

Brand New 1261

Chapter 1261 Erebus' Power

Titania reinforced the magic shield using the powers of Planta's Skill, which came convenient even when she wasn't present in Arcadia at all!

Aside from that, Erebus used his mighty miasmic tentacles to clean the "floor" above the magic shield rapidly, destroying the undead by the dozens.

The hundreds of undead were quickly reduced to a handful constantly coming out to be devoured by Erebus miasmic clouds.

However, the problem continued and seemed never-ending.

"Even if I leave my cloud there to automatically kill them, they still will eventually manage to get past it!" said Erebus. "How can I deal with this? Should I try to close the gate forcefully?"

He asked that to Titania, which he knew she could hear him. Erebus, the Demon King of Miasma had done something as amazing as creating miasmic spirits and even distorting space and time to open the first portal to Earth.

Something like closing a gate forcefully wasn't outside of his capabilities, although he didn't know if it would work anymore within his sealed new form as a fairy.

Sealed though, might still not fit his current situation, as he wasn't exactly sealed, but died and was reborn as a fairy.

"No! I am fairly sure you aren't as strong as before, Demon King!" said Titania. "We must find a different way! Can't you enter the portal?"

"What? But what will happen outside of it? The undead?" wondered Erebus.

"I can handle them with my troops!" said Titania. "But to make these gates close, you must enter them and slay the boss monster inside. This is how the Demon King of Death is operating."

"The Demon King of Death, huh?" Erebus wondered. "So he's my successor is the Death King... I guess this is why there's so many Undead everywhere. He's trying too hard to destroy Elayne and the forest. He should do like me and amass an immense and destructive force, infiltrate inside and destroy everything from the inside out... he's desperate and lacks patience."

"Do you know him?" Titania wondered, too curious to not ask.

"I know who he is, but I have never talked with him... technically, he belongs to the same origin as me, we are all fragments of the first God of Chaos," said Erebus. "He's technically my brother."

"What?! I had no idea..." said Titania, gasping.

"It doesn't matter either way..." Erebus sighed. "All of us are far too different to really see one another as brothers. We lived different lives, and lived in different eras too... Nonetheless, I'll do what you said, Titania. However, if this is a trap to leave me inside and die then... I'll accept it, I suppose. My life is in your hands."

"E-Eh? Ah..."

Titania was surprised, she could swear she had imagined he would say "you'll pay for it with your life" or something terrifying like that.

However, he fully trusted her, and even accepted if this was a trap to punish him, he felt genuinely guilty, and if dying again would make him amend for his sins, he would gladly die again, it seemed.

"Yes, don't worry, I'm saying the truth!" said Titania. "You must defeat the boss inside and then run out of the gate once he's dead before the entire mini dungeon is destroyed!"

"Okay, I understand," nodded Erebus.

The fairy glanced at the gate and rushed inside, leaving behind a large and thick layer of black miasma clouds to devour any undead that were to come out for a few minutes.

FLASH!

As he passed through the gate, he found himself within a cold and ancient castle in ruins. Covered with corpses everywhere, bones and rotten bodies, zombies and skeletons.

They were hundreds, constantly trying to rush through the gate right behind him!

"GRAAAHHH!"

"GRUOOHH..."

"SHAAAHH!"

Erebus nodded as he analyzed his surroundings and scanned the place.

"You sure are annoying, stop it."

He sighed as he noticed dozens of bone beasts and specters trying to bite and drain his soul, but were being unable.

His miasma crystalized around his body, forming a cocoon to protect himself, and whenever they tried to suck away his soul, they were simply blocked.

"You're trying to eat my soul?" Erebus glared at the specters with an expressionless face, then smiled lightly. "Fine, have it your way."

Then he opened the way towards his soul out of nowhere, the hundreds of specters flocked around him like a swarm, trying to grab and tear it to shreds and eat it!

However...

"GRYYYYAAAHHH!"

One of them screamed, followed by countless more, a mere touch or bite into Erebus soul made them tremble in utter agony, suddenly being consumed by miasma and turning into black clouds which Erebus ate.

"I have a Miasmatic Soul, which is also Divine," said Erebus. "You will never be able to eat it before it eats you first."

Suddenly, every specter within the vicinity vanished, exploding into black smoke and being eaten by the fairy boy.

The other bone monsters glared in disbelief, standing in silence without even knowing what even to say or do...

"Huh, it seems you know your place now," Erebus said. "Would you join me? I'm also a Demon King, a generous one. Become my army and I will not destroy you and eat your souls. What do you prefer? Dying or continuing to exist, even stronger than before?"

The undead weren't dumb, they might be beasts driven by instincts, but they also obeyed another demon king and had a level of intelligence after existing for hundreds of years in the underworld.

Half of them quickly lowered their heads to him, the smartest bunch!

Meanwhile, the other half roared, too loyal to their Demon King to join another, they attacked him with tooth, nail, and breath.

"Fine, have it your way."

Erebus spun in midair with his cocoon, tearing to shreds all the bone undead that attacked him within mere seconds, resembling a Bey blade spinning around.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

As the Undead died, Erebus waved his hand, miasma possessed the ones that lowered their heads, transforming them into stronger, Miasmic Undead.

"Now you're under my rule, lead me to the boss of this gate. Quickly."

"ROOAARR!"

A giant Undead Wyvern roared, rushing forward and leading him through the ancient and ruined castle.

Erebus could sense a powerful presence in the distance.

Chapter 1262 The Warriors At The Frontlines

CLASH!

BOOOM!

CRASH!

RUMBLE!

The sound of war echoed across the green plains surrounding the Forest of Beginnings, Undead by the hundred clashed against the united races of the forest together.

The Undead held the advantage in sheer numbers, being only a bit over seven hundred after many of them perished in the first clash, more of them were being endlessly replenished from the gates in the back.

Meanwhile, the other army, coming from the forest, although much less in number, were very powerful on their own.

Benefiting from Titania's buffs, the Domain's buffs, the Spirits that help them, and their amazing equipment and the growth they had achieved so far thanks to Planta, they were definitely not as weak as they once were.

Although no warriors had died yet thanks to their buffs and also of their rapid and active healers, there were many spirits that were taking the blunt of the attacks and the charge, dying in masse.

Spirits usually wouldn't die, as they would simply dissipate and turn into energy for the world... however, when fighting against undead, they would be consumed and have their small spiritual souls shattered making them agonizing deaths.

This too, made the army of united tribes upset, seeing the spirits sacrificing themselves so much for their wellbeing made them feel pathetic!

If they couldn't afford casualties and feared to die so much, could they even call themselves guardians of the forest?

In these things, it was eventual that casualties would happen!

Acorn, Nieve, and Florie knew this very well.

Florie wished no casualties would continue, but seeing the spirits die in masse wasn't the way either.

"Spirits! Enough! Stop dying so much, cooperate instead of charging towards your deaths!" she declared. "Everyone! This battle is perhaps the hardest we've fought! But we cannot falter!

