

Brand New 1381

Chapter 1381 The Battle In The City

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

As explosions reverberated through the entire city, which had now become an infernal battlefield where Void Aberrations and Demonic Monsters roamed alongside Patchwork Zombie Frankenstein and Demonic Wizards, the soldiers, weakened momentarily due to the Domain of Merlinus expanding, lost quite a few members.

The King glanced around his surroundings, realizing how many have died! Because Merlinus Domain expanded, Planta's Domain was temporarily overwritten, and all her protections disappeared.

This was something she had told to everyone that could happen at any moment, and that they didn't had to overly rely on her own powers to help them. Right now, however, as a dozen of soldiers died fighting for their lives, her Domain continued to expand once more.

This time, not only nature began popping out of nowhere, which was much more divine than before, but even dangerous-looking fragmented time tiles, which seemed strangely mirror-like as they got closer.

Some were afraid of them, but upon accidentally stepping on them, they realized they dealt no damage to "allies" and instead, boosted their "time speed" making them faster.

Meanwhile, foes became slower when they stepped into these tiles, becoming great tools to adapt and win within battle!

"It seems Erebus has stepped into the battle at long last..." the King said, glaring at the giant void aberrations from afar. "Camilla is taking care of those with everyone else, and Planta and some of her friends are going to close the gate..."

As he analyzed the battlefield with his shiny golden eyes, further boosted into [Heroic Eyes] by his Heroic Bloodline Awakening, he fought against incoming attacks from Demonic Monsters.

[The Demonic Monster: [Infernal Screeching Crawler: Lv300+] are targeting you!]

"SHYAAAGH!"

They were strong, massive monsters, resembling skinny demons with long arms and legs, skull-like faces covered on thin red skin, and giant black horns over their heads, most had floating, broken halos over their heads, made of red flames, signifying that they were once angelic beings that fell from grace.

"Hmph!"

The King placed his shield in front as he took the hits of four of them at once, being pushed back by their terrifying strength! Any normal soldier would instantly get torn to shreds and have their souls eaten after receiving those blows!

However, the King resisted them, before swinging his holy blade against them, even if they were Level 300 Monsters with immense quantities of Internal Demonic Energies, against Holy Light, they would ultimately succumb.

"{Holy Ascension}!"

SLAAASH!

He swung his blade upwards, as a massive shockwave of light destroyed the Demonic Monsters, completely turning them into ashes as they were instantly exorcised.

"Gryyaaeeeerggh!"

They screamed in agony and disappeared, but more came, burlier, armored ones covered with black charcoal-like scales and with giant goat skull-like faces covered on red flesh.

"OOOORRRGGUUUHHH!"

They groaned furiously, lifting their massive arms and then smashing the ground furiously, some of them aiming at the King.

[The Demonic Monsters: [Charcoal-Eating Brutes: Lv320+] aim to devour your Soul!]

They were powerful beings, easily crushing smaller soldiers if they were to get closer to them. However, the King with his Armor, Sword, Shield, and his awakened bloodline, held them off, even taking a direct hit with his shield and releasing its power through it.

"{Heroic Shield Counter}!"

His golden shield glowed brightly, as he used an Heroic Technique to release half of the force his shield took towards the Demonic Monster's head, as a beam of holy light.

BOOOM!

The Brute that received the attack couldn't even react, its head instantly being vaporized, as it fell into the floor without moving.

The smaller Demonic Monsters rushed towards the King, as he quickly decided to fight back against the swarms...

And yet...

"Huh?"

They started eating the flesh and drink the blood of the dead Brute, without paying attention to him now that they had prey to eat.

"This is...?"

He quickly realized they weren't below Merlinus control at all, but were simply summoned here as feral beasts. They were hungry and probably felt threatened in a strange land, hence why they fought back aggressively.

But once there was a big food for everyone to eat, they ignored the King and ate all they wanted...

"Hm..."

However, despite this, he knew they had to die, they were still dangerous beasts!

Nonetheless, this gave him a good idea.

"Everyone! Kill the big ones and leave their bodies behind! The little ones will begin to eat them! This way we can distract them and kill them more easily!"

"OOOHH!"

The soldiers, knights, and paladins roared in unison, beginning to gang on the Brutes, as a handful dropped dead after a few seconds, the Crawlers stopped targeting the knights and jumped into the free buffet.

"I-It really worked!"

"They're not even paying attention to us now...!"

"Is it okay to just leave them alone?"

"Fool! Now, attack them together at their backs!"

The knights followed the king's order, effectively beginning to take care of the hundreds of Demonic Monsters in this way. It was convoluted, but it worked much more than they could have ever guessed.

However, these soldiers weren't the only ones fighting. Draconic Beasts, Elemental Spirits, Sword Spirits, and many more were fighting alongside them, alongside several of Planta's party members and fighters.

Melissa led some of the crafters that ended participating, which were actually all of them, they ended being unable to leave in time and were forced to join this chaos anyways.

Goldanaba, Erdragon, Horshen, Melissa, and Ambil were battling the Demonic Monsters on their own, combining their strengths together as much or as effectively as they could.

BlackEye, Clark, Erika, Kent, and the other weaker ones were teleported away by Planta though, she knew they weren't strong enough, so she made the effort to bring them to the forest.

"This would be hopeless without the King's Army and Lady Planta's friends!" said Erdragon. "I cannot believe I am participating in such a gigantic battle!"

"Me neither, honestly...!" Ambil groaned, swinging his blazing hammer and crushing the crawler in front of him.

"Gahahahaha! That King better pay us well once this is damn over!" laughed Horshen.

"I doubt they'll have money once this is over, look at the damn city!" Goldanaba panicked. "Uwaaah! ...Wait! Melissa! Where's Melissa?!"

They realized Melissa was nowhere to be seen.

At the same time, Zombies and Yokai marched around the city, hundreds of them together attacking the Demonic Wizards, Patchwork Zombies, and Demonic Monsters.

"Ugh, this is such a pain in the ass! This is like the hundredth Mana Potion I've drank today nyaaaah!" Anikitty complained, her cat ears twitching as her tail looked completely stiff.

"Just hold on for a while longer, we are literally the pillar of this damn war! Our soldiers are holding like half of the monsters!" said Erdrich, drinking a Black Potion instead. "Gandalf and Angelina went to the Tower to see what they can do themselves after all, this is our work, they got something even worse I bet!"

"We better get a good quest reward from this and lots of fans and fame!" said Anikitty furiously. "I want more guild members, my build has too few, nyaaaah! ...Also, didn't RedPhoenix, GoldenLady, and Monica went with them?"

"Yeah, they'll be good!" nodded Erdrich. "Don't worry about them and worry about this- Ah, shit, there's the brutes again! And a wizard behind them to boot!"

"Screw em'! NYANYANYANYAAAHH!" Anikitty went insane, charging his energies until she summoned a gigantic creature. "{Ancient Yokai Summon}: {Mega Nekomata}!"

RUMBLE!

"NYAAAAAHHH!"

A massive thirty-meter-tall cat appeared out of nowhere, swinging its paws down.

CRAAASH!

Chapter 1382 Tomas' Mission

CLASH! BOOM! CRASH! SLASH! RUMBLE!

A large party of players pierced through Demonic Monsters, Patchwork Zombies, and Demonic Wizards as they quickly made their way towards the Magician Guild Tower, now split apart into two.

"It's over there, we're almost there!" said Angelina. "Careful of all the blazing debris! There seems also be a lot of weird monsters there, experimental creatures that got loose!"

