longsword section since his magic staff was already unique-grade. Three unique-grade longswords were available to be exchanged. Sword of Calamity, costing 5,800,000 points. Sword of Eternal Solitude, costing 6,200,000 points. Sword of Unknown Loss, costing 6,300,000 points.

If following common sense, more expensive items signified better quality, but he had a guide to make sure he didn't pick the wrong choice. "What do you recommend?" He asked Peniel.

"Every unique or legendary equipment provided one active skill, like the Mana Steal Aura from your Mana Leech Staff," Peniel explained. "The active skill of this sword of calamity is creating a field of chaotic energy that hit a small area. Everyone within this area receives chaos damage. Sword of Eternal Solitude had the Aura of Solitude. It is an ability that can only be used when there are no allies in your vicinity. It increased your overall power for two minutes, but if any allies approached during the duration, the ability will be forcefully ended. The sword of Unknown Loss gave you Peerless Slash. It dealt massive soul damage to a single target from a distance. The attack ignored all defense and in theory should be unavoidable."

"Should be?" Jack asked.

"If I am the old me, I would have said the Peerless Slash is unavoidable, but after seeing you outworlders dodged attacks using your mana sense, I am honestly not so sure anymore. Oh right, another thing. The peerless slash had a small percentage to inflict instant kill."

"Wow! Well, I think then it is not so strange to find this sword to be the most expensive one."

"You want to take the Sword of Unknown Loss? The skill only hit a single target," Peniel said.

"I think I have plenty enough skills that deal damage to groups, I need to add ones that pack a punch against a high-level enemy," Jack said. He then clicked on the option for the Sword of Unknown Loss. The sword was automatically transferred into his inventory. Jack immediately took a look at its detailed stats.

*

Sword of Unknown Loss, level 50/90 (Unique one-handed sword)

Physical damage 425

Attack speed 2

Durability: 100

Strength +22

All sword skills +10% damage

All received damage is reduced by 10%

Peerless Slash (Active skill): Deals 1500% physical damage to a single enemy from a distance. Completely ignores defense. 50% chance to cause Weakness status for 30 seconds. Range: 30 meters. Cooldown: 10 minutes.

*

'Only level 50. Shit! I have to use lots of materials to level it up,' Jack thought after seeing its level. He guessed this would be the standard level for the unique-grade equipment players got from this source.

But even though he was slightly disappointed at the weapon's level, its other stats were great enough. Especially the Peerless Slash. It was weaker than a max-level Brave Slash but this skill hit from a long distance. It also completely ignored defense. Hence, when fighting a high-defense opponent, this skill had the potential to inflict even higher damage than the max-level Brave Slash. It also caused Weakness status which lowered the opponent's overall stats.

Jack didn't take too long to review the sword's stats, many people were queueing behind him after all. With his remaining war contribution points, he couldn't get any more unique-grade equipment. So, he exchanged them for two elemental evolve seeds. After the exchanges, he only had a paltry 209,008 war contribution points left.

John went next to the counter. Jack came to Jeanny who queued behind John. Jack was eager to feed the Sword of Unknown Loss to Storm Breaker but he needed to level it up first. Before that, however, he

gave this sword to Jeanny to check the number needed for a copy. They had agreed they would copy unique-grade equipment if they ever found one.

When Jack got his unique-grade Mana Leech Staff from slaying Garland, she had given it to Jeanny to try to copy. It cost 7,000 mana cores. At that time, they needed the mana cores to copy super rare-grade bloodlines, so Jeanny couldn't spare any mana cores to copy. Even now, they still needed the mana cores for bloodlines because not all core members got the bloodlines yet. But after the war, all members that participated received mana core rewards, and they donated a portion to the guild, so Jeanny had many cores at the moment.

Jeanny checked the sword and saw that she needed 10,000 mana cores. She could copy the sword, but she would only make one copy just for their library. She would still prioritize bloodlines first before started copying equipment to be distributed. She asked Jack to wait. The duplication process couldn't be done from within her inventory so she needed to find a secluded place.

After John and Jeanny were done exchanging their war contribution points, Jack took them to his room atop Amy's Bakery. Jeanny duplicated the sword there, as well as Jack's Mana Leech Staff.

"Hey, do you have any other good stuff to duplicate?" John asked. "Like for example, a heaven-defying spell or something like that?"

When Jack got Perpetual Lightning Judgement from Garland, he had been astonished by the fact that he could learn an Elementalists' spell that he forgot to give to Jeanny to copy first. John had been complaining non-stop about it every chance he got.

"No...," Jack replied, remembering the spells that he had also gotten from the Order of Magi. But those spells could be acquired if other members joined and reached the required ranks in that faction. It was better for Jeanny to use her mana cores for other urgent items. At least that's how Jack tried to rationalize for him forgetting to let Jeanny copy the spells first before learning them.