We must triumph! Unless the gates are destroyed, the undead will never stop coming! Our champions will go clear them! Even if we die, we must persevere and buy them time! Yggdrasil is strong! She will heal us, and those that die, will be embraced by her!

Do not fear death! It is simply another stage of existence! As long as she is here, the undead will not be able to steal your souls!"

She wasn't talking nonsense, Yggdrasil had already developed the capacity of absorbing souls somehow, something that only Titania and Florie had realized, and that not even Planta knew about yet.

The squirrel-kin, Myconid, Gnomes, Brownies, and Fairies glanced at the fairy roaring, her words inspired their hearts as her powerful magic enhanced their stats even further.

The Fairy Princess was fighting right by their side!

"OOOOHHH!"

They roared, rushing forward. The Undead roared back like monstrous beasts, their claws and dark magic against the united tribes spirit weapons and magic.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

Explosions and clashes echoed everywhere, Myconid used their smaller and heavier bodies to tank blows while the fairies' fired arrows and magic from afar or piloted huge golems to fight. The squirrel-kin also fired arrows, used magic, and also wielded spears.

The gnomes and brownies alongside the mushroom brigade were in the frontlines the most though their small yet heavier bodies and great strength allowed them to fight more competently than squirrels and fairies when it came to the physical spectrum.

However, among the squirrel-kin there was a single mighty warrior, an alchemist who had awakened his Divine Bloodline, and although he had tried doing the same with the rest, it seemed impossible.

He alone had awakened it, making him a "chosen one" among his tribe, becoming the Successor of Ratatoskr, Acorn.

"I'll break through!"

He quickly drank a potion, activating and enhancing his divine bloodline and then activating the skills that went with it.

"{Divine Beast Transformation}!"

RUMBLE!

His body instantly exploded into divine light as he transformed into a gigantic and monstrous squirrel of over thirty meters of height.

"RAAAHHH!"

With a mighty and beastly roar, Acorn tore apart the undead and crushed them beneath his foot one after another. Even the giants among the undead weren't enough to go against him, dying on the spot.

He rushed forward, inspiring many to follow his trail, they were breaking into the deepest areas of the undead army, reaching the gates behind, protected by the generals!

The Generals, who had been mostly sitting idly and observing patiently how everything went by panicked after seeing Gaston dying and then even more when the army fighting their Undead suddenly grew closer to them within mere minutes!

"They're getting closer?!" panicked Elios, unsheathing his blades. "Dammit, useless undead, stop them!"

He controlled the gate he had opened as more and more undead poured from it, rushing against Acorn, and beginning to rapidly fuse by Elios' commands

"{Necromancy Magic}: {Undead Fusion}!"

Using the skills he borrowed from the faction powerup, Elios combined hundreds of undead together into a massive chimeric monstrosity of over a hundred meters of height.

"GRAAARRRRGGGHHH!"

The monstrosity charged forward, making the entire world around it tremble! The other generals, mostly members of their guilds that joined and followed them anywhere, roared in unison and celebrated their guild master's amazing ability.

"Hahahahhh... Hahhh..." Elios fell to his knees, exhausted. "Damn that drained all my Mana and Satiation... I can only do it once a day too, but it's sure amazingly strong! Hahaha!"

The limit was also only a hundred undead could be merged at once, and it drained all his Satiation and Mana and even half of his health, which was now going won due to his Satiation hitting zero.

However, the monstrosity he made was akin to a Raid Boss-level threat!

The chimera moved and quickly reached Acorn and the rest of the army charging behind him, Acorn widened his eyes as he glanced the monster approach.

"Nieve, let's take it down together!"

"Very well."

Nieve, who had been freezing a side of the battlefield all on her own, rushed into battle, leaving behind a frozen landscape as she flew.

Florie glanced at her big sister in awe, she had grown so powerful that she was unrecognizable anymore.

"Big sis has grown so amazingly strong... even stronger than before!" she said. "Just how many challenges has she faced by the side of Lady Planta?"

She thought she could finally catch up to her, but she was far from it.

"I'll do my best too!"

Chapter 1263: The Unparalleled King

Erebus rushed across the abandoned ruined castle within the netherworld gate, quickly reaching the end, led by his new miasmic undead army, they reached the throne room.

In there, a huge skeleton was awaiting them, clad on black armor and holding a gigantic, blazing hammer, the skeleton seemed to be huge, of over fifteen meters of height.

Yet another giant, one of the many that serve the Demon King of Death, and who served him even when he was alive and known as the King of the Kingdom of Sorrow.

The Skeleton, whose eyes were made into red jewels, glared at the small fairy leading black colored bone beasts with disbelief.

"Just what the hell is going on?!"

He roared in disbelief asking the question, his voice sounded like some unruly old bandit or a Viking, definitely not a formal man, or someone with manners.

"..."

Erebus only glared at him.

"You just stole my damn undead?! And came all the way here to just kill me! Damn girl... or boy? You're insane."

"Join me or die," Erebus said. "I'm the Demon King of Miasma. The predecessor of your master."

"Hah! Prove it!"

The giant skeleton stood up, swinging his massive hammer against Erebus.

BAAAM!

The hammer hit the floor, shattering and releasing shockwaves of dark mana everywhere, however, Erebus managed to evade and escape the attack, reaching the skies with his very useful wings.

"I'm getting more used to this body, it's really helpful to fly however I please."

"You evaded that?! Let's see if you can evade this one!"

The giant charged forward, swinging his hammer against Erebus repeatedly, giant shockwaves of phantasmal flames and darkness reaching Erebus with each blow.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Explosions of such shockwaves engulfed him completely, only to be easily blocked by the crystalline cocoon covering his body.

CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

"Why can't I damage you?!"

"Because I am the Demon King of Miasma, fool."

While talking with his cute girlish face, Erebus swung his hand forward, swinging the massive bone blade he stole from Gaston and slicing through the hammer coming down at him.

SLAAASH!

"Ah?!"

The giant stepped back in disbelief as not only his hammer was split apart, but he lost his two arms instantly!

"Can't you see who I truly am with those jeweled eyes of yours?"

Erebus glared at the giant skeleton, who gave another step back as he sensed the small fairy's tremendous, overwhelming miasmic aura.

Like miasma, his aura wasn't ethereal but liquid and sludge-like, slimy, it spread around and constantly contaminated his surroundings.

"I-I can't believe it...! You're truly...!"

The giant suddenly fell to his knees, in disbelief and awe.

"The Demon King of Miasma!"

"Of course I am. I told you so... What is your name?"

"I am... Hertfeltann, Unruly Bandit of the Sorrow Mountains... I was once defeated by my King, and then swore my loyalty to him, or either I would have died."

"How funny... so now you'll either die against me following the promise you made because you wouldn't die, or well... you break such promise and join me."

"That's... the King of Death is more powerful than you, and you died, didn't you?! How are you... a fairy now?!"

"A long story... but I am now allied with the forces of Yggdrasil, she has given me new life after all... I promised her I would do good now, to compensate for all the bad. Your King is doing atrocities, do you truly want to follow him? Was he a just king before?"

