

Brand New 1181

Chapter 1181 A Plan 1

Planta wanted to take advantage of how uninterested on them was Focalor to prepare to battle him, and before they could do anything to him, she wanted everyone within the vicinity to evacuate as promptly as possible, as Focalor was someone capable of directly extracting the souls of most people with ease.

However, she noticed that anybody strong enough was able to resist this power, and he had to take direct action to take the souls.

She was terrified of his powers, furious, and sorrowful of the people he had just killed and eaten, but now she couldn't just panic and go at him without a plan, even less in the middle of a largely populated area! She had to take things slowly and be cold headed if possible.

"Understood!" said David. "Please, your majesty, come with us! We must evacuate quickly!"

"I won't, David! I must fight that thing too; I shall protect my Kingdom!" the King said furiously, his golden armor shining brightly. "So-"

"Your majesty! I recognize you're strong, but most of such power is coming from the armor I gave to you!" said Goldanaba, stepping in. "Honestly I am not strong enough to participate on this either, but I would rather bring you with us. Someone must take care of little Prince Gustav while your wife fights! Also that throne is for her, not you!"

"A-Ah...!" the King muttered, shocked.

"My husband! It is no time at all to be talking about being a hero here. You will give me that armor and I will make good use of it," said the Queen. "Take Gustav with you and go with David to a safe place, away from here! Hurry!"

"But...!"

"Are you not going to listen to me?!"

"No, honey... Okay, I will go!"

The King was easily intimidated by his wife's rage and let go of the huge golden armor covering his body, which went directly to the Queen's side, floating as the golden throne it was before.

"We're not weak, but not strong enough to fight that thing either," said Horshen. "I'm afraid we'll leave! But we'll help anybody we find to evacuate! And if there's any critter, we'll crush them too!"

"I am afraid I must retreat as well, I deeply apologize, Lady Planta," said Erdragon.

"And that's fine, you may go!" said Planta with a nod.

"Thank you, and please be careful!" Erika said. "Use any of our equipment if it can help!"

"Y-Yeah, please be careful!" said BlackEye. "I might be a Player but there's no way I can fight that thing..."

As Planta saw those that had to retreat run away with the King, Gustav, and David and his knights protecting their backs, Planta noticed that Melisa had yet to go anywhere.

"Melisa, you aren't going too?"

"I can fight that thing..."

"H-Huh? You can?!"

"I think so...?" Melisa muttered. "I might not be high level right now, but that power they use... It's somewhat related to my curses! And I can control Cursed Energies and Negative Mana due to my evolution. I think I know what I am... My evolution is cursed because I became something like a Demon, like the actual demons from Hell.

That Dungeon I ended falling to was also filled with demonic relics, pentagrams, and demonic beasts. I don't know why a dungeon like that was there to begin with, but I think the demons plan to turn people into vessels, I became something like that but... I'm not a vessel!"

"H-Huh? Is that so?" Planta was a bit confused, but she got the gist of it.

Melisa had indeed visited a mysterious dungeon when she started playing BNLO, after going through its trials and dying and reviving over and over again, once she finished it miraculously, she was rewarded with her unique evolution.

And indeed, the powers within Melisa were both cursed and demonic, hence why her aura was so intimidating, and why whatever she touched would always become cursed as well if she wasn't careful. If she said that the power of Focalor was related with Demonic Curses, perhaps she could truly help somehow.

"Yes, so please trust me, I got that feeling!" said Melisa. "Like... like I'm somehow made to fight em'!"

"O-Okay then, if you're so brave about it..." sighed Planta. "But be careful and don't be reckless, stay behind us!"

"Yeah!" nodded Melisa.

After that, Planta hurriedly expanded her Domain even further across the entire city of the Luminous Kingdom. By sending two of her avatars to the west and east and by using their physical bodies, every step they made spread more and more of the domain.

Why was she doing this? For a simple reason, she needed as many spirits as possible, and also by creating more of these powerful spirits, she was able to easily evacuate people by quite literally kidnaping them out of their houses and forcefully dragging them away.

"Uuaaagh! What's going oon?!"

"Help meeee!"

"What the- Wooooaaah!"

Most of the people started panicking and screaming as colorful spirits of many elements, even dragon spirits, started grabbing them and flying or running away as quickly as possible.

"Please understand! We're evacuating the city; there's a dangerous demon and you must run away!" a gentle water spirit said, she had the face of a motherly fairy.

"We're doing this for your safety, so please stop kicking my face rooaarr!" a grumpy fire dragon spirit groaned as a fat man he carried was constantly kicking his face.

"I am not a kidnaper, please just let's hurry outside!" sighed a bird-like light spirit that carried a group of children away. "You can meet with your family afterwards! We must procure everybody's safety!"

Planta would never have the Mana to do all of this, but thanks to the specialized Skills she possessed, the more her domain expanded, the more Mana she got back from it and the faster her regeneration of Mana would become.

"Okay, now that this is over... the equipment everyone made! Here, take these!"

She quickly started distributing every wonderful item that the craftsmen created for the competition.

Chapter 1182 A Plan 2

Planta stored every relic she found around the arena and quickly organized them, taking out those that were going to help everyone. Naturally, all the things she made with Titan and Ambil counted.

The powerful Spiritual Sword she made, which possessed Spiritual Abilities capable of harnessing spirit power and more, the powerful draconic spirit armor that had many protection abilities and even the power to summon dragon and beast spirits, then the accessories that allowed anybody to gain powers similar to her regarding spirit magic, and lastly, perhaps the most important of them, the mechanical tree golem.

It was a mechanical tree imbued with spiritual power and that was technically "alive", it would absorb spiritual energy and grow to a tremendous size, while conjuring a powerful spiritual and impenetrable barrier the larger and stronger it grew.

Right now it was impossible to use it properly, but she had an idea, planting it directly into the soil of the arena, now having become a huge forest thanks to her domain, and imbuing over half of the spirit energy and mana produced by the domain into this tree.

Several spirits began rotating it, fusing with the tree's core, as it rapidly started growing larger and larger... Then, she noticed another item, Erdragon's Mechanic Dragon Egg, which was also a growth-type living golem relic.

She placed it right by the side of the tree, letting its mechanical roots encompass it and protect it as it absorbed the Mana and Spiritual Energy, and as the dragon spirits themselves imbued their souls into it.

"Now... I already got a good armor piece, so the spirit dragon armor we made should go to Anna, you're the least protected here, girl, take this!" Planta gave the armor she made to her. "Also take these accessories too, they'll help you summon spirits like I do! Use that power while your summons recovers to be summoned again later."

"T-Thank you! I bet this cost a lot..." Anna gulped saliva as she swiftly equipped all items through the system equipment interface.

"Elena, can you wield more than two swords?" Planta wondered; they had little time so things had to be done quickly as they ran towards Focalor.

"Yeah!" she said. "I can shape my armor to gain some more arms, why?"

"Then equip this and this!" Elayne gave her the spirit sword she made and also the holy sword from Goldanaba. "Wield those with your two other swords, that'll give you double the amount of attack power and attacks you can do."

"Nice, thanks mom!" Elena was excited.