While Jeanny copied his two equipment, Jack used the two elemental evolve seeds to evolve his spells. He didn't give them to Jeanny to copy because they already had a full set of elemental seeds in their leader's section warehouse. Jack didn't use the ones in that warehouse because if he did, Jeanny would have to copy another set which would eat up their mana cores consumption. That's why he only used the ones he acquired himself.

The two seeds he exchanged were ice seed and Lightning Seed. He used Ice Seed for his Mana Bullet and Lightning Seed for his Magic Bolts. These two basic spells had been lacking, their damage was trivial. But ice and lightning elements had crowd control abilities. With the basic spells' short cooldown, these obsolete spells should be somewhat useful again.

The Mana bullet become Ice Bullet and the Magic Bolts spell was now Electric Bolts. Both spells' damage numbers were increased. Ice Bullet now slowed the target and had a small chance of freezing. Electric Bolts increased the projectile speed and had the chance to paralyze the targets.

Jeanny gave Jack back his two weapons after she was done. Jack was planning to go to rent the workshop in Blacksmith Circle again to increase his weapons' levels but Jeanny stopped him.

"Whatever you want to do, do it later. We have been summoned by prince Alonzo to the palace," Jeanny said.

"We are?" Jack asked.

"Yes, the three of us. Let's go there now," Jeanny replied.

Chapter 927: Guild Title

The palace soldiers already recognized the three, so they were immediately ushered to where Prince Alonzo was. The prince was currently with Royal Advisor Mason inside his work office.

"Thank you for coming," Prince Alonzo said. "On behalf of Themisphere country, I thank you for the triumph you have brought to this country."

"It's not just us. It's us working together that this victory is possible," Jack said.

"Following my strategy, this victory is expected," John said.

The two of them spoke at the same time. The two now looked at one another, giving each other a side-eye. Jeanny rolled their eyes at them. Alonzo just chuckled for a response.

"Well, anyway. We are grateful for your effort," Alonzo said. "I'm planning to wait until the others are back and doing a victory celebration but Mason advised me against it."

"Yes, the matter of the Prince's coronation is already put on hold for quite some time," Mason said.

"King Themos' condition isn't getting any better. He had agreed to bestow the king's position to Prince Alonzo to restore stability. After the civil war, several discontent parties had been making noises politically. I'm afraid things might escalate if our country still didn't have an official king dealing with the matters. This country can't afford another turmoil after the civil war and the invasion."

"How bad is this war costing us?" John asked.

"In terms of military power, we received quite a dent," Mason informed. "Dragon army 1,200,000-strong army lost around 300,000 soldiers. Phoenix's 800,000-strong army lost almost 400,000 soldiers. As for the Turtle army's 200,000 native soldiers and 500,000 outworlders, we lost around 80,000 native soldiers and eighty percent of outworlders died at least once. Most of the losses on the turtle army were the ones blocking the supply route, around seventy-five percent of native soldiers in that shock army perished."

"Uh, that's pretty bad... We lost thirty-five percent of native soldiers," Jack commented.

"Yeah, that is a pretty deep cut on our military power," Alonzo said with a sad expression.

"Of course, the orcs' losses were worse than us. They lost more than half of the army they sent here," Mason said. "So, we don't need to worry about them for some time. Still, we need to rebuild soon or the other countries might try to take advantage."

"How is the situation in Liguritutum?" Jack asked. "Do we keep track of the civil war there?"

"The war in Liguritutum was already over a week ago," Mason informed. "The rebel prince won with the support from the Aurebor Dynasty. The prince was now consolidating his power to assume total control of the country."

"Damn it!" Jack uttered. In the end, World Maker's rise to power still came to be.

"We have no time to worry about the matters of a faraway country," Alonzo said. He understood Jack had expressed concern about Liguritutum's situation for quite some time. "We need to deal with our own matter first. I understand there will be a lot of dissatisfaction even after I become the king. I might need to use my ruling power to focus on the people's happiness rather than rebuilding our military."

"Ruling power?" Jack asked.

"Not something you need to be concerned with," Peniel said.

Jack threw her an irritated glance. Alonzo chuckled and said, "That is some sort of power available to a monarch. Anyway, I'm not calling you three here to listen to my worry. The three of you play a big part in winning this war. Mister Storm Wind, it's your effort in disrupting the enemy's supply route that allowed our main armies to achieve victory over our opponents. Mister John, your strategies play a big part in winning this war..."

"Naturally," John remarked.

John and Jeanny felt like slapping the guy.

Prince Alonzo didn't feel offended by the interruption. He continued, "And Miss Jeanny, without you stopping the orc army planning to hit the dragon army's rear, the war might not have ended as it did. For the achievement the three of you have made, I would like to bestow you with a title."