"He was... yes, he was good," sighed Hertfeltann. "But after the betrayal of the Kingdom Alliance and the Cult of Yggdrasil's schemes, he and his entire family died. After dying, he awakened his true powers as a Demon King, tainted by death, he embodies such an element."

"And since then, what happened?" asked Erebus.

"He awoke and destroyed everything, only to be slain again later by a Hero wielding a Holy Sword," said the giant. "That is how it always goes with Demon Kings, right? A Hero with a Holy Sword will always come to slay them, guided by the gods themselves."

"Hmm..." Erebus sighed, recalling the valiant hero that once stood against him in the past, Luminous.

He could not kill him, but he was defeated and sealed, while Luminous gave his life to finally win, despite everything, Erebus would have never thought that such a sacrifice would stop him.

Then later on, another "hero" appeared, one carrying the will and even the same presence as his mother... despite his many attempts, he ultimately lost, and Planta defeated him.

Unlike Luminous, she had the power to completely destroy his soul and end him for good, but she chose to forgive after learning of his past, and to give him a second chance.

"Heroes... are indeed a complicated matter," sighed Erebus. "I had been slain twice by them, never have I won against one of them, they always have the last laugh."

"You remember such times, Demon King of Miasma?" wondered the giant.

"Yes..." sighed Erebus. "This time... it'll be different, I will become a Hero, to make up for all the things I've done as a Demon King. So? Will you follow me? My master, Planta... will surely forgive your king too, maybe even given him a second chance like me... but that'll depend on if we can defeat him first. So?

Will you join me, live, and see that day with your eyes, or die right now? I know how you Undead work, I won't let your soul return, as I shall eat it."

"Guh... You don't leave me much of an option..." the giant sighed. "I yield... and I swear loyalty to you... Demon King of Miasma."

Erebus smiled like a mischievous little gremlin.

"Good."

He touched the skeleton's head, imbuing Miasma into his body, and evolving him into an even stronger, dark form.

"Now rise, my new Knight," he said. "I shall now do as I didn't before and create my own army."

Erebus always worked on his own, or by using monsters he controlled, but this time, he was going to raise an actual army.

And become the first Demon King to be a Hero.

"Luminous..." he sighed. "Your sacrifice was not in vain; you have truly changed my heart."

Although Planta was also the reason he became like this, he couldn't deny that Luminous had influenced him greatly.

Chapter 1264: Florie's Power

Acorn and Nieve led an army of the people of the forest, boosted through the buffs of their Queen Titania and their Princess Florie, they gained enough power to resist the undead.

However, knowing full well that casualties couldn't be completely avoided, and if they stayed defending, this war would never end, they decided to charge forward, aiming for the Generals hidden behind the Undead.

Acorn and Nieve decided to charge in the front, using their tremendous power, they became the pivoting forces on their attack against the Undead.

The Undead, as strong as they were, couldn't defeat them no matter how hard they tried, and their generals too noticed this!

Elios, one of the members of the Knight Alliance that had come for revenge against Elayne and the rest of her guild after being utterly destroyed on his attempt at conquering the forest of beginnings, unleashed his new magic.

"{Necromancy Magic}: {Undead Fusion}!"

Using the skills he borrowed from the faction powerup, he combined hundreds of undead together into a massive chimeric monstrosity of over a hundred meters of height.

"GRAAARRRGGGHHH!"

The chimera moved and quickly reached Acorn and the rest of the army charging behind him, Acorn widened his eyes as he glanced the monster approach. Its presence tremendously strong, equal to a monster beyond Level 300!

He knew he couldn't easily take it down on his own, and if he could try, he would take too much time, which would open the way for the undead to kill the rest of the army easily.

"Nieve, let's take it down together!"

"Very well."

Nieve, who had been freezing a side of the battlefield all on her own, rushed into battle, leaving behind a frozen landscape as she flew. The cold turned into flowers, exploding into countless of needles that killed many undead nearby.

"There she goes..."

Florie glanced at her big sister in awe, she had grown so powerful that she was unrecognizable anymore. Although Nieve was always a strong magic knight and a bodyguard of the queen, with her rapier techniques close to none, she had somehow managed to go beyond that.

"Big sis has grown so amazingly strong... even stronger than before!" she said. "Just how many challenges has she faced by the side of Lady Planta?"

She thought she could finally catch up to her, but she was far from it. Nieve had both mastered magic and rapier techniques to a whole new level, even more when the spirit magic was added into the mix, making her an incredibly formidable fighter.

However, Florie couldn't just concentrate on what she lacked and envy her sister for having become so strong. Nieve had been fighting for her and to protect her... she simply had to do her best with what she had.

"I'll do my best too!"

She spread out her arms and released waves of pink and white light, which healed the heavily wounded in the army, giving them a second chance to fight or survive.

"Florie, keep healing and buffing everyone! Drink the Mana Potions when needed! I'll fight that thing, so please stay alive!" Nieve said from afar.

"Okay big sis! Leave it to me!" Florie nodded.

Aside from her ability to heal and buff, there were other things she could do, or well, that she wanted to try doing.

"{Divine Fairy Princess Blessing}!"

She pointed her hands at the distance Undead that were coming towards the army. While floating in midair, she was able to harness her divine powers and release them over a wide area.

And like this, she released them and aimed not at her troops, but at the Undead themselves!

"Back then, I was able to use this Blessing to heal the forest from the miasma that the Demon King of Miasma spread everywhere!" she thought. "If its truly capable of bringing life, then it can heal anything... alive. But what happens when it is something already dead?"

Florie had an idea, but she had to test it first to see if it could work!

FLAAASH!

Her pink and golden blessings reached a large horde of dozens of Skeleton Beasts, covering them with glistening divine light of life and nature, usually harmless to almost anybody.

Yet...

"Gryyaaaeerrgh!"

"Gruooogghh?!"

"Uuaaggghh!"

The Undead started screaming in agony as plants and life began popping out of their bones, consuming them from the inside out! Insects, maggots, rats, plants, flowers, everything popped out of their bones.

Within mere seconds, over fifty undead died before her simple Divine Blessing. Florie was left speechless, even more all the soldiers nearby.

"L-Lady Florie had such power?!"

"Incredible!"

"She is truly our princess!"

The fairies in specific instantly began celebrating their victory, Florie was simply too amazing in this moment, praising what she did with amazing delight!

"A-Ah, I had no idea I could do such a thing..." she muttered. "And it's so lethal? Then...!"

She furrowed her eyebrows, drinking a Mana Potion and sighing in relief as she patted her belly, before grabbing her pink-colored wand with a heart shape on top and pointed it at the distance.

"This staff is something Lady Planta created for me; it amplifies the range of my Divine Blessings and how I can shape their form in exchange for more Mana..." she muttered. "Now let's see..."

She imagined her Blessings taking the shape of pink and gold beams, and formed a huge, pink colored magic circle with her wand.

And then, using what she saw before, she decided to create her own Arts.

"{Divine Fairy Princess Blessing Arts}: {Love Beam}!"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Dozens of enormous beams of pink light were fired, with the shape of huge hearts, they landed over the undead army, reaching over a hundred Undead with each attack!