"Now, Melisa! You should wield the cursed armor you made to protect yourself, also wield the accessories you made too. I'll take the cursed sword though, I want to harness its cursed powers, I think I got a plan," Planta said. "But take this, it's Horshen's fourth creation."

"T-The bull he made?!" Melisa gasped.

Horshen, the dwarf that could use fire spirit magic alongside magic smithing had created a wonderful item, a powerful metallic bull-shaped relic capable of creating a moving domain of fire. The domain could easily protect people, isolate them from the outside world, and also attack while using fire spirits for fuel.

"Yeah, you're our weakest, so you'll need the protection, use it when Focalor is about to attack you, so you don't get your soul sucked!" said Planta.

"O-Okay?" muttered Melisa. "I guess that would mean instant death in-game, huh?"

She didn't know it would actually suck her soul for real...

"Camilla has Goldanaba's throne, which is pretty incredible on its own..." Planta said. "Mark! Take the dragon sword Erdragon made. Also his armor! Can you integrate it into your body?"

"I think so!" said Mark, quickly equipping the armor over his previous armor, while dual wielding his original berserk sword which had evolved permanently due to constantly absorbing his spiritual powers, wood, and metallic wood over many battles, and also the dragon sword of Erdragon.

She also distributed more armor and other equipment and accessories to the rest of the party, such as Acorn, Nieve, and the Queen.

"Lastly, there's this Urn..." she glanced at the black Urn in the shape of a demonic skull.

Melisa had showed its powers before, it had the incredible ability of absorbing cursed energies and cleanse them completely from a target or within an area!

However, she knew it could have some limit of sorts, so she had to use it when the right time arrived, but she kept it in her inventory, waiting.

"Alright! Everyone, we'll need to quickly run around Focalor and distract him!" said Planta.

"Do you have a way to do that?" Camilla asked.

"I do! I will bait him with his favorite meal, souls," she said. "I'll extract the souls of the summoned Draconic Beasts and offer them to him. That'll get him to quickly come to them as he's hungry, apparently."

"Y-You can get souls like that?" Acorn gasped. "That's a bit cruel..."

"I know but we don't have time Acorn!" Planta facepalmed. "Anyways, Titan was able to slightly break his barrier, so that's not indestructible. Its jus needs a tremendous amount of power. However, it needs to be long ranged, if we get too close to his attack range, we'll get compressed to cubes! Therefore, only Camilla and Titan will help me hit the barrier directly.

The rest will attack from afar, Nieve included, unless your direct physical attack and reach that far?"

"I can try, but I'll remain in the backlines to not worry you, my liege," the ice fairy nodded, already transformed into her Nereid Princess form, her rapier turning into a huge trident. "Maybe with my trident, I can do something."

"Right!" I nodded. "Now, Melisa, Acorn, Anna, you guys attack from afar, alright? Use your strongest spells if possible, things that can weaken barriers or defenses! Melisa, this is where you enter, try to contaminate, uncurse, or absorb the curses of the barrier, can you?"

"I can try!" she nodded. "Leave it to me please."

"Okay, let's do this!" Planta nodded. "I'm sorry, Draconic Beasts, would you sacrifice your souls for me? I promise you that once that demon is defeated, your souls will be freed and purified."

"ROOAARR!"

The Draconic Beasts didn't even hesitate, in fact, Planta didn't even need to give them a reason, the creatures instantly offered their souls willingly.

"Thank you..."

FLUOSH!

Chapter 1183 Executing The Plan

"Souls... I'm running out of them. I'm so hungry..." groaned Focalor, noticing that the dozens of souls it accumulated were now gone. "Where? I need more... WHERE?!"

His presence rapidly shook the skies and the ground below, the pressure alone grinding the houses below him into nothing but piles of rubble one after another, yet there were no people found, only a lot of nature, as if half the city became a forest.

"What is this? Where did the people go?!" he screamed angrily, like a spoiled child that didn't have what he wanted. "WHERE ARE MY SOULS?!"

With a furious and childish scream, the skies' clouds cleared, as a storm of purple winds and cursed miasmic water suddenly rushed down, beginning to destroy all nature within the vicinity.

However, Planta's domain still had a couple of minutes of [Immunity] within it, making it so the nature quickly recovered back and reconstructed, making Focalor staggered.

"What? How's... that possible? Hm?"

However, suddenly, his eyes widened, despite being a force of destruction, its hunger prevailed the most, and once it saw THAT, it lost its mind.

A huge mass, a cloud of over thirty large, draconic souls, all freshly extracted for his pleasure to devour and taste!

"Souls...! SOULS!"

His face distorted as he opened his jaws, revealing countless sharp teeth, he flew towards the souls using his giant wings, rapidly soaring across the skies, and leaving windstorms behind.

After reaching the cloud of souls and beginning to eat them with his jaws, tearing them apart and swallow them, Planta's team prepared to fight.

"Several small attacks won't work, what we need is a powerful concentrated blow into the same spot, right?" Camilla asked, gathering her Blood and Darkness energies into her swords, and imbuing them with her power, especially on her Blood Rose Sword.

"Yes, a lethal piercing blow if possible!" nodded Planta, gathering her powers as her draconic form started growing stronger, and stronger, and stronger.

And then, behind her, a huge rainbow-colored portal opened, where gigantic Divine Dragon Spirits emerged, large and physical in form.

She channeled the power of her divine dragon transformation, a unique and temporary divine skill!

Ding!

[You have activated the Divine Skill: {Divine Heavenly Dragon Spirit Army}! Your Powers and Energies have summoned the Divine Dragon Spirit Realm Portal, summoning Divine Heavenly Dragon Spirits to battle!]

[For the duration of the portal's existence, these Divine Dragon Spirits will fight for you and protect you as well as heal you and even die for you! However, once the Portal's duration is over, they will return to their Realm.]

[Duration: 6 Minutes.]

Then, harnessing their powers and grabbing them, she manipulated them all, combining them into a gigantic weapon, a mighty spear that she materialized by fusing her swords into it, and even a part of her body.

"This is the most I can do when targeting a singular point, my strongest Spiritual Weapon!"

FLUOOOSH!

The rainbow-colored crystal-like spear continued growing stronger and longer, gigantic, of almost 150 meters of length, overflowing with draconic spiritual energies, her weapons melded into it as they absorbed and fused with the materials given through the [Divine Spiritual Fusion Synthesis] Skill.

At the same time, thanks to this Skill, her stats continued to skyrocket because of this special effect it possessed, which increased her stats based on the amount of spirits around her vicinity! Hence the reason why hundreds of them were floating around her gigantic body right now.

Additionally, the user will receive a special buff with each Summoned Spirit, which will only last as long as each individual Spirit lasts:

Lesser Spirits: All Stats +1%

Elemental Spirits: All Stats +5%

Great Spirits: All Stats +10%

Divine Spirits: All Stats +25%

Supreme Spirits: All Stats +50%

"Almost there...!"

Ding!

[You have activated the Divine Skill: {Celestial Draconic Weapon Creation}! Your two weapons have been used as the base, while the rest of the summoned Divine Dragon Spirits have been fused into them, further materializing into the {Celestial Heavenly Spiritual Dragon Spear: Tiamat}!]