"Title?" The three of them asked at the same time.

"Yes. From here on out, the three of you will be known as Hero of Themisphere."

The three received a notification then. They immediately checked the newly received title.

*

Hero of Themisphere (Title)

Attributes and recoveries are increased by 30%. Damage and defenses are increased by 10%.

Social skills (Leadership, diplomacy, haggling, influence) are increased by one grade.

Exp points and skill proficiencies received are increased by 20%

Only effective when inside the Themisphere country

*

"Wow!" Jack exclaimed. This title gave a lot of effects. The increase in exp and proficiency were even higher than his Hard-working Achiever title which gave only a 15% boost. He now no longer needed to switch the titles back and forth during combat. The only shortcoming was that this title was only usable in Themisphere country, but he spent more time here anyway.

The three thanked Prince Alonzo for the title, but prince Alonzo said that he also had a gift for their guild for being the guild that contributed the most during the war. Jack and Jeanny looked at one another. 'Didn't we already get a mana fountain blueprint for a reward?' But they didn't mind an additional reward.

Prince Alonzo announced that from now on, Everlasting Heavenly Legends would be known as Themisphere's National Guild. Their guild would now be this country's official representative for the outworlder community.

At the same time that Prince Alonzo made the announcement, the three heard another notification that their guild had received a guild title, Themisphere's National Guild.

"The hell... A guild can also have a title?" Jack asked Peniel.

"You heard the notification, didn't you?" Peniel asked back, making a 'why ask a stupid question' face.

The three again opened their status window. This time they went to the guild page. The title was easily found next to their guild's name.

*

Themisphere's National Guild (Title)

Increase the chance of high-level quest offers from high-ranking Themisphere officials.

All reputation points awarded by quests issued by Themisphere citizens are increased by 5%.

Newly recruited soldiers' levels start from level 30.

Only effective as long as the guild headquarters is inside Themisphere country

*

"Holy...," Jack uttered. Jeanny and John were similarly wide eyes.

Their guilds already got an increase in quest offers due to the Global Embassy structure. The increase was from quest offers from other countries. However, most of those foreign offers were low-level quests. They were not as well-known in other countries, after all. But the increase still contributed to the increase of their reputation gain.

With this guild title, they should be able to pick up the pace even more. Getting to guild level 5 didn't seem to be a long wait anymore. Yet, the most exciting boost was the beginning level of recruits.

Normally, newly recruited soldiers start from level 1. They need time and resources for training. With this boost, it should not take long for them to replenish the guild soldiers they had lost from the war.

Jack and John were grinning widely. Jeanny was more reserved, but she was also smiling.

"I'm glad you all like my rewards," Prince Alonzo said after seeing the three's expressions.

"You are the best prince anyone can ask for," Jack said.

"There is no need to suck up just because you have been given benefits," John chided Jack. He then said to Prince Alonzo, "My wise prince, if you need anything, please know that I and my guild are at your

service. Anything you need, just say the words. Whether it's hell or the end of the world, we will face them for you."

Jack was fighting the urge to kick the guy.

Prince Alonzo nodded. "I will be relying on you three and your guild even more from now on," he said. "My coronation ceremony will be in one week. As the official representative of the outworlders, I hope one of you can join this ceremony to represent your guild."

Both Jack and John turned to Jeanny. It was Jeanny now who felt the urge to kick the two of them.

"I think it is better if Mister Storm Wind is the one representing the guild," Mason said.

"Huh?" Jack gave a questioning look.

"You are one of the three generals of the war just now. Emris and Meryl will be joining to represent the military. It is only right if you join as well."

"I agree!" Both John and Jeanny said loudly once they heard Mason's proposal.

"Of course, if the three of you are joining, I will be happy," Alonzo said.

"I'm afraid I can't. I got things to do which I can't put on hold," John said without any tact.

Jack wanted to scold him and ask him what about his words just now regarding hell and the end of the world he was willing to face for the prince?

"I will try to attend if possible," Jeanny said.

Alonzo nodded. He didn't force the issue.

"We will be holding a daily rehearsal of the ceremony every noon starting two days from now," Mason said. "The rehearsal will only take several hours. Mister Storm Wind, you will need to attend this rehearsal. I will not appreciate it if you miss even one day of the rehearsal. It will be best if you don't venture far and stay near the capital until the coronation ceremony."

"I can take back all the titles anytime I want," Alonzo added as a warning.

Jack was depressed. This meant he was not free until the coronation ceremony was over.

Chapter 928: Godkiller

In a hall with a gloomy atmosphere, three people were having a meeting. All three were of different races. A young draconian male, a middle-aged elven woman, and an ethereal. The ethereal was Master. He was currently sitting behind a desk with the two others standing opposite him.

"Verremor's invasion into Themisphere has ended? So soon?" He asked.