The Valkyrie flew around the skies, swinging her golden spear and releasing piercing attacks from above, impaling the many monsters within her surroundings one after another.

"We're almost there, yeah!" Anna nodded. "Elisa, how's are things up there? Can you see an entrance to the lower half?" Her Familiars were constantly pushing back the demonic monsters and killing them by swarming over them.

"Yeah!" Elisa was flying with her draconic wings as well. "There seems to be an entrance, the door your mother-in-law must have used to enter when they infiltrated inside! I think it broke apart, there's only demonic monsters around it. But nobody's guarding it!"

Elisa was swinging her draconic claws to slice foes, punched them and then pierced them with her tail. Flying Demonic Monsters were much frailer and weaker than the rest, resembling weird pterodactyls.

"Could it be that the wizards no longer care about the tower now that shit hit the fan, as the young'uns say?" wondered Gandalf, releasing thunder, ice, and fire everywhere. Freeing, burning, and frying his foes.

"It seems to be the case..." Monica was also glancing from above, her phantasmal hands clawing her way through as she broke down the souls of her foes. "What do you think, Tomas?"

"I believe Merlinus must have given everyone that order and they obeyed," said Tomas. "He probably thinks that the Tower won't be attacked within all this chaos because everyone is concentrated on fighting and believe it's completely destroyed. But the Lower Half holds a small labyrinth full of Magical Items and Demonic Totems that empower Merlinus and the Wizards a lot! If we can find it and destroy it, not only the Demonic Wizards being mind controlled might regain their freedom, but we'll weaken them a lot!"

"He probably could have never guessed you survived and became our ally," Anna smiled. "Let's go! I'll give you a ride."

Anna quickly grabbed the young man with the legs of her Pheonix, which she was riding right now, Tomas panicked as his glasses were about to fall.

"Wooaah! W-Wait a second Annaaa! Ugh! I'm gonna puke! I'm gonna pukeeee!"

As they flew across a huge and catastrophic landscape which included demonic monsters fighting against one another, the patchwork zombies and the demonic wizards, they reached the tower's entrance.

"You! Where do you think you're going?!"

However, as the group was about to enter, a trio of Demonic Wizards who were actually defending the tower's entrance from afar noticed their presences and rushed to confront them.

They were all Level 300+, one of them as fat with burly arms and blue skin with a single red eye and a black beard, another was a skinny one resembling the Crawler Demon Monsters, and the third was smaller, resembling a mass of white fur with pointy golden horns above his head.

"Stop them! They're trying to get inside the tower!"

"Dammit! They're already inside!"

"Chase them!"

The trio rushed inside the tower and chased Angelina's team, believing they were running away from them as quickly as possible.

However, the moment they entered, they were instantly ambushed, attacked from every angle with powerful attacks.

"You shouldn't have chased us!"

Angelina unleashed a barrage of thrusting attacks with her spear, accompanied with beams of light that blew them away, burning their demonic forms.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"YOU. SHALL. NOT. PASS!"

At the same time, Gandalf roared as he raised his hands, role playing like the magician he always loved, he swung his staff upwards, blue thunder shocking the demonic wizards' bodies, ice freezing them, and then fire burning them.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"Go!"

Anna commanded her Familiars, the Red Phoenix, the Emerald Storm Wolf, the Titan Stone Golem, and the new Giant Fang-Toothed Ice Weasel attacked the wizards at once.

Her Class specialized on training only a couple of powerful Familiars rather than being able to summon a bunch of weaker beings, therefore, they were incredibly strong each on their own.

The Red Phoenix burned them with flames they couldn't turn off, pecking their bodies and leaving holes through them.

The Emerald Storm Wolf unleashed storms of slicing winds, cutting through their bodies, his claws released slashing waves with each swing.

The Titan Stone Golem was mightily crushing them with his massive hands and stomping them with its legs, while summoning massive boulders to throw at them.

And lastly, the new addition, the Giant Fang-Toothed Ice Weasel moved incredibly fast despite being as big as four meters, using its sharp tooth to pierce through their barriers and then deliver icy projectiles and deadly bites that froze their bodies even more.

"Uuugggh! Dammit!"

"Aaaarrgh! Nooo!"

"We won't die hereeee!"

As they screamed and struggled, shockwaves of demonic elements, fire, thunder, and ice came from their bodies, freeing them from the barrage of blows as they counterattacked even as wounded as they were.

"So they can control Demoinc Elements!" said Gandalf. "We need more holy light! Burn them!"

"On it!" Angelina and Elisa nodded.

The Valkyrie summoned Stars of Light from her entire Aura, firing them down like falling meteors made of gold.

Elisa, meanwhile, fully transformed into a golden dragon unlashng her powerful breath attack, which came double as her aura shaped as a dragon did the same.

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

The wizards couldn't even stand a chance, instantly being vaporized and left with barely any hint of lifeforce in their bodies.

"A-Aaaggh..."

"This can't be..."

"Uugh...!"

Their bodies were utterly burned, slowly fading away into ashes.

"Mentors..." Tomas sighed from afar, looking at them, he recognized their faces.

"T-Tomas...?"

"Is that...?"

"You...?"

As they recognized him too, Tomas looked at them with pity.

"I'm sorry things had to be this way..."

For a moment, as they heard his tender voice full of mercy despite their evil acts, a slight light of reason surged from their fading eyes.

"Please..."

"Free them..."

"From this curse..."

"Ah!"

Tomas saw the wizards disappear, gripping his fists tightly.

"Dammit! We have to hurry! Quickly! I'll lead you there!"

Chapter 1383 The Challenge That They Must Overcome

Tomas was in shambles but tried to keep himself calm and focused.

His entire life he had always been told that he panicked too quickly, that he was too nervous, and sometimes even too emotional.

Magician families were strict, and people like him usually couldn't thrive properly in such environments.

He had to steel himself and move aside his own emotions, learn to find inner peace even at times when the world is crumbling around him.

And the most ironic part was that even after everything he had done to reach his goal and become accepted by the magician guild, the truth about this guild and its master were much more macabre.

He was told to drink a weird potion and eat a certain thing, a heart-shaped item, which the Wizard taking care of him at the time said would allow him to "ascend" to a higher form of magic.

It was of course, a trap, the same trap many young students had fallen to, a plan for Merlinus to bolster his forces tremendously by turning every new student and disciple into a Demonic Wizard.

Once they were already Demonic, they would risk dishonoring their families or being persecuted and killed by the Paladins or the Church's Priests, therefore, the only thing they could do was obey their masters and... become another member of their demonic cult.

Like this, over time, he himself even forced others to do the same, promising youngsters which shouldn't had been here, that shouldn't really get inside the tower despite their dream being this.

He tried his best to make them fail their tests, but sometimes, they were so promising that it would simply be unfair to disqualify them...

Blackmailed and forced to become an accomplice in their crimes, Tomas felt guilty despite that, and always thought about how terrible of a person he was...

He was afraid too, that they would come after his family and kill them to teach him a lesson, he couldn't let them do that, he had to protect his family.

Even the mentors he always admired ended being monsters in disguise... or so he imagined.

However, in their last breath, it felt as if they had regained some sanity.

Were they truly evil?

Or were they also brainwashed, or forced?

He couldn't quite tell, it was impossible everyone was brainwashed, he was sure there were many that were truly evil and joined Merlinus as they shared goals.

The original members of the Cult of the Demon King of Miasma.