[The {Celestial Heavenly Spiritual Dragon Spear: Tiamat} combines the Stats of all weapons used as ingredients, plus a +400% boost to all of their stats and ability effects! Additionally, each consecutive blow will release {Heavenly Draconic Spirit Flame Explosions} that will deal 200% additional damage with each blow, for a maximum of +2.000% while ignoring 60% of the target's Defenses.]

[Duration Time: 3 Minutes.]

The titanic spear was ready, with the head of a mighty dragon goddess at the tip, and several draconic legs and wings as decorations, ending at a long dragon tail by the end of the spear.

It was a wonderful creation, something that surpassed all of Planta's Spirit Weapons created so far!

This was perhaps one of Planta's greatest trump cards, the ability to spontaneously create weapons or armor out of combining her spirits with various materials.

Although most of these were incredibly strong, they were also temporary existence that lasted for less than five minutes.

And Tiamat was so tremendously powerful it could only last for 3 minutes!

"I'm ready too!"

Mark at the same time, was done, what he had created was similar to Elayne, but using his own body and the two swords as ingredients. Mark possessed a similar synthesizing ability than Elayne, but this one worked around creating Spiritual Totems themselves.

Therefore, what he created was a gigantic, spear-shaped Divine Totem Spirit, whose head was the sharp beak of the Phoenix Totem Spirit, finely decorated with the many heads of other beast totem spirits engraved into it, overflowing with infernal flames.

"How do we target a single point if our attacks will be so big?" asked Camilla.

"You attack first with your long-ranged blow, then Mark, then me!" said Elayne. "I'll hit it several times, trust me!"

"Got it then!" Camilla smiled.

"Souls, delicious souls...! I have not tasted this deliciousness in over a thousand years!" laughed Focalor as he feasted on the souls of the damned he grabbed with his large claws. "Hmm! Delicious! So good-Hm?"

And then he noticed something, for the first time, he finally paid attention to the little ants below him, which he could easily kill if they dared to get closer.

His eyes slightly widened, as he saw three powerful attacks reaching him.

"It's useless anyway-"

BOOOMMM!!!

Chapter 1184 Against Focalor!

Focalor.

A Demon prince with a near impenetrable cursed barrier.

His ability is to "Compress" things through an unknown power within a range of his body, easily capable of compressing Elayne, their strongest member, into a literal cube and leave her helpless.

Despite how powerful he is, he has a tremendous hunger for souls, and prioritizes eating souls than eliminating his foes.

He also has shown lazy and apathetic tendencies, incapable of caring about anybody, or anything, and without a clear mission either.

Then, Elayne took advantage of its aloof personality, and prepared an attack it could no longer overlook after baiting him into eating a lot of souls.

"Hm...?" as he yawned after being halfway through his snacks, his eyes widened.

The tremendous power coming from below slightly surprised him, but he knew his barrier could withstand even a blow from the Demon King.

"After all, papa always says that I have the strongest defenses, hehe~" he thought. "Now, where was I-huh?"

He suddenly noticed the three powerful attacks being prepared, yet still laughed.

"It won't change anything anyways..."

He was very wrong.

Camilla gathered the power into her blade, and unleashed it at once, creating her strongest technique, one capable of even one-shotting Bael's first form.

Her rapier moved upward, into the skies, as a gigantic amount of darkness, poison, curses, and blood coming from her own powerful aura erupted.

"{Divine Cursed Blood Rapier Arts}: {Crimson Spear of Death: Thanatos}"

Her rapier turned into a titanic spear of darkness and blood, Focalor smiled lightly and ignored it, looking down on mortals.

Yet...

The spear reached his barrier, striking it with such tremendous force that he was forced to vomit the soul he was eating.

BOOOMMM!!!

"Huh?!"

His seven eyes widened as he saw that the spear clearly pierced through the barrier, a small crack, a tiny hole no bigger than a nail.

Yet it did something!

"T-That's...!"

Yet he had no time to respond either, another attack came rushing immediately after that, Mark roared, all his spirits became one through his body and the titanic totem he fired.

The giant beak of the phoenix spirit totem pierced through the small hole left by Camilla, opening it even more up to almost three meters.

"Ahhh!"

In that moment, Focalor panicked before a huge explosion caused by the totem erupting caused the cracks to spread even more.

"W-Wait...!"

BOOOMMM!!!

Before he could compress the attack, the spear already exploded, the flames entered through the barrier, almost burning him if it wasn't because of his power was activated a second earlier.

"My barrier... it has a hole...?"

Yet was that enough for Planta?

Of course not...

She wasn't going to just leave a hole.

She was going to destroy that barrier!

"Don't look down on us, Demon!"

With a furious and draconic roar, she rushed into the skies, Focalor's eyes widened, seeing the massive spear coming towards his barrier, he quickly decided to act offensively.

The range was too thin, his Compression couldn't be used where she was! However, he smiled, he still had powerful magic anyways.

"Don't you dare look down on ME!" he cried like a child. "{Demonic Windstorm and Cursed Tsunami Arts}: {Catastrophic Wrath of Abyssal Winds and Seas}!"

A huge spiraling thunderstorm of seas and winds corrupted through demonic authorities rushed down towards Elayne.

Yet she didn't care.

Her spear pierced through everything.

CRAAASH!

The seas and the winds evaporated instantly as the radiant power of Tiamat emanated, explosions of rainbow colored draconic and spiritual energies erupted one after another.

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

With each explosion, the spear's attack power became higher and stronger, rapidly piercing further and further through the barrage of attacks from Focalor.

"Dammit! What is that thing?! Compress! COMPRESS!"

He screamed as he pointed his hands at the spear, yet the spear...

Did not compress.

"Ah?!"

Any ability within the world always ran a special "check" based in the stats between Focalor and the spear, it would be given a level of damage.

Compress was done when the overwhelming magic power of Focalor overwhelmed another's magical defenses.

Yet this spear's stats were so high it simply was not affected, he had to hit it directly to deal any significant damage.

"D-Don't mess with me!"

With a scream filled with frustration, he tried to reinforce the barrier, but it was too late.

The spear pierced through the hole left behind by Mark, rapidly beginning to spin around, generating more and more of the explosions the spear could produce.

"W-Wait... WAIT A SECOND!"

Focalor screamed in horror as hundreds of explosions engulfed him from inside the barrier itself. the tool that served as his protection had now become his undoing, accumulating all the explosions within a small space.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Even as he tried using Compress to make all attacks compress to a minimal form and disappear, because they came from every angle possible, the attacks were going to eventually slip past that.

"Ugh...! Dammit! STOP THIS!"

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

His incredibly durable body was barely scratched, but every scratch dealt some damage, accumulating more and more until he began to bleed all over his nude chest.

Crack, crack...!

CRACK!

And at the same time, even as he still decided to not destroy his barrier, it was already being rapidly destroyed. Acorn, Nieve, Melisa, Anna, and Planta's Familiars all attacked, an endless rain of magical explosions engulfed his barrier.

Especially with Melisa's mighty curses, which began to seep into the barrier and mess with its internal structure, rapidly absorbing the curses and severely weakening the barrier.

CRACK, CRACK...!

CRAAASH!

"Ahhhh! M-My barrier!"