"The human army performed much better than I expected," The elven woman said. "That Death Associates who offered themselves to us also failed to deliver."

"I've told you not to expect much from them," the draconian remarked with a snicker.

"A willing pawn is still better than none. They requested assistance to help them secure a headquarters in Aurebor Dynasty since Themisphere was no longer hospitable to them. I have taken the liberty to send a garrison of our members and one of the heavenly enforcers. I hope you don't mind."

Master didn't respond.

The elven woman continued, "Even though Verremor's invasion had failed. Nevertheless, that war weakens the two countries. They won't be able to do much once we started expanding. Speaking of expanding, I heard the prince is not yet willing to go through with the plan."

"He is hesitant because he suffers more than he thought. He wants to consolidate his position in this country first. That fool! With each passing second, it will just lower our chance," Master said.

"We might need to give him a stronger persuasion," the elven woman said.

Master didn't reply.

"Do I still need to stay in Verremor to coax the Raretooth tribe?" The Draconian asked.

"They have outlived their usefulness," Master said. "However, now that the invasion had failed, that tribe's prestige will fall. Perhaps you can use this chance to rope in the young warlord to our side."

"That thick-headed fool? Heh, seeing him only reminds me of that stubborn ex-master of mine. It just sickens me. Do I have to?"

"Yes."

"Hehe. You know. One day, I might just stab you in the back," the draconian said.

"You are welcome to try," Master replied.

"Heh. Fine, I'm off," The draconian said and left.

After the draconian left, the elven woman said, "You do enjoy surrounding yourself with troublesome individuals. I wonder how Wong would react if he finds out that the person he has been looking for is under your thumb all this time, even his fellow heavenly enforcer to boot."

"All that matters are their capabilities," Master said. "I wouldn't have chosen you and them as my Heavenly Enforcers otherwise. They should be honored to be able to serve a future God. You are the same. I wonder whether you are truly helping me, or is there another agenda? After all, your son and husband are not exactly friendly to our cause."

"I don't need their permission to do anything. They will understand in the long run," The elven woman said.

"I hope so, for yours and their sakes. Once this world is mine, those who serve me will be rewarded. Especially ones with the title of a heavenly enforcer. You should be proud of it."

"Of course. Now, please excuse me. I need to prepare our next strategy if that prince is still hesitant," the elven woman said and left.

After she left, the gloomy hall was even bleaker, but Master liked it as it is. He enjoyed luxuries from time to time, but what mattered to him was always functions before forms. Over embellishments were a waste.

While he was pondering many issues, a black fog formed in the middle of the hall. The temperature around the room dropped and his heartbeats involuntarily quickened despite his effort to keep them steady.

"Hm... I guess it's inevitable," Master muttered as the black fog turned into the shape of a man. The fog then dispersed and Fear stood where the fog was.

Master was already standing up from his seat and came over to where Fear was.

Fear stared at this outworlder. Normally he would just blast any mortals who were audacious enough to not kneel before him, but he had tried it before on this outworlder and failed. Doing it again would just be an embarrassment.

"Greetings, God Fear. I wonder what was the urgent matter that you honor me with your presence," Master said.

Fear just kept his cold eyes on Master. He let his natural fear aura assail this outworlder before him, but Master didn't budge. Only two outworlders had ever shown such resistance against his influence. It displeased him.

"Hmph, Arlstraxx mentioned some interesting things about our deal," Fear finally spoke.

"If you don't believe me, then there is nothing I can say," Master replied. "I do admit that I have gained plenty of assistance from your cult, but I have also helped you aplenty. One of which is the divine heritage. Without me, I don't think that you can get it even with your might. There is also the recipe I've given to you so you can use that divine heritage to create the Godkiller, a weapon capable of killing a God."

Fear didn't say anything, so Master continued, "The reason you, Greed, and Wrath are incapable of doing things as you like is because of the existence of the so-called good Gods. Six of them existed, which severely tips the balance on their side. Because of me, there are only four left now. Still not a good odd for your side. But if you take down one of them, then the playing field will be leveled."

"Hmph, even if the weapon is ready, it is not that easy to use it on a God," Fear said. "Not to mention, Hope is the strongest among us. Even with him alone, he can still cause trouble to us all."

"Then what if I tell you that I have a way to reduce their number again by one and create a chance for you to use the Godkiller weapon on Hope with a hundred percent certainty?" Master asked.

"I will say that you are bluffing."

Master smiled. "As I said, there is nothing I can do if you don't believe me. But if you look back to the past, when has I never delivered? Once I get all the divine treasures, I will bring you into my world, the real world. If you decide not to at that time, it is fine as well. Because by that time, you will have defeated Hope and his fellow Gods. There will be nothing stopping you from doing what you want in this world."