But the rest? Although there was no other chance than to kill them before they were to harm someone, he knew that not all of them were doing this willingly...

Out of desperation, or perhaps even mentally controlled, like he was when he was forced to become a Demonic Monstrosity to fight Planta and her friends.

"Tomas, where are we going?!" Anna asked Tomas, as he led them underground.

"We're going to the labyrinth I said!" Tomas said. "Because I was blackmailed into joining this cult, they showed me all their secrets without caring if I would ever tell them to anybody, usually I wouldn't be allowed, my demonic heart would shut me down or worse, kill me."

"I-Is that so?" asked Angelina. "But how did you..."

"It's because of Planta," he said. "She used a powerful spell to seal my Demonic Side, and it is now finally under my control and not the other way around. They're chains, holy chains that wrap it, trapping it... Every wizard that has turned into a Demonic Wizard gains a "Demonic Side" which is something like a Developing Demon, or a Part of their Soul. It is independent, and it can fully take over our minds, fusing with ourselves, making us go... mad."

"T-That's so wicked!" said Gandalf, coughing as he was being forced to run a lot. "W-Wait, don't run too fast! Dammit, this body has too little Stamina! I should've invested more into that!"

"Just use the Float Spell!" said Angelina.

"R-Right!" Gandalf had completely forgotten, beginning to float in midair to move faster.

They ran downstairs, moving across several spiraling stairs and avoid several deadly traps, which Tomas and Gandalf deactivated through their Rune Manipulation Skills.

Gandalf had learned it just recently, but as a Player he could use the Skill flawlessly through activating it.

"There are more traps than I imagined..." Monica said, looking around. "And it's quite scary around here..."

"Aren't you a ghost, Lady Monica? I don't think it is that scary... Or maybe I've been desensitized," sighed Tomas. "There are many abandoned laboratories and jails here..."

They passed through a dark corridor, with jails where dried out corpses of people they captured and left here were rotting away, nobody was alive.

Some rooms were full of broken, abandoned, and dusty laboratory gear, and sometimes, an occasional Patchwork Zombie would jump on them.

"GRUOOHH!"

"Uwaaagh!"

Elisa screamed at them, releasing beams of light from her eyes, and blowing them into pieces easily...

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"S-Sorry, I couldn't see that one, it's over here!"

Tomas continued running through this abandoned labyrinth, finally reaching a huge red colored door with a demonic head-shaped decoration on top of it.

"T-This must be it!" he said, gasping for air. "Haaah... I'm exhausted. We have to break through this door though! It's heavily reinforced with Runes to hold in place. But behind this... I'm sure! They're keeping a huge Demonic Formation that further strengthens the Demonic Wizards and also Merlinus! It has a lot of Demonic Totems they use!"

"Then we gotta just break through!" Angelina said.

"Yeah, I agree!" Gandalf roared.

"Let me help as well!" Anna said.

"Me too!" Elisa said.

"M-Me too?" Monica muttered.

The whole group conjured their strongest spells or skills, firing them at the door and rapidly bombarding it with attacks.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

As the door began taking some serious damage and continuously looked worn down, something weird happened.

"AAAHHHH!"

The "head" of the door, actually opened its jaws, screaming, as its eyes began glowing bright red.

"WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING ME?!"

And it even spoke back at them.

"YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED INSIDE! ONLY MASTER MERLINUS AND HIS CLOSEST AIDES!"

Suddenly, countless eyes opened through the door's entire body, and the ceiling, floor, and walls around it started to tremble, forming giant hands made of stone.

"I'LL CRUSH YOU!"

[The Demonic Familiar: [Possessed Demon Door: Level 350+] has been awakened from its long slumber and will fight and kill any intruders daring to enter what's behind it.]

Chapter 1384 Merlinus' Insanity

After being confronted by his old master, the Demon King of Miasma himself, Merlinus' mind slightly broke, unable to accept that the Demon King of Miasma was simply using him and not the other way around.

However, he didn't let that get to his head, as a human that willingly turned himself into a monster, he found this a perfect opportunity.

"This is the perfect opportunity for me! I don't care what you say or what everyone else does, trying to stop me is impossible! I have the advantage no matter what!" He screamed, space around him twisted and corroded itself, forcing everyone to move away lest they want to melt with the space itself. "I will use all the souls in here to ascend and become a Demon King myself!"

"Is that so..." Erebus looked down at him from the skies, his black wings glowing with purple light as his red eyes pierced his soul. "Foolish. Being a Demon King is the thing anyone would like to be the least. Even us Demon Kings know our existence is nothing but a curse. You want to become a flawed being eternally tormented by their past, twisted and warped into a monstrosity without recognition and identity? Is that what you want, Merlinus?"

As he heard those words, Merlinus smiled maniacally, his demonic body growing larger, as more bone armor wrapped around him.

"Heheh... Hahahahah!" Merlinus laughed, the Corroded Space lifting him up into the skies, resembling a pitch-black tower. "You truly talk like that's something bad?! It's better than being a human, it's better than being someone with limitations, with weaknesses, with vulnerabilities..."

Merlinus memories flashed through his mind, all the frustration, all the suffering he went through as a human, all those he lost, all those he loved, all those he hated, his life as a human.

And how much suffering brought to him, how much he wanted to stop being a human, but not to die in the process.

"With bonds. All of that breaks apart, falls down, and disappears. Nothing is eternal!"

Nothing lasted, everything fell apart, and even the body of someone as strong as him was already dying, he had to do something or the claws of time and death would consume him, and all of his legacy.

"Nothing remains! Everything disappears! No matter how much you try to grasp into anything... It's all gone! Eventually, as a human, if you live long enough, even your HUMANITY disappears!"

He envied the Eternal Beings, Gods, Demon Kings, even Spirits, all of them could live for eternity, exist for eternity, and would always belong and be a greater part of the world, of reality.

As he grew older, as he experienced life and abhorred it more and more, he began to lose what made him a human, his previous identity dying and falling apart, like a husk of his former self.

He always thought he was a kind and wise old wizard, that he worked for people and loved humanity, that he trained younger generations and tried to make a better future with them.

But as he grew old, as he saw so many things happen, and as his mind slowly continued to deteriorate because of this...

That personality, those thoughts, what made him who he was.

They fell apart, revealing the monster born from everything he repressed, his true self, the true, darkness that had been constantly growing.

He was tired.

So damn tired.

Of protecting them.

Of guiding them.

Of hoping for a good future.

Why.

Just why did he had to do any of that?!

Why couldn't he be the one to make a new future instead?

Why couldn't he be part of the new generation- no, why did he even had to raise new generations anyway?!

They could simply never compare to his magic power, wisdom, intellect!

They were all just cockroaches, parasites!

Leeching off his knowledge, resources, everything.

They didn't deserve to be part of the future.

No, he would make the future himself.

A future where he would reign.

A future where he would obtain anything he wants, anything he desires!

A future where the world will be his to use as he pleases!

Why? Because he had worked so damn hard, he thought he deserved it.

He deserved the world, and everything in it.

And if someone else tries to stop him, then they're going to simply die.

He broke countless taboos, he created contracts with Demons, with Demon Kings, with everything!

He transformed his own body, turning himself into an abomination that would no longer die of old age.

But by doing so, his mental deterioration only became worse.

His humanity?

As he talked with Erebus, was completely gone by now.

"So that's how you think," Erebus nodded. "I suppose I was wrong. Humans can indeed become monsters, perhaps even worse than us... You're incredible, Merlinus. You're probably worse than I am... Maybe worse than the other Demon Kings."