Focalor panicked as the barrier shattered into pieces, and Tiamat surged forward, still with a couple of seconds left to exist, it immediately impacted his body, beginning to drill through his skin, with all its power, attempting to leave at least a wound on his incredibly durable body.

CLAAASH!

"Nnngggh! Nnnggaaahhh!"

Focalor's strength could not exert enough power, as the spear continued piercing and generating explosions one after another.

Until eventually...

"UUUAAAAGGGGHHH!"

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

BOOM! BOOM!

Through the small wound it created, countless explosions reached his internal body, his entire body inflating and exploding from the inside out, as smoke started coming out of his mouth, nose, and ears.

Ten seconds left before Tiamat disappears.

Elayne started a mental count.

"10..."

Chapter 1185 The Demon Prince's Fall

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Ten seconds left before Tiamat disappears.

10.

Elayne rushed forward with Camilla and Mark while they still had time.

9.

They charged their abilities once more, unleashing a barrage of mighty attacks.

8

They risked their lives, getting close to him and quickly piercing through each wound he had.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

7

Elayne gathered her last celestial energies, creating a powerful celestial ward in her own hands, materializing it into the shape of a hammer.

6

The giant mechanical tree and the egg both grew enormous. The tree generated a beautiful barrier around the entire arena, trapping everyone inside.

FLASH!

It absorbed Focalor's demonic energy and began to purify it, a special effect it possessed.

"ROOOAARR!"

Meanwhile, the dragon roared, its roar was immensely strong, shaking Focalor and destabilizing him momentarily.

5

"Let me help too! I have to do at least... something!"

Melisa gathered her cursed powers and flew into the skies, touching Focalor's legs as she unleashed a myriad of binding curses into his body, which grew stronger based on the cursed energy inside of the demon.

FLUOSH!

4

Elayne took out the urn and fused it with Melisa's cursed energy and her dragon spirits, turning it into a giant black nail!

3

"GRAAAHHHH!!!"

Focalor gave a loud scream of agony and pain, throwing away Mark and Camilla, not before their weapons were left piercing his body, making him bleed even more.

2

"L-LEAVE ME ALONEEEE!"

Focalor released another scream, yet Elayne resisted even as her body was being compressed, two more avatars emerged, grabbing the hammer and the nail.

One of them put the nail into his wound before being compressed.

CLASH!

1

"What are you doing...?!"

Focalor panicked as the nail pierced his chest, suddenly noticing his cursed and demonic energies were being constantly absorbed!

"UUUAAAGGH!"

0

Tiamat disappeared, but Elayne appeared from behind, her divine ward hammer striking the nail made out of the curse-absorbing urn with all of her remaining draconic force.

"{Divine Heavenly Exorcising Smite}!"

CLAAANK!

The nail pierced deep into Focalor as he constantly compressed Elayne and attempted to eat her soul, and then...

"NGH?! NO!"

Focalor's face distorted into horror and agony, as his demonic heart and his soul were pierced at the same time.

However, even then, while screaming and roaring, he was about to compress Elayne's last avatar, killing her for sure.

Yet...

"Don't you dare touch my mom!"

A sword made of emptiness, of nothingness, of the pure void, cut through Focalor's arms, legs, and body, already weakened.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

Elena slashed his body into pieces.

"FATHEEERRRRRRR!"

And both the curse-absorbing energies and the holy energies of Elayne's attack consumed his weakened, sliced body. Every part of him was set ablaze, rapidly turning into ashes as he cried for his father.

BOOOMMM!!!

The exorcizing of a demonic prince was...

A tremendous and unexpected success!

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(Planta's POV)

Focalor died.

It was thanks to everyone's help that he was slain quickly.

If things had gone for longer than a couple more minutes, it would have easily eaten hundreds of people, if not thousands.

Evacuating people only worked because he wasn't moving too much from his position but... If we were got too relaxed, he would have definitely done as he pleased.

It was honestly a combination of many things that brought our victory, Focalor wasn't an easy foe. If anything, we merely won because of surprising him, and also because of his pride.

A very prideful and bratty demon prince if I say so myself!

But well, maybe finally, it was finally over...

"Hahhh..."

I sighed in relief, falling to my knees as I fell over the grass-covered arena floor.

It was comfortable here, just let me sleep for three days in here.

Ugh...

"It's finally over?" wondered Camilla. "My god... what a day."

"Hahhh... P-Planta..." Titan walked to my side, and hugged me, resting over the grass with me. "We did it..."

"Yes dear... we... we did it," I sighed, feeling so exhausted somehow.

"Ugh..." groaned Elena, sitting right next to me. "Fucking hell..."

"Manners, young lady!" I said. "I didn't teach you to talk like that..."

"Sorry..." she sighed, resting her head over my thighs. "Is it finally over? No more demons, right?"

"I... Yes, there aren't any more anywhere, I can confirm that at the very least," I nodded. "What a day indeed..."

I had already expanded my Aura everywhere, and with my Domain covering half of the Kingdom, I could immediately tell there weren't any more demons around.

Of course, not those they sent to us explicitly. But that damned tower, it has a Domain of its own that distorts space, even as I am sneakily trying to touch it with my plant domain, its impossible, an invisible force field stops me.

This must be a Dimensional Domain conjured by Merlinus, an Arch Wizard that is said to be a Master of Spatial Manipulation.

"I think... that was the last nail, right?" I asked Camilla. "We need to eliminate Merlinus."

"Yes... We must," sighed Camilla. "We have to..."

We looked at the Magician Tower in the distance.

Every person that was victim of this entire thing, they had no idea that the magicians everyone trusted, that everyone praised...

That they were the ones behind everything right now.

They're strong and have an amazing position in the middle of the city.

They can even use all the people were as hostages, or already are using them.

But even then, we must find a way.

A way to defeat them...

"I'm going to cut that tower." Elena said, squinting her eyes.

And perhaps my daughter and her new powers was the key.

Chapter 1186 The Battle Is Finally Over

As the ashes of Focalor fell from the sky and the sunset turned into night, we slowly stood up, and went to take care of the survivors. I quickly used my healing magic and the help of spirits to heal all wounded. Many were at the verge of death but were swiftly healed back as well.

These people had been evacuated by David and the rest of the knights, but they couldn't heal them completely, at most keep them alive momentarily.

It was mostly due to the infection of miasmic demonic energies into their wounds, or even nether from the Undead. But thankfully, all of that was now over, and we could finally rest. It only took like twenty minutes to heal everyone, so it wasn't that exhausting. The people slowly went back home, as we moved to the castle with the competition participants to announce the winner.

On the way there, nobody could stop talking, so much had happened, many cried, others lamented the loses, a few were simply trying to lighten the mood on their own ways. These craftsmen that came from all around the world were nice, good people.

"So those demons... two of them were some Players that got corrupted by them?! I can't believe it!" Horshen said.

"Yes, but the ones that kidnaped her majesty's son were three participants," said Erdragon. "Remember that trio of ruffians?"

"So it was the Forgery Brothers that also turned into demons?!" Ambil gasped. "I can't... believe it! I knew they were scum, but to go so low for revenge, and a petty one at that! What happened to them? Are they dead like the Players?"