Their bodies simply imploded from the inside out, covered to the brim with nature and small animals popping out of their rotten bodies and bones.

As for the specters and ghosts, their phantasmal bodies were instantly purified and exorcised!

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

"It's working!" she said. "It's working!"

As she glanced at her sister and Acorn clash against the chimera, she quickly covered their backs and continued fighting.

The "endless" Undead army wasn't going to be that never-ending for too long...

Chapter 1265: Acorn's Crazy Idea

"{Necromancy Magic}: {Undead Fusion}!"

Using the skills he borrowed from the faction powerup, Elios combined hundreds of undead together into a massive chimeric monstrosity of over a hundred meters of height.

"GRAAARRRGGGHHH!"

The monstrosity charged forward, making the entire world around it tremble! The other generals, mostly members of their guilds that joined and followed them anywhere, roared in unison and celebrated their guild master's amazing ability.

"Hahahahhh... Hahhh..." Elios fell to his knees, exhausted. "Damn that drained all my Mana and Satiation... I can only do it once a day too, but it's sure amazingly strong! Hahaha!"

He smiled as he noticed the giant squirrel, Acorn, and the ice fairy Nieve rushing towards his creation. He smiled cockily, thinking it was simply impossible for them to defeat it.

"Try as hard as you want, you're not going to beat it!"

As he sat down and saw the action happening, his eyes widened as he saw a massive pink colored heart crashing down from above.

"Huh?"

BOOOM!

The heart blasted through his entire body; his undead powers started to work against him as they began to be consumed by divine light.

"W-What the hell is this- UUUAAAGGGH!"

He saw the other guild members of his guild who had become Undead Generals were also being burned by this glistening pink light.

More and more hearts kept falling from the sky, exploding over their faces. He saw his white, pale skin beginning to grow plants and worms and bugs coming out.

It was utterly horrifying!

"FUUUCK!"

Before he could scream anymore, he and most of his guild members died, consumed by life itself!

"No... not again..."

His eyes dried out and flowers popped out of them, and then he disappeared into particles of light alongside the other Players.

"Woah, Florie got super strong, Nieve!"

Acorn wrestled against the giant Undead Chimera with his massive claws, holding it back as much as he could, but he couldn't help but notice Florie's amazing display of might.

"I saw that, yeah!" Nieve's usually stiff face changed smiling proudly for her sister. "I've always knew she's amazing... However, right now, we can't distract ourselves, Acorn!"

"I know!" Acorn nodded. "{Divine Beast Claws}!"

Acorn imbued divine power into his squirrel claws, making them grow enormous, and piercing and slashing through the bony exterior of the chimeric undead.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

Crack, crack...!

Countless cracks spread through the undead chimera's bony armor, however, it wasn't enough to destroy it due to its tremendous density as a result of fusing many undead monsters together.

"GRAAARRRGH!"

The undead chimera roared, opening its four heads and releasing a phantasmal breath covering Acorn's entire face!

BOOOM!

"Uuaagh!"

Acorn screamed in pain as he was being burned by phantom flames, which hurt the most in the soul! Nieve appeared above him, covering him with a cold wind to turn off the flames, before she swung her rapier vertically and horizontally.

"{Spiritual Frost Rapier Arts}: {Divine Frozen Garden}!"

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

"GRAAAHHH!"

The Undead screamed in agony as the illusion of a beautiful garden of frozen flowers appeared, alongside countless piercing and slicing blows.

Its bony armor couldn't resist anymore, beginning to rapidly shatter into pieces!

Crack, crack...!

CRASH!

As the Undead's bony armor shattered, Acorn opened his jaws even as he was burned, releasing a breath attack of his own!

"{Divine Beast Breath}!"

TRUUUM!

A beam of pure white divine light hit the monster's weaker interior, piercing through its chest and then its heads!

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

"GRYYAAGGH!"

The monstrosity screamed in agony as it fell into the floor into pieces, only for its bones and rotten flesh to get back together, combined with the many specters within it too!

"GRRRHHHH...!"

The vengeful monstrosity made out of a hundred different undead wasn't going to die so easily, it crawled and struggled to exist, full of the resentment and frustration of its lost souls!

Its body transformed as rotten flesh, bones, and spectral phantom energies combined into endless arms, tentacles, tails, and necks with large bony jaws, attacking Acorn constantly, covering his body with wounds.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"Uuaarrgh!"

The giant squirrel was pushed back with extreme force, falling into his heat into the grasslands and then rolling down the hill, crushing the undead in his path.

BAAAM!

"Acorn!"

Nieve ran to help him, taking out a potion and throwing it at him, the potion covered his body, a powerful elixir made using Elayne's sap.

SPLASH!

"A-Ah!"

Acorn regained consciousness, only to see Nieve being captured by countless bony claws!

"Uughh!"

"NIEVE!"

The divine squirrel quickly stood back up, opening his inventory and firing several bombs with his large hands.

"I have not given up my main fighting method! Take this! Bomb Rain!"

It wasn't even a technique but simply throwing dozens of bombs using his enormous arms and hands, it was as if he launched huge projectiles against the undead monstrosity!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Explosions of fire, winds, ice, thunder, light, darkness, and many other elements engulfed the chimeric undead, tearing apart its body.

"SHYAAAHHH!"

However, it screamed in both agony and frustration, shredding its own physical form as a massive specter made of black and blue phantom flames surged!

It resembled a spectral reaper with a furious skeleton head with three faces, and six arms, holding a huge black scythe blade of phantasmal flames.

"GROOOHHH!"

With a phantasmal scream, it swung its scythe against Nieve and Acorn, releasing a massive wave of soul-devouring phantom flames.

"Nieve!"

"Acorn!"

Acorn grabbed Nieve and the two combined their powers. Acorn's divine power infused into Nieve, as the fairy quickly formed a massive wall of ice!

"{Ice Spirit Magic}: {Divine Frost Wall}!"

BOOOM!

The endless flames reached the enormous wall, making the entire battlefield tremble with tremendous power, flames spreading everywhere as the wall quickly started to melt.

"RAAAHHH!"

The spectral monstrosity continued unleashing the same attack, rapidly beginning to wear down the walls as its entire body started growing larger.

"Why is it growing larger?!" Nieve wondered.

"I-I think it's absorbing the souls of the other undead that had been defeated to boost its growth!" Acorn said. "W-Wait a second... that's it! I have a crazy idea... Nieve, please freeze my soul!"

"Wait what?!"

Chapter 1266: Acorn's New Form?

The icy wall Nieve erected using Acorn's divine power was strong enough to resist the phantasmal flames, but it was already melting down at a rapid pace!

"RAAAHHH!"

The spectral monstrosity continued unleashing the same attack, rapidly beginning to wear down the walls as its entire body started growing larger.

There were small phantasmal things constantly flowing towards him from every place in the battlefield, making its entire body inflate like a balloon.

"Why is it growing larger?!" Nieve wondered, noticing it right away as she tried to keep the wall stable and strong. "This doesn't make any sense... Are Undead Chimeras this strong?"