"Hah! And why is that?!" Merlinus asked, the Corroded Space warped and transformed around him, creating countless of black rings spinning around his demonic and half-undead body.

"Because you chose to be evil," said Erebus. "Because you chose to destroy. You chose to do everything you are doing now. Unlike us Demon Kings, who we were never given a choice. That's the difference, a difference that has made you someone worse than us, impressive. You're indeed working hard. I applaud you."

Erebus clapped his little hands, smiling at Merlinus.

Despite all, he couldn't help but admire the insane old man a bit more now.

"You're true, pure evil."

Merlinus felt a strange sensation, both flattered and also furious.

It was as if Erebus was both mocking him and praising him.

It was a disgusting feeling; one he wasn't even going to try to discover more.

"I'll kill you and devour your Soul, Erebus," the old man spoke, his voice becoming more and more monstrous. "Become my last ingredient for my ascension!"

RUMBLE!

The skies trembled, countless cracks appearing, the fabric of space shattered, as Merlinus rushed towards Erebus.

The black winged fairy remained calm and composed as a massive ocean of black Corroded Space rushed towards him.

"{Miasmic Nova}"

A giant sphere of pure Demonic Miasma manifested, clashing against Merlinus.

BOOOMMM!!!

Chapter 1385 Overwhelmed!

Merlinus had already said what he wanted to say. What he had become, what led him to what he was, and everything else was also right within his mind. His resolve was absolute, no matter what else he might have done before, it didn't matter.

Nothing mattered other than himself and his pursue for eternal life and the power to obtain the world that had been denied to him even as he grew old, even as he saw how fruitless it was to grow and grow, when his age and society itself would simply not let him have what he wants.

Therefore, he chose to become unrestricted, a being without morals, without humanity. Without anything holding him back anymore, with everything he ever loved or cared for gone long ago, there was no hesitation.

Recognized by a Demon King as someone that was "True and Pure Evil" he charged forward, believing his own twisted ideals born from his own degraded sense of self.

Truly, a man that lost what made him one.

"{Miasmic Nova}"

A giant sphere of pure Demonic Miasma manifested, clashing against Merlinus and his Rings of Corroded Space.

The fabric of space twisted, even time shattered, their surroundings began fuzzy and strange, countless colors emerging, before a massive explosion engulfed the two of them.

BOOOMMM!!!

The explosion dissipated most of the Corroded Space, as Merlinus gritted his teeth, facing Erebus right in front of him.

The fairy rushed forward, manifest two massive gauntlets of five meters each made of crystalized miasma, which he swung forward, overflowing with his malefic aura.

"{Crystalized Miasma Cocoon Arts}: {Abyssal Miasmic Gauntlets}"

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

He was slowly learning new Spells, Techniques, and Arts based on his initial powers, expanding them, growing them, evolving them.

"Nnggh...!"

Merlinus gritted his teeth, his body was tattered and full of holes, which rapidly regenerated, covered with rotten flesh and white bones.

He quickly fought back, Demonic Energy and Nether fusing within his fists, as he punched Erebus, both of their fists' colliding, generating gigantic explosions across the skies.

BAAM! BAAM! BAAM! BAAM!

Merlinus smiled even as his arms were being torn apart and Miasma continued devouring him, as he quickly manifested more arms, one of them holding his monstrous, demonic staff.

"I am a wizard before a fighter! Remember that while fighting me, fool!"

"Hm?"

FLAAASH!

Out of nowhere, thousands of runes manifested around Erebus, most of them appearing on areas he allowed Merlinus to hit him.

These runes were almost transparent, but then gained black and then dark red colors, corroding space around Erebus.

"{Demonic Spacetime Magic}: {Spacetime-Corroding Rune Formation}!"

FLUOOOSH!

The runes glowed brightly, interconnecting around Erebus and then manifesting a massive explosion- no, several consecutive explosions that corroded space and time within a small area and then made it collapse, unleashing tremendous destructive forces.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"Not bad."

However, Merlinus eyes widened, as he saw Erebus body being completely unscathed!

"Impossible...! No damage at all?!"

He was unable to believe it! Merlinus was sure that Erebus should at least have been very weakened after his reincarnation.

That his Fairy Body should have been very weak and delicate too, how could it be that his new body would be as tough as his previous life?

That simply wouldn't make any sense!

However, he was the one not making sense here.

After all, he was trying to apply common sense to Demon Kings.

"How is this possible?!"

Merlinus went insane, conjuring more and more runes around Erebus and the skies, at the same time as he extended the portal from the ground all the way to his side!

"Abominations! Tear him apart!"

The portal twisted, as giant monstrosities that lived within the Void Between Realms emerged one after another, rushing towards Erebus at the same time as countless explosions engulfed him.

"I can do something similar."

Erebus opened his palm, his Spiritual Energies merging with his Miasmic Essence, fusing into something monstrous.

Something that shouldn't exist.

"{Miasmic Spirit Beast Summon}"

FLAAASH! FLAAASH! FLAAASH!

Three massive black portals opened, made out of Miasmic and Spiritual Essences distorting space itself, as creatures stepped out of them.

Unlike the tentacled aberrations, these were Spirits, made of Miasma.

They resemble mutated black trees, with the legs of black goats, and giant jaws across their bodies.

The tree branches could move around dexterously, and they were gigantic, each one over fifteen meters tall.

"Planta doesn't like when I summon these, so I'll limit myself to three for now. Take care of them."

"GRYOOOHHHH!"

His monstrosities against Merlinus' monstrosities, the massive aberrations clashed, tearing each other apart limb for limb.

As the battle between the monsters began, Merlinus quickly began to calculate what was the body and magical density of Erebus, using his Demonic Eyes of Wisdom, which he received as a gift from a powerful Demon Duke.

"His body...! It's in the shape of a fairy, but it's something completely different!"

His eyes widened the moment he analyzed what Erebus was truly made out of, he could sense it, the pure presence of Yggdrasil within him.

"So he was born from her! Is this why he's so tough physically?! Or also... perhaps his original stats were inherited- but not all of them! His Health Points must be tremendous even if it's a percentage of what it originally was. Perhaps this adds to his immense fortitude."

As Merlinus thought, Erebus attacked, appearing above him, and summoning several more of his giant gauntlets, smashing him down into the ground as he hit the old man's body from every angle, tearing apart his bony arms and blowing one of his legs away!

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

"UUURRGHH...!"

Merlinus fell into the ground below with a loud explosion, leaving behind demonic energies and nether everywhere, glaring at Erebus furiously.

"I need more power, the portal! I'll absorb the Void Essence!"

He quickly extended his hand, as the portal twisted, creating more cracks towards him, its dark energies flowing into his new bony hands.

However...

TRUUUM!

"Ugh?!"

The portal suddenly began to reduce in size, as he realized Planta and two others of her allies were rapidly beginning to close it.

"No! STOP!"

As he screamed angrily, Erebus descended, kicking his face and crushing his skull into the floor.

BOOOM!

"I said you were going to fight me, Merlinus."

Merlinus never felt this humiliated before!

Chapter 1386 Don't Even Let Him React!

While Planta left her Familiars, Elena, Mark, Lily, and Camilla rampaging across the battlefield and eliminating as many of the aberrations coming from the portal as possible, she quickly moved towards the portal, utilizing the opportunity Erebus had bought her as he battled Merlinus on his own.