"Two of them died..." I sighed. "They were the demon that I killed with the queen's help. One of them was alive though, the one that kidnaped her child. He'll await his own sentence later. But likely, he'll be given death penalty too. I didn't want to kill him, yeah, but that doesn't mean he'll escape the law of the Kingdom."

"I see..." nodded Goldanaba. "You did what you could, Planta, thank you for helping everyone. Without you I doubt we could have even survived... seriously! You were amazing! Your Spirits, and your Magic, and the Plants, and your dragon form!"

"Aren't you a bit too close, Goldanaba?" I felt a bit overwhelmed because she was practically rubbing her face on mine by how close she was.

"A-Ah! My bad..." she blushed a bit and moved aside.

"Well, big sis Goldanaba is not wrong!" Erika said. "That was amazing, auntie Planta!"

The young farm girl that had become a very talented blacksmith congratulated me.

"Thank you, Erika," I smiled. "I'm glad you're okay!"

"A lot happened, and people died..." she sighed. "It'll be hard for me to move on from this incident, but at least I can know that there are amazingly strong people also trying to protect us out there... Also thank you for recruiting me into your Smithy! I'll do my best from now on, master!"

"M-Master?" I felt a bit flustered. "Well, alright then, haha!"

The red-haired girl with freckles was certainly a very cute and young blacksmith. I quickly took the opportunity to take her below my wing.

I am not the most experienced blacksmith out there, but thanks to Hephaestus Inheritance, I was able to learn a lot of amazing magic, skills, and techniques.

I am sure that Hephaestus intended from the very beginning that I should share his knowledge, instead of hoarding it all for myself.

I'll teach the Hephaestus Smithing Techniques to my new students.

"M-Me too..." BlackEye said. "Thank you for letting me in! I'm still kind of a noob player, but its really an honor to be taught by a Player with such prestige as you, Lady Planta...!"

"Hahaha, well, take it easy!" I giggled. "You still got your own shops and smithies, right? So don't feel pressured. Come whenever you got time."

"I'll come every day! I'll close my shop early!" said Erika. "I can't miss the opportunity of learning from inheritor of Hephaestus' legacy after all!"

"Me too!" nodded BlackEye. "Also it's not hard to leave an NPC taking care of the shop for me, so I'll definitely go!"

"Hahah, okay, I won't be available all the time though," I said. "But Ambil and my other retainers would be."

"Wait, me?!" Ambil asked. "Look Planta I can't just...!"

"Don't worry, I'll pay you," I said with a nod.

"Hm, well, thinking about it again, perhaps I'll do it," he said, caressing his beard.

He might still be short in money, so he definitely accepted the terms.

As we moved to the castle with Camilla and the other knights lead, I saw several notifications appear.

Ding! Ding! Ding!

[An unprecedented event! You and your Party have slain a total of Four Demons and thousands of Undead Monsters!]

[You have earned a tremendous quantity of EXP based on your contribution plus the shared EXP from your Party Members and Allied Forces!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[...]

[Your Level has increased from Level 254 to Level 300/300!]

[All your Stats have Increased! You earned Bonus Stat Points and Skill Points!]

[Congratulations! You have reached Max Level!]

[To further Rank Up, you must complete a Rank Up Trial within the Trial Towers situated all around the World!]

[Your assigned {Tower of Trials} is located in the Eastern Continent: {Golden Dragon City}!]

[Once you visit the Tower of Trials here, you will be able to undergo a special Trial designed for you and Rank Up!]

"Wait, what?!"

It was so far away! I am definitely not doing that before everything here ends, even less before the damn Demon King of Death is slain.

He's breaking out in like less than a week from now, so I will...

I'll have to manage with my current Level, somehow.

Ding!

[For having slain such powerful Foes, you have exerted the might of a {World Boss} to the world!]

[You earned +4.000.000 World Boss Points!]

[You earned +1.000.000 Community Points!]

Oh.

Maybe with this, it won't be such an impossible task anymore?

Chapter 1187 Great Growth

Ding!

[Level Up!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 254 to Level 300/300!]

[All your Stats have Increased! You earned Bonus Stat Points and Skill Points!]

[Congratulations! You have reached Max Level!]

[To further Rank Up, you must complete a Rank Up Trial within the Trial Towers situated all around the World!]

[Your assigned {Tower of Trials} is located in the Eastern Continent: {Golden Dragon City}!]

[Once you visit the Tower of Trials here, you will be able to undergo a special Trial designed for you and Rank Up!]

Deep down, I began to regret having chosen that Subclass.

I think that's what ended triggering this to begin with.

Making my Trial Tower in the damn Easter Continent, one unexplored by any Player yet!

It was so far away! I am definitely not doing that before everything here ends, even less before the damn Demon King of Death is slain.

After all, getting there is going to be a whole different ordeal, we first need to find clues about where it is exactly, then find some way to get there that's not just flying anywhere randomly and risking getting attacked by flying monsters.

We'll have to find most likely someone to bring us there, someone with a ship, then we'll have to cross the seas to a whole different continent!

The Demon King Continent is actually not so far away from here, and you can see it in the horizon, but the Eastern Continent is quite literally at the other side of the world.

So it's definitely... not easy to get there.

The Demon King of Death is breaking out in like less than a week from now too!

I'll have to manage with my current Level, somehow.

And that's without even considering Merlinus incoming fight.

It'll shake the entire city and probably be a World Boss of his own based on how over leveled he is.

Ugghh...

Ding!

[For having slain such powerful Foes, you have exerted the might of a {World Boss} to the world!]

[You earned +4.000.000 World Boss Points!]

[You earned +1.000.000 Community Points!]

Oh?!

However, this appeared out of the blue, slaying four demons was indeed a lot of World Boss Points! Enough to finally let me buy a lot of overpowered World Boss Skills, and even unique Items too, which I saw in the World Boss Shop.

The World Boss Shop only has two sections, Skills, and Items though, and this is what I usually see when I get access to it.

Ding!

[Showcasing the World Boss Shop Section: Skills]

<{World Boss Shop: Skills}>

[Overwhelming Beam of Annihilation: Lv0] [Cost: 1.500.000 WBP]

[Forceful Territory Takeover: Lv0] [Cost: 1.200.000 WBP]

[Summon Boss Monster: Lv0] [Cost: 1.150.000 WBP]

[Dungeon Creation: Lv0] [Cost: 1.100.000 WBP]

[Destroyer of Battlefields: Lv0] [Cost: 1.000.000 WBP]

[World Domination Declaration: Lv0] [Cost: 950.000 WBP]

[Tyranny of the Cruel: Lv0] [Cost: 900.000 WBP]

[Monstrous Sacrifice: Lv0] [Cost: 800.000 WBP]

[...]

[Showcasing World Boss Shop Section: Items]

<{World Boss Shop: Items}>

[Apocalypse (Divine Grade)] x1 [Cost: 2.000.000 WBP]

[Demonic Absolution (Divine Grade)] x1 [Cost: 1.500.000 WBP]

[Cosmic Stone (Divine Grade)] x5 [Cost: 1.200.000 WBP]

[Divine Elixir of All Healing (Divine Grade)] x10 [Cost: 1.000.000 WBP]

[...]