Acorn's eyes widened, immediately realizing what was happening after noticing the obvious things.

"I-I think it's absorbing the souls of the other undead that had been defeated to boost its growth!" Acorn said. "W-Wait a second... that's it! I have a crazy idea... Nieve, please freeze my soul!"

"Wait what?!"

And right out of nowhere Acorn asked for a ridiculous thing!

"If you can freeze my soul then it can resist the phantasmal flames...!" said Acorn. "And if it tries to devour my soul, then it'll have its own soul frozen!"

"That's too reckless Acorn!" said Nieve. "We have to think on another solution... Maybe if Florie can help..."

"She's busy dealing with hundreds of Undead on her own!" said Acorn.

"What about Johanna?" Nieve wondered. "That bratty druid, where did she even go to?"

"Ah! You're right, I haven't seen her anywhere!" Acorn said. "Where could she have even gone to?"

BAAAM!

As they wondered about the unruly young Druid, a sudden tremor echoed behind them, they glance and noticed a young woman with giant bear arms and cheetah legs crushing the head of a bone wyvern.

"And that'll teach you some good freaking manners you bastard!" she roared. "Now where the hell are- Ah! There you are! The squirrel and that annoying fairy!"

"Talking about the devil..." Acorn smiled lightly. "With her help it might be possible for my plan to work better!"

"A-Are you sure you want me to freeze your soul? Won't you... die?" Nieve asked.

"No, my soul has already become divine," said Acorn. "Or well, as long as I keep my divine beast form, even my soul gains divine power. It'll simply change its form and I might feel really cold... but trust me!"

"Hey! What's going on? Your wall is about to burst into hot water!" said Johanna, rushing towards them as she glanced at the melting wall.

"There's a huge specter behind constantly growing bigger!" said Acorn. "Its flames burn souls, so don't touch them, Johanna!"

"I see... what's the plan then?" Johanna asked. "I owe a lot to Planta so I need to help out as much as I can, so I don't feel guilty later..."

"Then you and Nieve will hide behind me while I charge against the monster," said Acorn. "Once it finally gets me and begins trembling in cold, you beat him!"

"T-That's it?! What a terrible man!" Johanna said.

"It's actually more complicated than you think but we explain it to you like that, so your little brain understands her role," said Nieve.

"Little brain?!" Johanna groaned angrily. "What the hell! You're the only one with a little brain here small fairy!"

"Hmph, I doubt it..." Nieve said.

"Come on you two, don't fight over nothing!" Acorn said. "Nieve, hurry! The wall's going to burst!"

"Ok!"

Nieve touched Acorn's huge body and then imbued her Spiritual Ice Powers deep inside of his soul. If she aimed at his body he might freeze... and die, so she did her best to not touch that.

"Wooaaah! My soul is really- Aaaggh!"

Acorn screamed as his entire body overflowed with frost spirit energy, suddenly beginning to change appearance out of nowhere! His fur became white, he gained three horns made out of ice, and his claws gained an icy exterior, he also became bulkier and more round for some reason.

FLAAASH!

"I transformed?!"

His aura of frost spread out everywhere, flowing with divine power! Acorn never felt this strong before. He quickly realized this was a hidden power he had no idea of.

Ding!

[You have successfully absorbed the Spiritual Element of Frost into your Divine Beast Soul, temporarily transforming your Body in response into a {Divine Squirrel Beast of Frost}!]

[All your Stats have increased by 100%, and you have gained the ability to wield Divine Ice Element with your claws and breath attacks. In this state, your Soul is completely frozen, giving it a high resistance against soul-devouring attacks.]

"I-I can change my form depending on the elements I infuse into my soul?!" he gasped. "Fascinating! RAAHH!"

As he roared, the entire wall of ice Nieve conjured came down, exploding into pieces.

BOOOM!

As the walls exploded and came down into pieces, the specter emerged, now four times as big as before, it looked like a complete behemoth.

"GRAAAHHHH!"

With a ferocious ghostly scream, the monstrous specter rushed down towards Acorn, Nieve, and Johanna, swinging its massive scythe once more.

"Stay behind me!"

Acorn charged forward as he harnessed the powers of Frost that Nieve had granted to him, conjuring an armor of ice over his entire body.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

Acorn tanked the incoming attacks with all the might he could, even as the ice melted, he created more to resist as much as he possibly could until he reached the specter.

"Now, come down here!"

He jumped into the skies, grabbing the specter's tail and then pulling it down with all his divine force put into his grip.

"GRAACCK?!"

BAAAM!

As the specter reached the ground and hit the floor, its spectral powers quickly devoured life within its surroundings, all plants nearby withered and died.

"OOOHHHH!!!"

With an angered scream, the specter reached Acorn, grabbing his head and then screaming into his face, as its phantasmal powers tried to eat his soul completely!

"Yeah... have a good taste of my soul!"

However, Acorn smiled as the specter absorbed his soul... and had a terribly hard doing so.

"G-GUUGH?! GRUUGH?!"

It started groaning, suddenly its phantasmal body started freezing into black ice, becoming slow and weakened.

"Now!"

Acorn called, and Johanna and Nieve appeared from behind him, jumping from his shoulders towards the freezing specter.

Chapter 1267: The Mysterious Skeleton Dragon

The moment Acorn managed to grab the specter's tail and throw him down, the monstrosity didn't respond nicely.

"OOOHHHH!!!"

Furiously and with an angered scream, the specter reached Acorn, grabbing his head and then screaming into his face. This caused the monster's phantasmal powers to activate, attempting to have a go at his soul.

"Yeah... have a good taste of my soul!"

Yet despite this situation, Acorn smiled as the specter absorbed his soul... and had a terribly hard time doing so! The specter realized perhaps too late of Acorn's plan.

"G-GUUGH?! GRUUGH?!"

With a horrendous expression on its three skull faces, the specter started groaning. Suddenly, its phantasmal body began freezing into black ice, becoming slow and weakened. It attempted to absorb this ice as a new power, but it failed miserably.

"Now!"

It was the perfect time! Acorn called, and Johanna and Nieve appeared from behind him, jumping from his shoulders towards the freezing specter.

"{Beast Body Shapeshifting}: {Gigantification}!"

Johanna's arms became like those of a gorilla, growing several dozens of meters big through her Gigantification ability that could target certain parts of her body.

Swinging her two massive arms, she punched the frozen specter with enormous force, shattering half of its body!

CRAAASH! CRAAASH!

"AAUUGH...!"

The specter screamed in agony as Nieve followed with her rapier techniques, rapidly unleashing a storm of snow and piercing icicles as she hit the entire specter's body.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"GRYEECKH?!"

The chimeric specter attempted to fight back using its massive scythe, only for Acorn to stomp on it and break it into multiple tiny pieces.

"Don't ever think about it!"

His giant frozen claws grinded through the specter's body, hitting it several times in unison, shaking the battlefield beneath them.

"Keep going, it's working! Because its frozen, we can physically hurt him! Destroy him!"