With Mimy and Rita at her side, both specializing on the ability to mend together or distort space, she quickly set off to close the gate that Merlinus had opened altogether.

As they got closer, dozens of more aberrations poured out, as if trying to defend their gateway to this reality as much as possible.

"These things are huge! Can we defeat them?!" Rita wondered.

"Of course we can Rita!" Planta said. "Use your strongest ability, even my Familiars can defeat them. Follow after me! Mimy, cover our backs!"

"Gyuuuhh!" Mimy nodded, her tentacles rapidly shapeshifting into draconic heads, firing beams of dark and void energies at the Demonic Monsters coming from behind.

As this happened, Planta harnessed the power of her current transformation, having unleashed the power of her [Divine Sword Fairy Queen's Arcane Blade Intent Wings]'s Ability {Divine Sword Fairy Queen Transformation}, she merged with her Blade Wings, turning completely metallic.

It was a similar form to Titan's Black Metallic Wood transformation, making her incredibly tougher, and also capable of resisting heat to a much higher degree, alongside giving her a great boost to her stats and defenses.

With four arms, each one wielding a weapon, turning her Gaia's All-Purpose into a blade form by synthesizing it with Spirits, using Gram, Irene in another sword form, and lastly the Dual Venomous Spider Queen Knives, she rushed forward, unleashing a storm of slicing attacks!

Fluttering petals manifested around her, as three aberrations attacked her at once, all three of them over twenty meters of height.

However, Planta's eyes remained focused, as her Aura warped and transformed alongside her attacks, covering an immense area around her!

"{Fluttering Sword Petals}!"

The technique had evolved, the petals that manifested around her opponents as a pseudo domain resembling a beautiful garden had changed, becoming metallic, and increasing the damage dealt!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

As the aberrations were rapidly covered on cutting wounds, she pushed all her swords forward and used her own body as yet another sword.

"{Bee's Piercing Steel Stinger}!"

Her Aura transformed, manifesting into a gigantic bee made of golden metal, her entire body piercing through the aberrant, void body of one of these monsters!

BOOOM!

"GRYYYYAAAH!"

The creature screamed in agony, as a deadly spiritual poison began to corrode its interior, ultimately dropping dead.

The two other monsters attacking her manifested giant spheres of void, firing them at her with all their magical powers.

However...

"{Illusory Garden of Swords}!"

Her pseudo domain warped and twisted, as the two monsters found themselves trapped in a gigantic garden... a garden of swords.

Her attacks cut through them at the same time as hundreds of other blows appearing out of nowhere, the swords within this garden moved on their own, cutting and stabbing their bodies.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

Her consecutive attacks were their doom, the giant monsters dropping dead as well.

"There! It's over there!"

Planta quickly rushed forward, noticing Rita and Mimy right by her sides. She had seen Rita handle them rather well, surprising herself.

"I can't believe I could just drain their Malice Energy! They had so much I refilled my Orbs instantly!"

"Nice! Use that power for this then!"

As they reached the portal, the trio immediately started working, manifesting spatial and void powers into their hands, and grasping the boundaries of the portal Merlinus had created.

"This portal is huge...! How are we going to close it quickly?!" Rita groaned, gritting her teeth. "Ugh, it's also constantly chipping away my HP!"

"Don't worry, we got this!" Planta said. "Mimy, use the Void Veil we used before to close the Spacetime Fracture in the Trial! Remember that one?"

"Gyuuuhhh! Yes!" Mimy spoke for the first time, nodding.

"Alright, use that! Also that was adorable!" Planta said.

FLUOOOSH!

Mimy manifested her void and space-distorting powers, harnessing them, concentrating them, and compressing them into a near invisible veil of space and void.

The veil wrapped a large area over the portal, as it began to warp it, to "patch the hole" in a way

However, the sheer size of the portal was too big, it wouldn't work properly by just using this method!

CRACKLE! ZAAP!

And as this happened, spatial shockwaves were being released constantly, damaging the trio and chipping away at their HP constantly.

"Barriers Up!"

Planta quickly reinforced and made more of her powerful Barriers, protecting everyone from damage. The barriers effects were also activated, making her and her friends recover part of the damage dealt to them as HP and MP!

"Nnnngghh...! It still not closing!"

Rita complained, doing her best, she spent her Malice Essence to conjure her Void Star Nebula, and combine it with Mimy's veil to patch the hole and compress it.

But it wasn't working too well, the portal continued expanding!

"Okay, I got this!"

Planta's Mana overflowed from her hands once more.

And she used that powerful combination technique once more!

"{Demonic Spatial Compression} + {Time Reversal Barrier} = {Time-Compressing Spatial Reversal Barrier}!"

TRUUUM!

Space and Time distorted and converged, rapidly compressing to an immense degree. The veil and nebula that Mimy and Rita created were just enough for the entire thing to begin closing forever now!

"This Portal is incredibly complex! Merlinus didn't summon it casually, it is most likely part of some plan he has!" Planta said. "But now...! Nnggh...! It won't come to fruition!"

As Planta roared with Mimy and Rita, the portal closed!

FLAAASH!

And a bright white light emerged from the closed portal, encompassing their surroundings, accompanied by the frustrated scream of Merlinus.

"No...! STOP!"

As he cried, Erebus descended from the skies, crushing his head into the ground.

CRAAASH!

"You bastards...! You...! YOU BASTARDS...! DON'T FORGET... WHOSE DOMAIN THIS IS!"

Merlinus grabbed Erebus, throwing him away with immense force, as his demonic form began growing larger, aberrant!

"GRAAAHHHH!"

With a scream of utter frustration, his conflicting energies exploded, blowing away everything within his surroundings!

BOOOMMM!!!

Chapter 1387 Overpowered Magic Versus Overpowered Magic

RUMBLE!

Merlinus Domain trembled, as gigantic jaws and eyes materialized amidst the ceiling, the cracks bringing in Demonic Monsters began to merge together, to rapidly attempt to create a gigantic hole in the middle of the Luminous Kingdom.

TRUUUM!

The King and his various troops panicked as he ordered everyone to fly away from range using magic or Planta's Spirits companions.

However, as the Hell Cracks merged to create a larger Hole, they also deleted completely Planta's Domain, burning the greenery!

Without her Domain or Terrain, her buffs would almost disappear completely, and so, helping spirits that could allow people to fly easily would also not come to help.

"I'll bring Hell to you all!" roared Merlinus. "Prepare yourselves! For my greatest Spell! It's coming! It's coming for all of you, ungrateful pieces of garbage!"

As he roared furiously, the bodies of the aberrations from the void between realms started to burn, their bodies becoming gigantic masses of pure darkness, which were absorbed by his body.

"He's absorbing the monsters?!" Lily panicked. "Was that what he wanted to do?!"

"So that was your plan all along..." Mark said. "He summoned them to eat them! It was all part of his damned plan!"

"You made it easy for me killing them all!" laughed Merlinus. "These things actually don't obey me, you know?! GAHAHAHAHA!"

As Merlinus continued growing larger due to absorbing the essence of dozens after dozens of these gigantic creatures, the dead bodies of the Demonic Monsters fell through the pit, burning into flames, their demonic souls fueling the massive Hell Hole and made it grow larger.

Planta finally realized, no action was deliberate, he wasn't acting out of panic or doing things recklessly, even things that seemed out of order had a purpose...

"So he was summoning sacrifices!" Planta said. "STOP HIM!"

She charged forward, Mark, Rita, Lily, Camilla, Elena, and Erebus following her, while her Familiars besides Mimy went to help the other armies escape the expanding Hell Hole that devoured the center of the city already.