Master stopped then. He had said what he could. It all depended on Fear now. His mind was on the prismatic shell tool inside his inventory though, just in case. However, this was the last one he had in his possession. After this, he won't be able to defy these Godly beings anymore.

Silence ensued for a full minute before Fear uttered, "How?"

"The time is not right yet. Just make sure the Godkiller is ready as soon as possible. I will inform you once it is time."

Another short silence before Fear said, "You will regret it if you play tricks on me."

He then vanished as mysteriously as he appeared.

Master was again alone in the hall, heaving a silent relief sigh.

"What about Death Associates?" John asked. He and the others were still inside Prince Alonzo's workroom.

"We will be issuing a quest with a bounty on both their guild and guild members," Mason answered.

"The quest should go public tomorrow morning. We didn't want to post it before the war ends so that this quest didn't undermine the war quest."

"Tomorrow morning? All right," John said.

"Are we targeting them?" Jack asked after seeing John's response.

"You bet your ass we are going to. With another guild hostage token, our resource income will escalate."

"But, our guild soldiers are in shambles already while theirs are still intact."

"We will talk later," John said and turned to Prince Alonzo and Mason, "Are we done here?"

"Dude...," Jack said to him with an exasperated expression. This guy truly had no tact.

Prince Alonzo was not offended, though. "You three are dismissed. Thank you for your services," he said.

Before the three left, Mason reminded Jack again with a stern face, "Mister Storm Wind, please remember to attend the rehearsals for the coronation ceremony."

"Yes, sir," Jack said. He was depressed again by the reminder. He was never the type to enjoy ceremonies and such.

After coming out of the palace, John said, "Okay, I will send out orders for everyone to prepare. We will go to Death Associates' headquarters early tomorrow. I will have one member wait in the guild hall to grab the quest once it goes public. We will then hit their headquarters after we get that quest."

"Why the rush?" Jeanny asked. "Are you afraid someone else will get to them before us?"

"Don't forget the matter of the guild army! How are we going to fight their fully intact army?" Jack reminded.

"Their army won't be around," John said.

"They won't?" Both Jack and Jeanny asked.

"Not only that, but most of their players will also be absent," John added.

"Huh? How so?"

"Hehe," John grinned. "My eyes and ears told me they will be hitting a guild headquarters in the Aurebor Dynasty tomorrow. It is an attempt to relocate their headquarters to that country. So, tomorrow after they started their assault on that headquarters, we will strike their undefended headquarters."

"Wow! So coincidental that the kingdom is issuing the bounty quest on them tomorrow," Jack remarked.

"Actually, if the kingdom still does not release the official quest to hunt them down, I will have just ordered an assault without waiting for that bounty quest, so that we can get their guild hostage token. The kingdom issuing the quest tomorrow means we can get additional rewards for this assault," John said with a grin.

Chapter 929: Preparing for a Guild Assault

"What if they pull back their army once they found out their headquarters is attacked?" Jack asked.

"If they do that, they will risk facing harassment from all the guilds and players inside this country for at least a whole week," John replied. "A guild army summoning crystal has a one-week cooldown. Once they recall their army, they have to wait one full week. No matter how good they are, they won't be able to conquer other guilds' headquarters without their guild army. Hence, they can only try to invade again after the cooldown is over. But can they survive that one week? Once the bounty quest was issued, every player and guild will be gunning for them for rewards."

"Also, if a guild becomes an enemy to the country they dwell in, they won't receive any protection status even after losing sufficient power," Peniel explained. "They will only enter protection status if their guild core is broken. Even then, the period of their protected status will be halved."

"See? their chance of moving their headquarters will only be tomorrow," John said. "Afterward, they can only play defense. By then, their guild army will just continue to dwindle from continuous attacks."

"They must have been hoping that the invasion lasts longer so that they have more time to organize a headquarters transfer," Jeanny said.

"Yes. My eyes and ears said they didn't expect the war to end so soon," John said. "When a guild destroyed a foreign guild's guild core, they will have the option to either get their guild hostage token or take over that headquarters. But of course, their old one will be gone after the transfer. They had been scouting for a suitable headquarters to target in the Aurebor Dynasty. Many of the guilds in that country had joined the Aurebor's invasion into Liguritum, so those guilds lost quite a number of guild armies. Those guilds' protection status had also just been lifted recently. Death Associates originally wanted to send scouts to better check the real situation in each of those guilds before mounting their assault. But because the war here was over sooner than expected, they decided to just target the seemingly weakest one."

"They have been forced to expedite their timetable," Jeanny remarked.

John nodded. "They will be going all out tomorrow. My prediction is that they won't send their guild army back even after knowing we are attacking them. Most likely they will focus on defeating that other guild sooner than us defeating them. They might send a few experts back to hold us down, though."

"Oh, I hope so," Jack said.