There are more items in there if I click the "Expand" button... But overall, these Skills, don't they sound kind of broken?!

What the hell does World Domination Declaration even do?

Currently I have around 8.300.000 World Boss Points, so I can certainly afford some good stuff, but I can't go overboard either or I'll be left with no points at all.

I have to choose carefully... For now, I'll leave this decision for later.

Ding!

[Several Skills have Leveled Up!]

[The Skill: [Abyssal Shadow Feather Projectile: Lv31/100 (Divine Beast Skill)] Level has increased to Level 100!]

[The Skill: [Blazing Totem Spirit Summon: Lv1/100 (Guardian Skill)] Level has increased to Level 55!]

[The Skill: [Cursed Soul Heart: Lv1/100 (Guardian Skill)] Level has increased to Level 43]

[The Skill: [Myriad Minds: Lv18/200 (Divine Beast Skill) (Evolved I)] Level has increased to Level 40!]

[The Skill: [Snake Queen: Lv44/100 (Divine Beast Skill)] Level has increased to Level 100!]

[The Skill: [Silver Moon Dragon's Divine Scale Armor: Lv36/100 (Divine Beast Skill)] Level has increased to Level 100!]

[The Skill: [Space-Warping Eldritch Spirit Body: Lv39/200 (Divine Beast Skill) (Evolved I)] Level has increased to Level 65!]

[The Skill: [Fairy Queen's Magic Swordsmanship Arts: Lv1/100 (Guardian Skill)] Level has increased to Level 50!]

[The Skill: [Sword Intent Embodiment: Lv1/100 (Guardian Skill)] Level has increased to Level 70!]

Oh, the Guardian and Divine Beast Skills sure level up fast... I guess it is because of their very high-level cap to begin with, right?

And there are even more Skills leveling up, woah!

[The Skill: [Aeternitas' Divine Spiritual Vessel Guardian Protection: Lv20/50 (Divine Fused Skill)] has gained 3 Levels!]

[The Skill: [Verdant Green Domain Magic: Lv11/30 (Evolved Skill)] has gained 4 Levels and exchanged 40 Skill Points to Level Up!]

[The Skill: [Yggdrasil's Spirit Magic: Lv11/30 (Evolved Skill)] has gained 4 Levels and exchanged 40 Skill Points to Level Up!]

[The Skill: [Dragon Spirit Summon: Lv4] has gained 3 Levels and exchanged 30 Skill Points to Level Up!]

[The Skill: [Heavenly Yggdragon Queen Of The Three Colored Crown Transformation: Lv16/40 (Fused Skill)] has gained 4 Levels!]

[The Skill: [Sacred Spirit Queen Of Divine Beasts: Lv22/50 (Divine Fused Skill)] has gained 2 Levels and exchanged 40 Skill Points to Level Up!]

[The Skill: [Yggdrasil's Sentinel Body: Lv10/30 (Evolved Skill)] has gained 3 Levels and exchanged 30 Skill Points to Level Up!]

[The Skill: [Divine Draconic Spirit Harvest Field: Lv11/40 (Fused Skill)] has gained 3 Levels and exchanged 30 Skill Points to Level Up!]

[The Skill: [Double Cast: Lv2/10] has gained 3 Levels and exchanged 30 Skill Points to Level Up!]

[The Skill: [Mana Overload: Lv2/10] has gained 3 Levels and exchanged 30 Skill Points to Level Up!]

[The Skill: [Runic Inscription Arts: Lv4/10] has gained 2 Levels and exchanged 20 Skill Points to Level Up!]

[The Skill: [Divine Golden Heaven Gourmet Arts: Lv1/30] has gained 4 Levels and exchanged 40 Skill Points to Level Up!]

[The Skill: [Divine Dragon Goddess' Heroic Dual Sword Arts: Lv11/50 (Divine Evolved Skill)] has gained 4 Levels!]

[The Skill: [Hephaestus' Blacksmithing: Lv6/10] has gained 2 Levels and exchanged 20 Skill Points to Level Up!]

[The Skill: [Hephaestus' Smithing Hammer Techniques: Lv6/10] has gained 2 Levels and exchanged 20 Skill Points to Level Up!]

[The Skill: [Divine Forging Flame Spirit Furnace: Lv5/10] has gained 2 Levels and exchanged 20 Skill Points to Level Up!]

[The Skill: [Draconic Farm Spirit Protection: Lv10/30 (Evolved Skill)] has gained 4 Levels and exchanged 40 Skill Points to Level Up!]

I felt so much stronger, so many Skills Leveled Up, it was a bit insane.

Some of them only required Proficiency to Level up, while others, aside from proficiency, also quired additional Skill Points, which were exchanged automatically as they leveled up.

There's also the other kind which is the "classic" type of Skill, those that can't level up on their own and only do when you add the required Skill Points only.

Yeah that's how they are at the beginning, but as Skills get stronger, are fused, or new ones are learned, they also start to require Proficiency, meaning that to get stronger you have to put more effort and practice and use the skills continuously.

I've seen some people complain about it in BNLO's forums, but I suppose it's a nice way to incentivize Players to not spread themselves too thin regarding Skills.

Naturally, I didn't take such advice, seeing how many Skills I have...

Chapter 1188 Things Must Be Done

After seeing the exorbitant amount of level up notifications, I felt slightly dizzy, which summed with my exhaustion, was pretty incredible. However, I managed to notice yet another window popping up, this one was much larger... And important.

Ding!

[Congratulations! You and your Party and Allied Forces have completed the {Emergency World Quest}:
[Stop The Demon Invasion of the Craftsmanship Competition and Save as Many People as Possible!]

[You have fended off the invasion of the Demons and their allied Undead successfully with the least amount of casualties. All important figures managed to survive, and you've even managed to slay the dreadful Prince of Hell Focalor and the three other Demonic Dukes, each one having their Souls destroyed, they will be unable to be reborn in Hell.]

[There seem to be many clues that point at the Magician Guild being responsible for this tragedy, and the Kingdom of Luminous had been scarred forever with this traumatic incident, perhaps the worst and most destructive since many years ago, when they waged war against many barbarian tribes of the wild lands.]

[Although you defeated the menaces, closed the Undead Gates and Nether Gates, and managed to save as many as possible, the main enemy remains. And with the scars of a terrible terrorist attack, the Luminous Kingdom requires someone to bring them back hope.]

[The Queen and the King are exhausted, and after their child was almost kidnaped, their desire to retaliate is strong, but their mental strength has decreased considerably.]

[Please, in these harsh times, rally these people and show them that there is still hope, and that there are still others like you aiming to overcome these difficulties.]

[The Next World Quest will trigger once the Kingdom takes its decision.]

[Completion Rewards]: [3.000.000.000 EXP] [3.000.000.000 Gold] [Ki Reinforcing Elixir (S Grade)] x50 [Soul Reinforcing Elixir (S Grade)] x50 [Magic Circle Reinforcing Elixir (S Grade)] x50 [Greater Spirit Elixir (S Grade)] x3 [Random Skill Book (A Grade)] x3 [Divine Skill Evolution Ticket (SS Grade)] x1 [Divine Skill Fusion Ticket (SS Grade)] x1 [All Skill Slots +1 Ticket (SSS Grade)] x1 [Divine Gear Enhancement Scrolls (SS Grade)] x5 [Divine Potential Cubes (SS Grade)] x5 [Evil Demon Duke Themed Treasure Chest (SS Grade)] x1 [Evil Demon Prince Themed Treasure Chest] x1]

[Because you've reached Max Level, the EXP earned has been stored until your Level Cap increases!]