"HAHAHA! You think you can stop me, you fucking idiots?!"

Merlinus laughed, his body constantly growing swollen, new arms popped out from his back, although the ones he had lost against Planta could not regenerate yet.

His four muscular arms, as black as charcoal and covered on strange white tattoos resembling circles and pentagrams, harnessed his magic power, conjuring four spells at the same time.

"{Demonic Void Spacetime Magic}: {Colliding Singularity}!"

The same spell was conjured four times in a row, as Planta and her team saw massive holes appearing and devouring all matter within their surroundings, shattering and shaking the very fabric of reality.

TRUUUM! TRUUUM! TRUUUM! TRUUUM!

"H-he's so powerful to conjure such ridiculous magic?!" Rita screamed. "I definitely have to invest in this damn space and void magic, this is fucking nuts!"

"Rita this is not the time to say that!" Planta grabbed Rita before she got sucked into the darkness, rushing forward with her Barrier and conjuring it once more.

"{Demonic Spatial Compression} + {Time Reversal Barrier} = {Time-Compressing Spatial Reversal Barrier}!"

TRUUUMMM!!!

The barrier released an explosive shockwave that distorted the four spells, the darkness that consumed all matter beginning to rapidly reduce in size.

As this happened, Merlinus greeted them with more magic!

He was a wizard after all.

"{Demonic Void Spacetime Magic}: {All-Devouring Black Hole}!"

FLUOOOSH!

All four Singularities he conjured before suddenly combined together, becoming a massive hole in space, distorting space and even time, as Planta and her party felt as if they were becoming noodles, slowly being distorted and absorbed by the black hole's gravity.

TRUUUMMM!!!

"T-This is getting out of haaaaaand!" Lily screamed almost getting sucked into the black hole, only for Mark to grab her and fly using all the strength his Phoenix Wings held.

FLASH!

As he caught up with Planta, she left her friends behind and jumped into the black hole willingly, making everyone panic.

"Wait, Planta!"

As they screamed, the black hole ate her up, destroying her to a molecular level.

"Hahahaha!"

Merlinus laughed out loud, only for his face to distort a second later.

BOOOMMM!!!

"Uaagh?!"

An explosion hit him from the back, as he noticed the black hole disappeared entirely and appeared behind him, something utterly...

"Impossible! What's this now?!"

His eyes widened in utter disbelief... and a bit of horror, as he saw Planta emerging from the black hole, her entire body distorted and warped by it.

"Did you thought your magic would stop me?! I am a World Boss!"

"Ngaaarrgh?!" Merlinus screamed, as he felt his chest and stomach hurt, four weapons had already stabbed him, filling his insides with spiritual and elemental magic!

"Impossible! T-This can't be...! Unnggh...!"

As he kept absorbing the corpses of the Voidlings, his hands grasped Elayne's arms and broke them, crushing them and leaving her weapons inside his body.

CRAAASH!

"BEGONE!"

As he slapped Planta with all his strength, her arms left behind on his body moved on their own, rapidly wrapping around his body and using the weapons spiritual and holy elements to infect his interior even more.

"Uuurrggh?! FUCK! T-This wasn't supposed to happen!" the old man cried. "How did she even- Ah!"

Merlinus was shocked to realize what Planta had used to trick him and appear behind him, and even "devour" the powerful black hole he had conjured.

There was a beautiful mane around her neck made of pure darkness and tiny white stars...

{Demonic Void Mane}!

The ability of Buer, a powerful Demon Duke that Elena had slain, and which Planta inherited his power through a Demonic Skill item.

"She has Buer's Skill?! Impossible! Did she steal it from him?!"

Aside from the Void Mane helping her absorb the black hole to activate, as it required such levels of space, void, and darkness energies to be activated to begin with, she had unleashed the [Space-Warping Eldritch Spirit Body] Skill, turning her body half-eldritch in appearance, with black tentacles as hair and black claws made of void, giving her the power to survive in the darkness of his magic!

"No, she also had Spatial Compression, that's Focalor's power...!" Merlinus gritted his teeth, trying to take out the weapons from his body. "S-She somehow has stolen the Skills from Demons! Is this the System's doing?!"

FLUOOOSH!

"Ugh?! What the hell is this now?!"

And out of nowhere, Merlinus began to burn, rainbow spirit flames covering his entire body.

Chapter 1388 Go All-Out!

Planta's strategy of pretending to die to surprise Merlinus had worked more than once. It seemed the arch wizard was so damn arrogant and confident on his supreme magic that the thought of someone surviving from getting eaten by a black hole was never in his mind.

And well, it was quite normal too, not many people would ever guess anyone could survive that to begin with, but Planta worked and played around with her trump cards, using them one after another to rapidly gain an advantage over her foe when they least expected it.

The powers of the Demons turned into new Skills resulted to be incredibly useful, and the perfect trump cards against a spatial magician such as him.

To make things worse, she had managed to deal more lethal damage to Merlinus, leaving behind her weapons incrustated inside of his chest and stomach, constantly filling him with holy spiritual light and other purifying energies, which due to his new body, had become his lethal weakness!

"IT'S NOT FAIR! I'VE WORKED MY ENTIRE LIFE!!!!!" Merlinus began to melt and monstrously expand his entire body, although he burned from the inside, more fleshy tendrils emerged, tentacles everywhere, a result of eating Voidlings without holding enough power to sustain their energies. "YOU HAVE THE POWER OF DEMONS?! OF A DEMON DUKE AND A DEMON PRINCE?! WITH NO PENALTIES?! WHEN I HAD TO TURN MY BODY INTO THIS TO EVEN GRASP A SPECK OF THEIR POWER?!"

Furious, Merlinus continued growing gigantic, rapidly trying to cut off the area where Elayne's weapons were! Her wooden arms moved on their own though rapidly fusing and then!

FLUOSH!

"Did you thought you managed to stop me?!"

Another Planta appeared; an Avatar born out of the four arms Merlinus sliced off! And containing the same damned Demonic Void Mane as well.

"Two bodies?!"

As Merlinus gritted his teeth, his gigantic tentacle arms attacked Planta's two avatars, unleashing a barrage of space-distorting blows, trying to get them crushed to smithereens.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

However, thanks to her recent transformation, Planta had become completely metallic by fusing with her Blade Wings, becoming so tough it even hurt to hit her.

"BEGONE! BEGONE I SAY!"

Merlinus grew more and more insane, as he continued hitting Planta within these few seconds, while firing countless void beams at her soul.

However, her Demonic Void Mane continued catching the void attacks, becoming larger, and stronger, to the point it reached its largest form!

FLUOOOSH!

"Thank you for the meal!" Planta roared.

"{Demonic Void Mane: Full Power}!"

RUMBLE!

[You have activated the {Demonic Void Mane} Skill to its fullest potential!]

[Channel Mana, Ki, and if available, Demonic Energy to create a powerful Void Mane around the user's neck. This Void Mane will create a spiraling effect that will protect the user from 30% of physical attacks and magical attacks, and absorb the Elements of Space, Void, and Darkness to strengthen itself and grow even more powerful.]

[Once the Void Mane grows large enough by absorbing these Elemental Magics, it will gain the ability to Warp Space around the user, allowing them to move around Space unhinged, to twist Space for offensive attacks, and to Deflect attacks by twisting and snapping space, alongside being able to shoot Void Beams. All Damage using the Void Mane is based on its growth level plus 200% of INT and WIS Stats.]