"But I at first thought that the kingdom will deal with them directly after the stunt they pulled," Jeanny said. "Like wiping their headquarters out with the kingdom army and imprisoning their members. Well, I did hear some oblivious Death Associates players getting caught and imprisoned when they entered the cities. But outside the cities, the kingdom is rather ignorant. They just put a bounty for us to handle them. They seemed to only take direct action when a native force is involved."

"Don't forget this world is originally meant as a game," Jack said. "It is designed to focus on us, players. We are the main characters here while the natives are originally NPCs who serve as our support. So, it made sense that the system is having us players do most of the work when it comes to other players. But hey, we will get extra rewards because of that."

"Hm, I suppose you are right... Anyway, do you know which guild in Aurebor is their target?" Jeanny asked John.

"Yes. It's a guild called Offline Beasts," John answered.

"Funny. Online, offline. Never heard those terms anymore since the world turned," Jack commented.

"If it is a race on who breaks the guild core first, then we might as well do something to slow them down," Jeanny said.

"You have a way to?" Jack asked.

"I might," Jeanny replied. "So, do we gather tomorrow morning in the guild courtyard?"

"Early morning, right after sunrise. We need a few hours to arrive at their headquarters," John answered. "I have sent notifications to all battle-capable members to gather. I didn't tell them the purpose though, to not alert Death Associates in case they still have spies. Once they summoned their guild army in Aurebor, it will be too late even if they know we are coming."

"All right, then I will go. Hopefully, I can get the help," Jeanny said.

"Wait!" Jack stopped her. "I'm going to Blacksmith Circle to rent a workshop with unique-grade blacksmith tools. Give me your weapons and armor, I will upgrade them to the maximum level you can use."

"You can use the workshop there?" John asked.

"Yeah, the rent is 100 gold coins per hour."

Hearing that, John hurriedly unequipped his equipment and gave them to Jack. "I am level 58 now, so please level them up to level 68." He was not going to let go of a free upgrade.

"Wow, you have three unique-grade equipment!" Jack exclaimed after receiving John's equipment.

"Yeah, I just exchanged two of them earlier today using my war contribution points," John answered. He had again gotten the most war contribution points compared to the others, allowing him to get a unique magic staff and gloves. With the unique-grade Summoner Robe he got from the previous civil war, he now had three unique-grade equipment.

The exp reward he received after the war was also more generous than others. Despite dying once, he still increased to a level higher than most others.

"Here is mine," Jeanny gave Jack her equipment.

"Good spear!" Jack commented after seeing it.

"It's from the orc lord chief, Abdu Raretooth," Jeanny said.

Jack remembered that the orc was Abasi's father. Abasi would surely hate him even more if he knew Jeanny was his friend.

Aside from the spear, Jeanny also had a unique-grade chest armor she had just exchanged using war contribution points.

"I'm level 59," Jeanny informed. Both his contribution and the exp from killing Abdu had allowed her level to soar.

"All right, I will give them back to you tomorrow morning before we depart," Jack said.

"Give your mom my regards," John said to Jeanny when she was about to leave.

Jeanny simply gave him a glance for a reply.

"Oh...," Jack uttered as he came to a realization.

"I will be off too, got to organize things. What about you?" John asked Jack. But before Jack could answer, John said, "Never mind, not interested. Just remember to be present tomorrow morning."

Jack felt like testing his Ice Bullet on John as he walked away.

*

After the three went their own ways, Jack went around town and restocked materials, equipment, and potions. He had been doing it so often that he had become good friends with the store owners. Despite only purchasing cheap items, he had done it in large quantities. Hence, the proficiencies he received from the trades were still substantial. His Hagglng skill increased to Basic Expert.

With his title, Hero of Themisphere, the effect of his Hagglng skill was one grade higher. Thus, the items he bought were cheaper than the normal price.

The store owners were also used to him buying up their stuff already, so they had learned to stock up more. They are not afraid to overstock because Jack assured them that he would purchase all their stocks, especially the common ores and equipment.

Jack spent even more coins buying up the stocks this time. He spent 200 gold coins. But he received 350 gold coins from Amy's Bakery and Restaurant, so he still got a surplus. With the guild already having a

steady gold coin income, he no longer bothered to donate his coins. He was saving them in case he needed them for later. He currently had a total of 831 gold coins in his purse.

He teleported back to Heavenly Citadel and collected all the stored-up common ores and common equipment there. He then went inside the Time Chamber next. Now that the war was over, some core members were there to train in martial arts. Jack ignored them and took out his Transformation Prism and started fusing materials and equipment.

He didn't fuse all the common materials as he also need them to level up equipment. He only fused until he got the right proportion. After done with the task, he exited the time chamber and teleported back to Thereath again. From there, he rode Pandora and headed to the Blacksmith Circle.