Acorn didn't give up and neither Johanna nor Nieve, crushing the specter unable to defend, until nothing but tiny pieces were left behind!

And then...

"This'll finish it!"

Acorn gathered divine power into his throat, releasing a massive beam of white divine light against the specter's pieces, blasting them all into oblivion.

BOOOM!

As the specter was disintegrated, both Elios and its creation were gone, alongside the majority of his guild! However, the remaining gates were still open, and the death generals were still wandering around.

Silvera, the last remaining of the Knight Alliance, glanced from a distance on top of a huge Skeleton Dragon made of black bones with phantasmal flames as eyes.

"Both Gaston and that dumbass of Elios died so quickly!" she groaned, biting her nails. "Dammit! What do I even do now?! Are they going to get through us soon?"

"Hah... Hahahahah..."

The skeleton dragon was laughing.

"W-What are you laughing at?!"

"Hahahahah... I died to her back in that mountain, but I never could have thought that... that she had such a group of strong group of companions."

"Huh? You... you fought Planta before?"

"Yes... We are... old friends."

"Friends? What are you talking about? I thought you were just another undead?"

"Oh no, my dear... I am someone of a higher position than you."

"Huh?!"

"You Players are nothing but... tools for us. And your time of utility is running out, you know?" he smiled, showing his countless bony teeth. "But fear not! There is one last thing you could do for us! Hahaha..."

"W-What are you talking about?! We've gone through all of this because of a quest, is this some sort of bug or- Aagh!"

Suddenly, the dragon grabbed her and pulled her out of his back.

"I've grown tired of pretending to be your loyal steed. Your game is over, woman," the dragon smiled.
"I'm taking charge of the army now..."

Suddenly, his long bony tail was revealed, with a pointy stinger-like tip, oozing with a strange, nether liquid.

"W-What are you going to do?! Unhand me you monster! S-STOP!"

"Hah... Don't worry! I'm going to give you a new makeover! Hahahaha!"

The giant stinger pierced through the woman's chest, infusing her with a deadly poison that started to make her convulse.

"Guuggh?! Aarrgh!"

She fell off his claws and started vomiting blood and screaming in agony, her pale skin turned completely pale blue and bone plates grew all over her body, resembling scales.

Bony wings broke out of her back tearing her flesh apart, and so did a tail as well, her eyes transformed, becoming sharp red, and her teeth became sharp fangs.

Her size also increased considerably, and her hands and feet gained long claws from her nails.

"W-What's happening?!"

"Guild Master?!"

"Silvera!"

"Hey, you bastard! You have to obey us! Stop what you're doing to her!"

The other Players ran to stop the weird undead dragon, but it was already too late. The dragon smiled, laughing as his tail quickly started piercing through the players, impaling them one after another.

"Hahahaha! Pathetic! You're all pathetic!" he kept laughing. "I am giving you a favor by granting you this power, useless garbage! The world shall only belong to my master! ...And me!"

Did you ever think we were going to give you a share?! GAHAHAHAHA!"

The screams of the last few players echoed, almost a hundred of them instantly beginning to mutate and transform in front of the undead dragon.

He glanced into the distance; the walls of the forest remained intact even now!

"Master..."

"We're ready..."

"We apologize for acting rudely..."

The Players suddenly talked again to him, their voices sounding weirdly robotic, emotionless, and lifeless. Their minds were completely taken over by a phantasmal power.

Their appearances, now having become half human and half bone dragon monstrosities of over four meters of height, kneeled before him.

"Good..." he smiled, nodding. "Now that's more like it! Your task is pretty simple, you see. Go above that magic shield... and destroy it. Use your lives if you must."

"Understood."

Silvera glanced into the distance with lifeless, crimson and draconic eyes, as she spread out her wings and flew into the skies as high as possible, undetected by most.

The other members of her guild and the survivors of Elios guild rushed into the skies following her, as the bone dragon nodded, glancing at Acorn, Nieve, and Johanna getting closer to his troops.

"It's finally time for my sweet revenge..."

Chapter 1268: The Mushroom Brigade's Strength

"They really did it!" Florie smiled as she watched Acorn, Nieve, and Johanna defeat the powerful chimeric undead, which had gone through three different forms, its last one being phantasmal.

The last form which should have been the weakest as the chimera constantly lost its body ended being the strongest due to its own composition and its ability to drain and burn souls.

Thanks to having absorbed the souls of so many undead, it ended becoming gigantic, and if Acorn wouldn't have come with such a brilliant plant to defeat it quickly, things would have escalated horrendously.

"Now the only thing we have to do is... Uwaah! There are even more Undead coming?!"

Florie glanced at the distance, noticing a huge amount of Undead pouring from the gates again!

"To close the gates we have to individually enter and defeat the bosses inside, right Princess?"

Suddenly, a dashing knight mushroom appeared, Sporegon himself, the strongest of the Mushroom Brigade, and the strongest Myconid in the entire world perhaps.

A close friend of Luminous the Hero, and also his most trusted companion, him and the other Mushroom Brigade members were sealed within ancient artifacts by the Demon King of Miasma.

However, once Planta and her friends cleared the mysterious dungeon that appeared within the forest and slayed the Undead body of Luminous possessed by a fragment of the Demon King of Miasma, she managed to gather all the items for the Mushroom Brigade to be summoned and unsealed.

However, with their hero long gone, they sworn loyalty to the newest hero, Planta herself! And have been protecting the forest ever since.

"Yes that's right sir Sporegon..." said Florie. "But I don't know if I could go inside- I mean, if they're all weak to my blessing, we could quickly slay them if I fire- Wait a second, that's it!"

"Hm? Got an idea?"

"Yes! Please open the way for me! I'll gather a super strong Love Beam and blast everything inside the gates with my divine blessing. Thanks to this wand, the range will increase and might shoot down the boss in one attack!"

"L-Love... Beam?" Sporegon raised his thick eyebrows in confusion over such a girly name. "A-Ah! I see! Very well then, princess Florie! Leave it to us! Shall we begin with the closest gate?"

The territory of the general you've slain is now open for the taking!"

"Yes! Let's go there!" Florie nodded. "Please Mushroom Brigade, Ents, Fairies, Myconid, Gnomes, Squirrel-kin, Brownies, and Spirits, open the way for me!"

"OOOHHHH!"

The army of the Forest of Beginning roared in unison, hearing their princess and immediately charging forward. Despite how they had believed they would get more casualties; the battles had been much easier than they imagined all thanks to her.

"Brigade, to the front! Hammer, Chef, Jack! Come with me! Magius, Apothecary, Alice, Hunter, behind! Front Charge Formation!"

"Alright!"

The Mushroom Brigade quickly gathered together and created a formation where the physical fighters pushed to the front while the long-ranged attacks remained behind.

Even Chef and Hammer, who specialized on cooking and blacksmith, were actually really good at fighting physically with their own unique techniques derived from their professions.

"ROOAAARR!"

Giant Bone Beasts and Zombie Drakes rushed towards them, protecting the gates that were very close to the army. However, Chef quickly jumped into battle, as he brought his huge black frying pan, imbuing it with his Mana Aura.