[With each Skill Level, the Void Mane will cost 5% less energy to create, and its Damage Dealt will increase by 20%.]

TRUUUM!

Planta abused the power of the Demonic Void Mane to her fullest extent, as she moved through space unhinged, teleporting around the body of Merlinus.

Like this, she constantly destroyed a part of his body where she teleported, leaving countless holes through it.

And she was doing this with both of her Avatars at once!

TRUUM! TRUUM! TRUUM! TRUUM!

"Nnnggghh! Nngaaarrggghh! S-STOP...! STOOOOP!"

Merlinus screamed in agony, his entire body gaining so many holes, while the four weapons constantly slashed, smacked, and crushed his body.

Gaia's All Purpose Tool had gone back to a giant golden shovel form as well, rapidly accumulating more Time Elemental Spirit Blessings!

"{Demonic... Void... Spacetime Magic}! {Shattered... Dimensional... Space}!"

TRUUUMMM!!!

Barely managing to do so, Merlinus conjured a mighty spell, expelling Plant and her avatar away from his body within a mere second, as he shattered the dimensional space around him, nullifying all space-attribute magic and skills at once!

"Uggh...!"

As Planta fell to the ground and rolled over, her two avatars were battered, with missing arms and legs. She quickly merged them both to regain mass, her metallic transformation was tough and most likely why she survived that, but it also didn't have as much regeneration as her previous form, similarly to Titan's metallic form.

And talking about Titan and the rest...!

BOOOM! CRAAASH! SLAAASH! RUMBLE!

"Ugggh! Aaargh! You bastards! Sneaking... behind me!"

The moment Merlinus nullified all space attribute spells around him, this also made him temporarily vulnerable as he couldn't use his magic instantly.

And this was the moment Planta's group attacked!

"{Phoenix Descent}!"

Titan swung his giant blazing sword, as a massive phoenix descended and exploded on Merlinus back, burning and destroying a large part of his body.

BOOOMM!!

"{Abyssal Void Star Rain}!"

Rita went for quick projectile conjuration, piercing through Merlinus entire body and leaving holes through it all, weakening him even more.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"{Mountain-Cleaving Divine Diamond Axe: Great Atlas}!"

Lily unleashed an evolved version of Atlas, smaller and more compact at only ten meters of height, but with all of its destructive power compressed, becoming deadlier!

CRAAASH!

With it, she rapidly cleaved off a large chunk of Merlinus body once more, weakening him rapidly, as his own Mana and Demonic Energies leaked out.

"I'll be taking this."

Erebus' Aura transformed, resembling giant jaws devouring the leaked energies and powers of Merlinus, regaining his own internal energies as well.

"Don't forget about us!"

"You're one tough nut to crack..."

Camilla and Elena appeared in front of Merlinus old face, which had been distorted, becoming longer and monstrous, made of slimy black mud.

"N-NO...! GET AWAY!"

Their weapons hitting his ugly face, as the two of them unleashed their strongest techniques.

"{Abyssal Blood Death Armament} {Spear of Calamity: Hades}!"

CRAAASSHH!!

"{Abyssal Void Blade Arts}: [Fifth Form: Blade of Nothingness]!"

SLAAASSHH!!

Chapter 1389: Merlinus' Desperation

After being battered around by Planta's teammates after she was thrown away and almost killed due to Merlinus trump card, a spell that could negate and deactivate all space, time, and void attribute magic at once, including his own...

"Don't forget about us!"

"You're one tough nut to crack..."

Camilla and Elena appeared in front of Merlinus old face, which had been distorted, becoming longer and monstrous, made of slimy black mud. Their Auras grew stronger, as they activated every buff possible, stacked further with Planta's buffs.

"N-NO...! GET AWAY!"

Their weapons were thrust forward, Camilla's rapier and Elena's katanas, hitting his ugly face, as the two of them unleashed their strongest techniques.

"{Abyssal Blood Death Armament} {Spear of Calamity: Hades}!"

Camilla's rapier absorbed her Abyssal Blood Aura and transformed into a massive spiraling tornado turned into a spear of pure black and dark red colors.

CRAAASSHH!!

The attack instantly pierced through Merlinus face, disintegrating half of it in a mere second, and blowing away the shoulder area!

"{Abyssal Void Blade Arts}: [Fifth Form: Blade of Nothingness]!"

Meanwhile, Elisa channeled the power of the Blade of Nothingness, unleashing its greatest power as a wave of pure invisible energy sliced through Merlinus.

SLAAASSHH!!

The attack cut through his very being, practically deleting another piece of his body, his face barely managing to keep a third of it!

Merlinus grew desperate as his agony continued to grow, the many surprising techniques and skills that Planta and the rest of her group constantly showed were making things utterly impossible for him now.

"After getting so far...! I won't die! I WON'T DIE HEREEEEEE!"

"{Demonic Void Spacetime Magic}: {Spatial Repulsion}!"

TRUUUMMM!!!

With a loud, monstrous scream, his magic activated once more, hundreds of his Runes exploded around him, sending Planta's group away, as they sustained medium levels of damage, mostly thanks to Planta's barriers and their own barriers combined together.

"Everyone!"

Planta rushed to their aid, waving her hands as her Domain and Terrain quickly expanded with her various Skills, healing waves of golden and green energies encompassed their bodies, their wounds instantly regenerating.

"Ugh, that damn thing is already regenerating again?!" asked Achlys, standing up.

"No, look, it's struggling to keep up!" said DarkReaper. "We've dealt enough damage!"

"He was still transforming into his third phase," said Planta. "This is probably why he's distorting and growing strangely; this is likely now how things should have turned out!"

"We've dealt some permanent damage at least, right?" Lily asked. "R-Right?!"

"I believe so!" Planta nodded. "We're progressing, but his power is still bottomless, we have to see just how far he can go! Let's go again! Titan, Lily, Camilla! Prepare yourselves for your special Formation!"

"On it! I've already set everything up!" Mark nodded.

"Me too!" Lily said.

"I've accumulated enough energies," Camilla nodded. "That damned Hell Hole he made though! He's going to swallow my entire beautiful kingdom!"

"That hole...!" Elena muttered. "Wait, doesn't it remind you of something? Like, something similar that happened back in the Trial!"

And then, as they rushed back to Merlinus while they activated secret formations, Elena's words awakened everyone's memories of that time.

Yes, there was an almost exact same event that happened over there where Cultists opened a massive Hell Hole that led to literal Hell, the Purgatory where the Demon King of the End resides! Your journey continues at NovelBin.Côm

"Is he trying to summon the Demon King of the End?!" Lily panicked. "No way!"

"Likely not," said Erebus. "I've analyzed him, there's no point in summoning a Demon King for someone like Merlinus. He wants to become one, not rely on them anymore. He's very prideful and arrogant after all... However, what he wants to do might be worse."

"What is it?!" Camilla asked.

"He's using the Demonic Monsters summoned by his Hell Cracks as sacrifices to the Hell Hole," explained Planta. "Is it some kind of Ritual?"

"Yes, I'm afraid it is," Erebus nodded. "It is the little thing he has been working this entire time, that old bastard... A Special Ritual to use Demon King Fragments and combine with them, becoming one himself."

"H-How is he even going to do that?!" Elena asked.