I didn't even know there could be Emergency World Quests out there, but it triggered upon what happened, well, happened...

The rewards are very generous though, and if it's a party quest, then everyone that participated got similar rewards, I believe.

With this, I could definitely gain a lot more strength, but would it be able to easily close the gap between me and someone at Level 450 who has gained tremendous powers?

I don't know...

Well, it'll have to do, even more because I plan to fight that mage, and probably the Demon king of Death back-to-back.

If the two are working together, I am well aware the Demon King of Death might use the opportunity when we're fighting Merlinus to appear or do something.

His Gate is weakening, so he might try to invade the entire place, or even my own place while we fight the evil magician.

And that's without mentioning all the demons they could unleash... We have to be careful.

For a battle of this tremendous caliber, we need to begin preparations right away.

And one of the most important ones is... evacuating everyone from here.

If we can manage to get almost every single citizen here, the magicians will immediately lose their greatest trump card, holding everyone hostage because their mass-destruction tool, the magician tower, no longer is in the middle of over a million people.

The question is how we can evacuate these people without them realizing beforehand and then trying to attack us.

Well, with this recent event, the people were forcefully evacuated, at least half of it.

While they're still returning...

Maybe we could take advantage of this scenario!

If I use all my spirits and the Domain I spread everywhere to sneakily evacuate everyone.

After all, the fight itself they provoked can be a good excuse, while the Kingdom continues to pretend they're oblivious.

Ugh, at the end, it still a gamble.

There's nothing stopping them from immediately bombarding the castle.

But it seems they're biding their time, most likely because they know they can easily win, huh?

After all, it's an alliance between three powerful factions.

The Magician Tower.

The Undead of the Demon King of Death.

And the Demons of the Demon King of the End.

Maybe four, if we include the Cultists of the Demon King of Miasma, which were always just part of the Magician Tower at the end.

Even when their leader, the man we fought back home, was actually discriminated, and hated the Magician Tower.

He thought he controlled the cult, but at the end, the man he hated the most was actually working for the cult already, perhaps as its creator, from the very beginning.

This is really... screwed.

Just how deep does Merlinus malice reaches?

It feels like the Demon King of Death is simply taking advantage of the situation though, while the Demons... Merlinus might have been making pacts with them for a long while.

The worst part is that, although we managed to stop their plans, they still were able to ruin the entire competition, and kill innocent people.

They're too good of a team truth be told.

The magicians bring all the resources needed, materials, souls, items, and ways to sneak into places, and more, they can be anywhere, and people will trust them.

The undead of the Demon King of Death provide with endless soldiers, and gates that can spontaneously appear anywhere as long as there's some previous set-up, easily setting everything into chaos.

And the Demons of the Demon King of the End are incredibly powerful, capable of stopping powerhouses and singlehandedly kill the strongest foes whenever the Undead aren't enough. They're also cunning and can manipulate others, take over bodies, and infiltrate.

It's... too much.

However, will the strength we've accumulated, and that we'll continue to do so.

We have to prevail.

Because if we don't...

We'll die.

Everyone will die.

There's... literally nothing else than to cling into hope.

Chapter 1189 Nobody Will Stop Him

Within the dark hall inside of the Magician Tower, Merlinus sat over his throne, his dark powers rising as he was in the middle of a large, demonic formation. The souls of demons moved within contained crystals, while the souls of many people constantly feed the ritual, making it stronger and to progress rapidly.

One of his eyes opened as he was within a deep meditation, trying to absorb all the malice within these demonic souls to gain the power he wanted. In front of him, a spectral being resembling a shadow materialized, quickly taking the form of a demon-like man with stitched body parts.

"Master Merlinus..."

"Speak."

"The three demons have been slain."

"I expected as much. So? How many died?"

"Less than two hundred."

"A measly number... but it'll do for now... I'll revive those demons so-"

"That is the problem, Master. The Demons have disappeared, we can no longer call them through the contracts. The contracts themselves have been nullified too."

"What?"

"I think... this is just a conjecture, but their souls must have been destroyed to the point they can no longer go back to hell."

"What do you mean their souls were destroyed? That's something not even I can do! Someone... killed the demons, forever?!"

"Yes, my lord."

"That's... but that shouldn't be possible, demons are... direct children of the Demon King of the End! Born of his flesh and blood! This is..."

"We suspect the main culprit to be the Yggdragon, no other living being could be able to do such a ridiculous thing... other than the Demon King's equal."

Merlinus smiled a bit, smirking.

"The Demon King's equal, huh? Hardly now! His legacy is broken into pieces, and the one carrying it is a Player from all things... Hah!" he tried to mock his opponent, yet despite his prowess, he couldn't help but admit something. "But she's growing... at an alarming pace. I fear our own attacks must have triggered such quick growth."

The System too, the primary aid of Players, its clearly playing sides here. The Gods, or whoever is wearing their empty husks, are probably supporting her too."

"So it means... we're fighting against the System and the Gods, Master?"

"Frank, one of my greatest creations, do you think that such a thing truly matters to your great father?"

"A-Ah, no, father..."

Merlinus eyes squinted.

"What about the prince? I imagine it still alive then? This entire dimension is isolated from the outside world, so my senses are dulled while I am in the process of this ritual."

"About that... The demon prince that was summoned to harvest souls... inexplicably died."

Silence.

Merlinus ritual didn't stop, but it seemed to slightly shake.

"Is that so..."

He seemed rather nicer to this being in front of him, compared to other allies that would sometimes say such things.

If they failed him he would just kill them.

But if they were all dead, well, there wasn't much he could do now.

"Tell me Frank, at the very least they were able to destroy a few of the city? How many souls did they harvest for me? Focalor is a powerful Prince... It took not only three Demon Dukes to summon him but several Souls and Demonic Treasures from my storage. It was supposed to complete the ritual for me without completely destroying everything."

"Well, the Yggdragon... and her allies, they killed him."

"Killed him? You mean...?!"

"Yes... Master. Focalor's soul was destroyed, his demon heart too, there was nothing left of the Demon Prince other than... ashes that faded away."

"Ppfff...!"

Merlinus suddenly lost composure, so much he ended vomiting blood out of bitterness.

Or well, more because the ritual was slightly affected, and it sent some backlash to him.

"Hahhh... Unexpected indeed. Focalor should have at least destroyed half the city! Right?!"

"No... Master, they stopped him before he could do anything. from what I remember seeing, he was acting very lazily and conceited, and that allowed them to strike him down."

"WHAT!"

Angrily barking, Merlinus hit the floor furiously.

"That useless demon! He didn't take it seriously?! And he was struck down right after birth? This is ridiculous!"

"Demon Princes are strong, but their Ranks seem to make them very... well, spoiled. Most of them are said to not obey their contractors, and that they tend to do as they please. Focalor in specific, was known as the laziest prince. Although his powers are very strong, they had flaws and they exploited them."