"{Battle Chef Technique}: {Giant Deep-Fried Blow}!"

FLUOSH!

The frying pan suddenly grew to a tremendous size of over five meters, as he swung it down with full force, slamming the Undead in front of him and releasing a golden shockwave of oil-like aura that fried their bodies, weakening them even more.

BAAAM!

SPLAAASH!

"{Blazing Blacksmith Hammer Technique}: {Volcanic Smash}!"

As he attacked on a wide range, Hammer stepped forward, swinging his huge hammer and releasing a blast of flames as he smashed and destroyed a few Undead instantly.

BOOOM!

The explosion of flames engulfed the other undead with the oil-like aura, combusting and generating several explosions that spread across over a hundred undead!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"Wow! They're amazing!"

Little Jack, the youngest of the Mushroom Brigade, ran across the battlefield, swinging his sword and his spear, both weapons which he wielded with a single hand each.

His mushroom cap was rainbow colored, and his aura contained the powers and talents of every other Mushroom Brigade.

He was still a newbie though, but he was the pupil of every member of the brigade, destined to learn all their abilities, just like a "Jack of all Trades"!

"GRAAAH!"

A dozen Undead however rushed towards his side of the formation. Before he would have trembled in fear, but after a lot of battle, he had evolved and matured more, especially in battle.

"{Rookie All Weapon Technique}: {Flame Sword}! {Icy Spear}!"

SLAAASH! FLUOOSH!

Combining fire with ice, he unleashed a blazing slash combined by a piercing icy attack resembling a huge icicle spear, slashing, burning, piercing, and freezing through several targets at once.

However, when another Undead appeared behind him, he was caught off-guard.

"ROAAAR!"

"Eh?! Ah!"

However...

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

Three slashes reached the skeleton wolf and cut it into three pieces, exploding apart as a big Myconid appeared behind it, Sporegon.

"Jack! Don't go too far, stay close to us, alright?"

"Master Sporegon! Yes! I'm very sorry about that!"

As they continued charging forward, the gate was right in front of them! However, over fifty more Undead were trying to stop them.

"Now!"

Sporegon roared, as the backline attackers attacked. Alice and Apothecary hurled explosive potions and bombs, Magius conjured mighty elemental magic of fire, ice, lightning, wind, and earth, and Hunter fired a rain of magic arrows.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The bombardment of explosions erupted everywhere, consuming the undead and leaving nothing but their ashes behind! In that moment, the field towards the gate was completely open and clean.

The Mushroom Brigade charged and clashed against the incoming Undead from the sides, as they let Florie fly through the clean path and gather her divine energy in her wand before blasting a massive beam towards it.

"{Super Beam of Love}!"

TRUUUM!

Chapter 1269: Charge

The long-ranged attacks attacked all at once, the alchemist Alice and Apothecary whose profession was the same as his name fired explosive and deadly potions alongside mighty magic bombs. Meanwhile Magius and Hunter fired magic spells and arrows.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The bombardment of attacks quickly left behind a series of explosions, consuming the undead and leaving nothing but their ashes behind! In that moment, the field towards the gate was completely open and clean.

"Now, princess Florie! Go!" Sporegon said.

"Hurry princess!" said Chef.

"We can't give you more than ten seconds!" said Hammer.

"Princess!" Jack cried.

"Okay! Thank you!" Florie nodded.

The Mushroom Brigade charged and clashed against the incoming Undead from the sides, as they let Florie fly through the clean path and gather her divine energy in her wand before blasting a massive beam towards it.

"{Super Beam of Love}!"

TRUUUM!

The massive beam of pink light reached the gate and passed through the interior, reaching its depths and expanding everywhere. The undead being summoned inside quickly exploded into pieces as plants and insects grew from their bodies, and specters were purified instantly!

At the same time, the light continued its course reaching a throne room where a huge zombie was sitting down. Alarmed, he quickly grabbed a sword and swung it.

"Who dares...?!"

BOOOM!

However, he couldn't even fight back, the moment the beam reached him, it was game over for him! His entire body exploded into pieces and so did the rest of the dungeon, falling apart and quickly making the gate disappear abruptly.

"It worked!" Florie celebrated. "We end up unable to retrieve the treasure chests inside but that doesn't really matter right now anyways!"

As the Mushroom Brigade and the rest of the army noticed Florie's plan worked, they quickly charged towards the next gate, destroying the Undead on their path.

"It worked! Her method worked! Open the way!"

The Ent King roared, swinging his massive hammer made of wood and his axe made of stone, crushing and cleaving his way through like a giant natural disaster.

The other Ents roared in unison, following their King until they reached the front of another gate. The undead relentlessly fought, fully knowing their intentions.

But it was too late anyways!

"Now, girl!"

As the Ents used their massive bodies and weapons to breakthrough the army, Florie reached the second Gate and did the same thing again!

"{Super Beam of Love}!"

TRUUUM!

Another beam of pink light entered the gate, frying and disintegrating the undead inside and even the boss couldn't fight back!

"Aaargh! What the hell is this?!"

The giant spectral witch kept crying as the light of love consumed her, purifying her powerful, cursed soul until she reached heaven... or the afterlife that wasn't the underworld.

"D-Dammit! Why do I feel so... full of love?!"

BOOOM!

"Done! Let's go for the next one!"

There was a dozen of gates open across the plains, so Florie knew they had to be quick and precise! The moment she saw the gate closing, she immediately rushed to the nearest gate once more.

The Ents were slow, so they were unable to catch up, but a group of gnomes and brownies joined her this time, including some known friends and allies of the past.

"Princess Florie! Let this old man help you out!"

A brave gnome with long white beard wearing light wooden armor rushed by her side, holding a huge axe made of stone and enchanted with spirits.

"Darg!"

It was Darg, the Gnome that was the Chief of the Brownie and Gnome joint Village, someone that had helped Planta and her party back then to find Lily when she first created her Avatar.

Florie was with their party back then, as she had to guide them there herself and also wanted to serve as an intermediary between them and the fairies, back then when they weren't well known.

"Long time no see Princess! You've gotten much stronger! I can hardly recognize ya!"

And then a flashy and young Brownie woman appeared, with dark red hair and an adorable youthful face, she held a huge black hammer covered on bright colorful spirit stones and wore heavy armor.

"Rosetta! You've gotten strong!"

It was Rosetta, one of Darg's most trusted guards and also a powerful village guard of their village, she was perhaps the strongest Brownie that wasn't a Player within the entire forest. A hero of the Fae folk.

"Das right! I'm here to kick some ass too! I wasn't going to just sit down and watch how they attack our forest, right?"

"Yeah!" Darg nodded. "Please princess, let us charge for you! Gnomes! Brownies! United Falcon Formation!"

"OOOOHHH!"

The small Gnomes and Brownies, races often mocked by many more due to their small height, connection to nature, and often "happy-go-lucky" attitudes weren't beings that could be actually mocked!

They held tremendous strength within them almost as much as dwarves, although most people had no idea because they were pacifists that liked living in forests.