Luckily, Grenmir was there again. So, he could persuade the dwarf to let him rent the workshop. Even though along the way Grenmir kept on saying stuff like he was violating his faction's rules by allowing Jack to use the workshop and he was doing Jack a huge favor, his tone sounded gleeful enough. Jack was sure that the 100 gold coins for one-hour usage were seriously overcharged and Grenmir was actually glad someone was stupid enough to spend their coins like that, but Jack didn't mind. Leveling up his gears was more important to him. He had loads of coins, after all.

The first equipment he leveled up was of course the Sword of Unknown Loss. Now that the guild had a copy of this sword, he was free to use this one as he saw fit.

He didn't level it up before letting Jeanny copy it because an equipment's level would always be at the lowest level at the time the equipment was procured. The level-up won't follow the copied item. Peniel had informed them, and Jeanny had confirmed it by testing on uncommon equipment.

So, even if they copied the Sword of Unknown Loss to a higher level, the copied sword would be at level 50 the same level as when Jack received the sword the first time. So, they couldn't save the leveling-up ores using the copy feature from Jeanny's divine ability.

Jack leveled the Sword of Unknown Loss up from level 50 to level 72 using a massive number of ores.

After level 70, every level-up attempt needed ten iron ores, five steel ores, four copper ores, three silver ores, one gold ore, and one titanium ore. Titanium ore was a super rare material. It took a lot of common ores to fuse them into this ore using his Transformation Prism. Each failed attempt after level 70 caused him heartache, and the success chance was only 47%, even after using his Runestone of Probability.

When leveling up to level 72, the success chance dropped to 37%. He ended up failing five times, consuming eight titanium ores. He wiped the cold sweat on his brow. He had prepared only twenty titanium ores, these should still be enough to level up his magic staff to level 72 as well.

For his armors, he could only be content to level them up to level 70.

Chapter 930: Unique-grade Storm Breaker

At level 72, the Sword of Unknown Loss had a physical damage value of 755. As for his Mana Leech Staff, the lightning damage value was 839. The staff had a higher damage value due to the unique-grade Orb of Raijin attached to it, which increased the staff's damage by 15%.

Jack took out his Storm Breaker and fed it the Sword of Unknown Loss without hesitation. The unique-grade sword disintegrated and its essence flowed into Storm Breaker. After receiving its newest sustenance, Storm Breaker was wrapped by a soft light. The process lasted only a few seconds and the light dissipated.

Jack found Storm Breaker to be slightly longer now. Perhaps by an inch? Or maybe it was just his feeling. The golden lines along its dark blade were even more prominent now. Lights that seemed to flow along those lines were now happening in an irregular rhythm, as if they were alive. The hilt now had a small orb at its center. It reminded Jack of the energy orb with the shape of an eye when Storm Breaker's spirit weapon was summoned. Jack looked closely at this small orb. No, no eye.

He opened the sword's stats. The weapon damage had shot up to 852, even higher than his magic staff which was installed with a unique-grade weapon orb while his Storm Breaker was only using a rare-grade weapon orb. The number of abilities had also increased by one. The overall power of those abilities also increased. Even the Overlimit skill received an increase in damage output.

He interfaced with the selection for his Storm Breaker's abilities. All the abilities in the selections had generally received a power-up. He then chose the four abilities for the sword, mainly choosing the abilities from the Sword of Unknown Loss.

*

Storm Breaker, level 72 (unique one-handed sword, bound weapon), embedded: Orb of Eurus (Rare-grade Weapon orb).

Physical damage 852

Attack speed 4

Cannot be destroyed, Bound to Storm Wind

30% chance to cause Poison status effect on each attack

All sword skills +10% damage

All received damage is reduced by 10%

Peerless Slash (Active skill): Deals 1500% physical damage to a single enemy from a distance. Completely ignores defense. 50% chance to cause Weakness status for 30 seconds. Range: 30 meters. Cooldown: 10 minutes.

Overlimit: Release the weapon's hidden power that adds an additional 250% damage as chaos damage, increases weapon range by 3 feet, and decreases the target's defense by 90%. Duration: 4 minutes. Cooldown: 6 hours

Four wind energies constantly swirled around the weapon. Whenever the weapon made a contact, the wind energies will lash out and deal 50% wind damage.

*

For his armor, level 70 Sword Fiend's Gear set gave him a total physical defense of 2281 and a magical defense of 2101. Unfortunately, he didn't have enough titanium ore to spare. Even with his abundance of coins and Transformation Prism, he still hit a barrier in leveling up equipment. Did he have to go to every accessible city in this world and do a craze shopping spree for the common ores? Thinking about it already made him feel depressed. Maybe later when he got more free time.

After finishing leveling up his equipment. He proceeded to level up John's and Jeanny's ones. He used the ore stock from the guild's warehouse to upgrade their equipment. He leveled their equipment up to their requested levels. John's to level 68 and Jeanny's to level 69.