"Hah... HAHAHA!" Merlinus laughed. "Good, not bad at all for those bastards. I suppose they indeed intend to annoy me like the flies they are! but attacking again now... would be unwise. The Demons will certainly not take my contracts as easily anymore after learning I led four of them to their deaths, three dukes and one prince... They might even want retaliation against me!"

"Master, then..."

"But that doesn't matter!" Merlinus smiled. "I might have to do things without their help, but so what? Almost everything is already done. I will simply stop wasting my resources against them and let them be. After all, the more I create a false sense of security, the more they'll lower their guard."

"That's... not wrong."

"Once that happens, it'll be already too late."

The arch wizard smiled, glancing at the enormous formation around him, which extended for several hundreds of meters.

Slowly, his soul was being refined by this malicious demonic and cursed energies, miasma and nether were also included.

Steadily, his metamorphosis continued.

"I'll reach highs that no man has ever reached before!" he said. "I shall ascend into a Demon King! The first human to do so! And once that happens, I shall reign supreme in this world infested with nothing but insects that don't know their place! I'm done with everything, I'm so tired of humans! It'll be a new era, one for myself, and only for me!

I will no longer serve anybody; I will no longer dedicate myself to serve a King! I'll become the King of all Evil!"

The darkness gathered in his hands, distorting, and destroying space itself, as void poured like black water from the cracks.

"And once that happens, not even Gods, or the Demon Kings, will stop me."

Chapter 1190 Craftsmanship Contest Places

(Planta's POV)

"Camilla! Are you alright? Welcome back!"

As we reached the castle, the King greeted us, or well, his wife, hugging her tightly. A lot happened, but I'm glad we're back on the castle, the King is happy his wife's fine, so it's all good.

"Hi, everything went... well, I suppose," I sighed. "Your majesty, do you feel alright? What about your boy?"

"Our boy is well, he immediately fell asleep after we got back in the castle," said the King. "I'm sure he'll be happy you're back, Camilla."

"Me too," Camilla sighed in relief. "Anyways, a lot happened... But we won. There are... casualties too, but we managed to let most survive."

"That's good. People were lost, I am well aware... But at the very least, many survived too." nodded the King. "Everyone, thank you for everything. Shall we decide the winner of the competition now? Before we go to sleep. We're exhausted."

"Of course your majesty," I nodded. "But..."

"I know, Planta. We must plan, strategize... However, we're too tired, how about tomorrow?" the King asked.

"Yes... it's fine, I completely understand," I nodded.

I suppose we can talk about everything tomorrow and start the plans tomorrow too.

At least a night... Everyone needs a night to rest.

Me too, honestly, I need to log out already.

And then, as we all gathered together.

"The winner of the Craftsmanship Competition is..." The King said.

Everyone suddenly became nervous, and they glared at me.

Yeah, there was a huge possibility I would win, I won all first places for each test.

But I think that doesn't affect whom the King and the Queen find the winner is.

Though, even I am expecting it...

Though, it would be a bit excessive, right?

To win again... It would be a bit boring.

I wish someone else won-

"Horshen!"

Oh?!

I didn't win!

"W-Wha...?! M-Me?!" Horshen gasped, pointing his finger at myself. "Y-Your majesty, did you read that wrong? It couldn't possibly be me! All my works... they never truly impressed you, right? It must have been Planta, she won all the time!"

"The winner of the competition is not decided by the places of previous participants on each test," said the King. "Right, my queen?"

"Indeed, while the places for each test are mostly decided on quality and potential, you showed us, Horshen, how much talent and creativity you possess as a normal craftsman," said the Queen. "Your magic abilities, even your fire spirit magic, are all self-taught, right? You are very talented, but not in the way Planta is.

We recognize Planta as someone amazing, but there's no denying that her abilities mostly derive from inheritances. Meanwhile, you exuded true wisdom and experience like nobody else."

"Erdragon too, had great wisdom and experience, but you surpassed him by an hair with your amazing creativity. The last product you created is also what saved our lives, protecting us from the attackers." The King nodded.

"T-This is... Planta, you're ok with this?!" Horshen asked me. "Don't you feel frustrated? I mean..."

He looked a bit sorry.

"Nah, I'm not really frustrated." I smiled. "You earned it, Horshen! They're not wrong about my abilities. I will polish them over the years to come, but without a doubt, I recognize you as someone superior to me regarding craftsmanship, perhaps even better than Ambil over here!"

"Hey!" Ambil groaned, yet he crossed his arms. "I mean... well, he's good, yeah."

"But..." Horshen fell to his knees, he still wasn't believing it. "This is... I seriously thought that..."

"Horshen, you bastard! Just accept the damn prize!"

Suddenly, Goldanaba kicked his butt.

"Accept it already and stop sobbing!" she groaned. "You're insulting everyone here if you start acting like that!"

"D-Dammit! Let me have my damn moment, you Brownie brat!" Horshen complained, sighing. "Well, alright! I take the first prize! All of you suckers can kiss my ass! HAHAAAA!"

Yeah, that's better.

Feel proud and act cocky, you earned it.

"The prize is a large quantity of money, worth five billion gold," said the Queen. "Aside from that, you'll receive a large storage full of high-quality materials. And of course, a free house in our kingdom, with your own studio and smithy."

"Oooh! R-Really?! Can I move in here then?" Horshen wondered.

"Of course! We would be happy to have you!" the King nodded.

I see, so that's the strategy! They are also going to recruit him into the city, hah.

"I don't think I can stay here all the time, but I'll travel here and stay for at least a week in intervals," he said. "If you ever got any jobs for me, feel free to contact me, your majesties!"

"Of course! We shall!" the two nodded. "Now, as the other winners..."

They announced the overall rankings after all.

And they were like this:

1st Place, Horshen.

2nd Place, Erdragon.

3rd Place, Planta.

4th Place, Goldanaba.

5th Place, Melisa.

6th Place, Erika.

7th Place, BlackEye.

"You're all amazing on your own, so please don't feel discouraged if your places were a bit lower," said the Queen. "All of you will also be given special rewards for each Place. And we'll also sponsor you similarly to Horshen. With discounts and such."

A soldier gave me the rewards in the form of a huge bag of stuff.

Ding!

[Congratulations! You've placed third place on the {Luminous Kingdom's International Craftsmanship Competition}!]

[You have received the following rewards for your place]: [+2.000.000.000 Gold] [High Quality Common Crafting Materials Bag (S Grade)] x10 [Luminous Kingdom's International Craftsmanship Competition Third Place Trophy (B Grade)] [VIP Craftsman Pass (A Grade)] x1 [Luminous Kingdom's House 50% OFF coupon (S Grade)] x1 [Honorary Citizenship and Noble Certificate (A Grade)] x1 [One Favor from the King and the Queen] x1]

"Woah, these are quite the rewards... Not what I expected, but it's all a welcome surprise!"

With this we could even buy a fancy house in the noble district right by the side of the castle to live on, instead of bothering Ambil all the time at his smithy.

Also an honorary citizenship and noble certificate! This is also very huge! And even a favor from them, I don't know what that can do, but I'm sure it'll be good, right?