CLASH! BAAM! CRASH! BOOOM!

They clashed against the incoming undead one by one, destroying them before they could even get closer to Florie. The fairy princess didn't spend any mana, knowing full well she had to save it all for the blast.

She gathered it into her wand, constantly creating a heart-shaped mass of divine blessing energy that continued growing larger and larger.

Darg unleashed the power of Nature with each attack of his axe, leaving behind giant branches of trees that expanded and pierced the undead as they came.

Meanwhile, Rosetta's attacks left behind rose petals and combined winds with them, each petal unleashed a huge amount of pollen that weakened the undead, paralyzed them or outright stunned them.

"Now!"

"Princess!"

The two called for her, as they opened the way. Florie nodded, pointing her wand and firing yet another giant pink colored heart that barely fit inside.

Inside the gate sitting over the throne, there was a pink-colored giant skeleton with a red bow and wearing a pretty dress.

"Huh? A heart? So pretty! It's like- AAGH!"

BOOOM!

Chapter 1270: Confronting The Skeleton Dragon

"It seems your Princess is working her best there, hm? She has been destroying the gates one by one... I am honestly surprised. I wonder if you'll be able to even hold for a second against me though."

The giant black skeleton dragon greeted Acorn, Nieve, and Johanna with his sharp phantasmal eyes, the trio glared at him fearlessly.

"What? You're nothing but just another of the many undead we've defeated! What even makes you unique, pile of bones?" Johanna smiled, her gorilla arms going back to normal size, but her entire body became larger, reinforcing her physical power.

"Johanna don't underestimate him..." said Nieve. "I think this dragon... have we met before?!" the fairy pointed her rapier at the dragon.

"Have we now?" smiled the skeleton dragon. "I don't know what you're talking about, hahaha!"

"It's weird though! Where are the Players at?!" Acorn wondered. "What did you do to those people?!"

"Oh? The Players?" smiled the bony dragon. "They're gone now, attacking your magic shield as we speak."

"What?!" Nieve asked. "We have to- No, we can't return!"

Nieve noticed that there were hundreds of dragon skeletons surrounding them within mere seconds since they stepped into the backlines of the enemy army.

The nether gates stopped summoning undead, but the ones already summoned were much more than they had seen from afar.

"Where did these Undead come from? They weren't here when we got here!" said Acorn.

"I didn't see them coming from the gates either, so it's weird, yeah!" Johanna nodded.

"Could it be...?!" Nieve's eyes widened, glaring at the dragon once more. "You're him, aren't you?! But we killed you! How are you...?!"

"Hahaha... I have no idea who you're talking to!" smiled the dragon. "I am a humble skeleton dragon lord! And nothing else anymore! Now, my dragon undead, tear them to shreds!"

Nieve noticed that the shadows of this dragon were moving around and flickering, as new dragon skeletons emerged from within them!

"I knew it!" Nieve said. "He's bringing the dragon skeletons from his shadows!"

CLASH!

"Wait what?!" Acorn asked as he clashed against three dragon skeletons at once with his heavy claws.
"{Freezing Breath}!"

Still with the power of ice within him, he released a freezing breath, freezing many undead and crushing them with the power of his claws afterwards.

CRASH!

"So what if you know anyways?" laughed the dragon, flying into the skies. "You're already within the range of my domain."

"What?" Johanna looked into the skies, as the dragon's shadows spread out across the entire sky, rapidly engulfing them!

"W-Wait, a domain?!" Acorn screamed.

"Don't get separated!" Nieve said, rushing towards Acorn and Johanna.

"{Cursed Dark Dragon Arts}: {Abyssal Dragon Graveyard World Domain}"

TRUUUM!

Space around them distorted immediately afterwards, as the entire world began to transform and twist around.

Before they knew it, they found themselves within a world of endless darkness, with a red sun, lakes of blood, and countless skeleton dragons.

There were more of them coming from the ground too, endlessly...

"Just what in the world happened?!" asked Acorn. "A domain of this caliber...? I've only seen Lady Planta use something like this in that fight against the demon!"

"Hah, this is unbelievable, one problem after another, can't take a single break!" Johanna complained.

"You weren't even there yesterday, don't complain!" said Nieve. "Ugh, let's remain together and fight off the skeletons!"

The dragon remained in the skies, laughing.

"Hahaha... Hahahaha!" he kept laughing endlessly. "Now that you're inside, no matter what, you'll die! You know that there's a time dilation inside? This is my domain! One second outside is one hour in here! Can you fight for so long until someone comes to help you?!"

Can you fight whole days maybe?! Can you!"

"W-What? That long?!" Acorn asked.

"No, that's impossible, he has no power over time, he's... definitely lying, right?!" Johanna wondered.

"I-I have no idea, but if that's the case, we must somehow break out on our own then!" Nieve said.

The trio clashed against the dragon skeletons, destroying them with the best attacks they could while keeping a close look at their stats.

Unlike Players they weren't going to revive if they died... this was a real threat, something they had to handle on their own now.

Planta might be right around the corner right now, but if the time dilation is the truth, the time perception of them will be so much that before she can even get here...

They'll either all die, or they somehow manage to escape.

And the latter seems incredibly unlikely.

"Try however you want, this Domain of mine is indestructible from the inside!" laughed the dragon. "It is my ultimate new ability, something my lord has granted me! It is the tool I'll use to kill all of your friends! Hahaha! HAHHAHAHA!"

The undead dragon kept laughing as the trio struggled trying to find an exit.

But there was simply no exit.

Wherever they ran into, there was only more and more dark landscapes, more and more skeletons.

Hours passed.

One hour.

Two hours.

Three hours...

"Hahhh... HAHHH... T-This is endless! I can't... how long have we been fighting?!" Acorn screamed. "My body hurts so much from keeping the transformation for so long... Aaggh...!"

"Hang in there Acorn! Drink an Elixir!" Nieve muttered; her ice was already beginning to leave frostbites on her skin. "W-We must keep... trying to find... an exit..."

"T-This shit is hopeless..." Johanna sighed. "Ah, and that fucker keeps laughing at our asses!"

"Hahahaha!" laughed the dragon. "Three hours have passed. Do you want to guess how long has it been outside? Three seconds."

Their eyes were slowly beginning to feel despair.

"H-He has to be lying... this can't... this can't be true right?" Acorn muttered. "No... No... Noo! I don't want to die!"

"Acorn calm down!" said Nieve. "We have to keep our cool!"

"Hahh... Granny..." Johanna started crying. "I'll die here... I'm sorry."

"They've given up to despair so soon?!" Nieve thought.

Her cold mind was what allowed her to keep her cool even in this situation, but Acorn and Johanna, who were much younger than her and also more emotional, were already giving up to despair.

What could Nieve do now?

"That damn dragon..." she muttered, gritting her teeth. "Acorn, Johanna... I think there's a sure way to get out of here."

"Eh?"

"How?!"

"We have to hit that monster so hard that he deactivates the domain!"

"Hoh?" the dragon smiled. "Come and give me your best try!"