"He has one of my Fragments, which he had been experimenting with, trying to replicate its power, all this time," said Erebus. "I can feel it within him. He has also managed to secure a Fragment from the Demon King of Death, likely a large piece of his skeleton body. And also, he has absorbed and become the vessel of dozens of Demons Souls, at least some Demon Dukes are within him. Demon Dukes and Princes are direct children of the Demon King of the End, meaning that they're his Fragments, technically."

"N-No way, he already has everything?!" Planta asked.

"Yes..." Erebus nodded, squinting his eyes. "However, he has yet to fully merge with these fragments. Hence he planned to use millions of sacrificed human souls from this kingdom to complete the ritual entirely... but things have changed because of you Planta. Now he has grown desperate, trying to rush the ritual and use the souls of powerful Voidlings and Demonic Monsters instead. It's a gamble, it could fail. But even if it fails... the result won't be good for us either way."

"So this entire time he's been making all these monsters and demonic humans, was it all experimentations for him to achieve this?" asked Planta.

"Maybe... he's been indeed trying to replicate or fully merge the powers, and he has finally achieved the perfect ritual, in theory..." said Erebus. "We don't get much time either! We have to find a way to destroy his Domain, but it's too strong, and anchored to a fixed area within space and time. The Hell

Hole seems to also be another Ritual that uses Demonic Materials somewhere... Your friends went to take care of that, right?"

"Yes, let's hope for the best!" Planta nodded. "Then the plan doesn't change much anyways! Mark, Lily, Camilla, use the Formation when I give you the signal! Elena, Rita, Mimy, Erebus, come with me!"

Planta charged forward, confronting Merlinus, whose entire body was undergoing a transformation, perfecting itself, despite the wounds.

"You're here already?!" he screamed in disbelief. "Dammit!"

He swung his giant fists against Planta, as she used her weapons to intercept the blows, activating her techniques with quick succession.

Chapter 1390: Confronting The Demonic Door

The group that Planta had sent towards the destroyed Magician Tower advanced through the obstacles they faced, Demonic Wizards, Demon Monsters, Voidlings, and all sorts of catastrophes were rapidly overcome through their team effort.

As the heart of the team, the young man saved by Planta after he showed her how much he was actually suffering, Tomas, continued running through the abandoned underground labyrinth leading the party composed of Angelina, Gandalf, Anna, Elisa, and Monica, finally reaching a huge red colored door with a demonic head-shaped decoration on top of it.

He was happy, gasping for air while looking at the enormous door, pointing at it with his index finger, he was excited.

They were finally here.

"T-This must be it!" Tomas said, gasping for air. "Haaah... I'm exhausted."

"A door?" wondered Anna. "So what exactly do we do with this? Can it open? We don't get much time Tomas!"

"Okay, okay, I'm exhausted, sorry!" Tomas apologized. "We have to break through this door! It's heavily reinforced with Runes to hold in place. But behind this... I'm sure! They're keeping a huge Demonic Formation that further strengthens the Demonic Wizards and also Merlinus! It has a lot of Demonic Totems they use!"

"So you're saying that behind this door there's the origin of the powers Merlinus is using and why he's so damn strong?" Angelina asked. "Then we gotta just break through!"

"Yeah, I agree!" Gandalf roared. "It was nice that Planta forgave you and brought you along. Once more her mercifulness towards people, especially the NPC of this world has given us a new opportunity."

"Let me help as well!" Anna said. "Thank you for leading us here, Tomas!"

"Me too!" Elisa said. "I must help as much as possible, naturally!"

"M-Me too?" Monica muttered, trying to follow Elisa and Anna. "I don't know what I can do, but just tell me what I should target, and I'll do my best!"

"Alright then!" Tomas needed. "Please everyone, unleash your strongest attacks against the door! It is so incredibly tough that you won't be able to breakthrough otherwise!"

After Tomas words, the whole group conjured their strongest spells or skills, firing them at the door and rapidly bombarding it with attacks. Anna summoned her Familiars who unleashed their own Elemental Attacks, Monica fired beams of phantasmal flames, Elisa fired her golden flame dragon breath, Angelina used her Holy Spear Arts, and Gandalf unleashed a havoc of elemental spells!

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

Attacks rapidly accumulated, constantly spreading cracks through the entire door! And as the door began taking some serious damage and continuously looked worn down, something weird happened.

"AAAAHHHH!"

Suddenly and out of nowhere, the "head" of the door, actually opened its jaws, screaming, as its eyes began glowing bright red. It glared at the people in front of it, shocked and furious.

"WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING ME?!"

And it even spoke back at them!

It wasn't a mere door after all.

"Wait, it's talking?!" Anna asked, panicking.

"It's a Demonic Living Door?!" Tomas gasped. "We can't handle this right now! Retreat!"

"YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED INSIDE! ONLY MASTER MERLINUS AND HIS CLOSEST AIDES!"

Suddenly, countless eyes opened through the door's entire body, and the ceiling, floor, and walls around it started to tremble, forming giant hands made of stone, trapping them within the corridor!

Tomas knew about the threatening strength that Demonic Living Doors possessed and had thought of immediately retreating and redoing this in a better way.

"I'LL CRUSH YOU!"

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[The Demonic Familiar: [Possessed Demon Door: Level 350+] has been awakened from its long slumber and will fight and kill any intruders daring to enter what's behind it.]

"Level 350?!" Anna asked.

"Can we even handle that?!" Elisa asked.

"Only one way to find out...!" Angelina said, gritting her teeth as she held her Holy Spear tightly. "We can't escape anyway, Tomas! It's futile to attempt that again. You must face your enemy and your fears!"

"Aaah! Okay, it's not like there's any chance either way!" Tomas summoned two floating grimoires around him, his former and original method of fighting rather than demonizing.

"{Dual Soul-Bound Grimoire Summon}: {Frozen Lord Grimoire} and {Holy Light Grimoire}!"

Both Grimoires opened, glowing with bright azure and golden colors, overflowing with magical and spiritual energies that granted Tomas great power.

This was his original class ability, as a Grimoire Librarian Class, he had Special Skills that helped him create Soul Bonds with Magic Grimoires.

These Soul Bonds were limited to only two he could summon at any time by his side, and which received a substantial boost to their power.

He could also register many Grimoires as Soul Bound at once, and teleport them to his side whenever he wanted to swamp, although with specific cooldowns in between.

"Not bad!" Anna smiled. "Let's go, team!"

"GRAAAAH! YOU'RE TRAPPED, FUCKERS! STOP BEING SO CONFIDENT!"

The Possessed Demon Door wasn't having any of their shit though, his countless eyes charged his demonic energies, firing hundreds of laser beams at once!

"Careful!"

Anna panicked, as countless laser beams reached them her Familiars and her Magic activated alongside her Skills, as Barriers with various layers appeared around her and her familiars.

Everyone else also used their own Barrier Skills or Spells to defend the incoming attacks, bombardments of explosions engulfing them completely, from every damn angle!

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

As explosions continued accumulating rapidly over time, the team felt completely stagnant! Their barriers were about to shatter!

"I see why they're so damn terrifying, they can keep shooting this forever?!" Anna asked. "If we get out of the barriers we'll get filled with holes or worse, fall into little pieces!"

"There's a way to stop it!" Tomas said. "Destroy the eyes... from here!"

His Grimoires glowed brightly, Ice and Light combined, creating white ice crystals and firing them at the nearest eye!

CRAAASH!

The eye at the ceiling exploded, as the Door screamed in pain.

"AAARRGH!"

Noticing this actually worked, the rest of the party got pumped up instantly.

"Target the big eyes!" Anna said, the entire group sprang into action.