He spent two hours doing all the work and paid Grenmir 200 gold coins for the rent. Grenmir still kept on spouting about doing this as a favor to Jack while his eyes were bright and his face was smiling when he accepted the coins. Jack felt like slapping the dwarf.

He returned to Heavenly Citadel afterward, thinking about doing the Ancient Battleground or Ice Throne Legacy Dungeon. Unfortunately, the medium difficulty of both dungeons was still on cooldown. Another party had conquered the dungeon earlier today. Jack went to the Time Chamber instead. He was not interested in doing the easy difficulty of those dungeons.

John was still busy organizing matters and Jeanny was not back yet, so Jack kept their equipment first. Before going to the Time Chamber, he came to Tip first who was in the guild hall.

Since he was not free for the week due to Prince Alonzo's coronation, he asked Tip to arrange a party to search for Grace. He told them to go to the spot where the door to Greed's sanctum was located but told them to not do anything to the rune diagram there in case the diagram was still exposed. He didn't tell them it was because that diagram might open a doorway to a God's sanctum. That might fuel their curiosity and cause them to want to go in instead. In a world where death was not permanent, people could become beyond brave to satisfy their curiosity. He knew because he was one of this type.

He also told Tip to search the nearby cities around that spot to see if they could find any clue about Grace.

The thought of Grace entering Greed's sanctum did flash in his thought, but he dismissed it as soon as it appeared. The fact that Grace didn't come after he had entered Greed's sanctum indicated that the door had closed. The rune diagram should have returned to its original state. He didn't question Grace's intelligence in solving the diagram, but he knew for a fact that Grace's level of mana sense was not enough to solve the diagram.

He didn't realize that he had underestimated Grace's persistence and dedication to come to his rescue.

After giving his instructions, he went into the time chamber and trained his Formless Flowing Sword Style. As his grandfather had pointed out, his control of this third phase was still a mess. He needed more practice to master it.

He repeated the trick he used the last time. Every time after he spent six hours inside the time chamber, he ran out and went into the first-rate training ground to unleash all his long-cooldown skills and spells.

At night, Jeanny came into the Time Chamber.

Jeanny had been tireless in her effort to master Seven Spears Assaulting Heaven. After successfully reaching the fifth stage, she had been gunning for the sixth stage. But when she did, Domon told her that she won't be able to reach that stage if she could not yet manipulate mana. After hearing Jack equipping the time chamber with the mana gathering stone, she had been itching to come here to train.

"Will Wicked Witches take action tomorrow?" Jack asked when she entered.

Jeanny gave him a thumbs-up.

"They will?" Jack actually didn't expect them to comply. "What benefit is this for them? Do you promise them a reward?"

"No," Jeanny replied. "I told them that they still owe us an apology for attacking us the last time. If they don't want our retaliation, they have to do this as a favor to us."

"Oh... Cool," Jack remarked.

"By the way, here," Jeanny threw a book at Jack. "This has been sitting in my vault for a while. I didn't have mana cores to spare. But after the rewards from the war and our members' donations, I can spare to make a copy. I have also copied another one for Jet."

Jack looked at the book in his hand. It was a technique book for a Beastmaster's skill, Mirage Beast.

"Beastmaster's skill, yes! Thank you!" Jack exclaimed. He had lots of Beastmaster's unused free skill points. He immediately learned the skill without further ado.

*

Mirage Beast, level 1/20 (Active skill).

Create a copy of the user's pet with 50% HP and 50% attributes.

Duration: 10 minutes.

Cooldown: 2 hours.

Stamina: 150

*

"Sweet!" Jack uttered and immediately poured 19 Beastmaster's free skill points to max level the skills. Each level-up increased its duration. At level 20, the mirage beast lasted thirty minutes.

"Also, if you check our general warehouse, you should find a few super-rare grade pet food," Jeanny said. "We have gotten the recipe and let our master-level cooks learn it. It required very rare ingredients so there were only a few. You can use your guild contribution points to get them if you want."

"Wow, I will!" Jack said. He had too many guild contribution points anyway. A lot of the non-medium armor he had fused he placed back into the warehouse after fusing them into higher-grade armor. He received lots of guild donation points for that action.

Jack gave Jeanny back her equipment. She re-equipped all of them. "Thank you!" She said.

"You are welcomed," Jack replied. He then thought of something and said, "Hey, how about a spar?"

"Come on. You will just roll over me," Jeanny said with a laugh.

"I use only uncommon swords and no armor," Jack said, unequipping everything. "We spar without skills, just martial arts."

It had been boring just training alone. Now that a sparring partner appeared, Jack didn't want to waste it.

"Hm... Okay," Jeanny said and brandished her spear.