

Brand New 1391

Chapter 1391: Aim At The Eyes!

The eyes!

Tomas realized that by destroying one eye, the Door screamed in agony, feeling great pain.

The key was to target the eyes, which constantly moved across the ceiling, floor and walls, firing laser beams of demonic energy.

It was quite obvious after thinking about it, the very reason Tomas had originally targeted them was because they were lethal weapons firing beams!

It was obvious that they had to take them down, as it would lessen the danger and increase their chances of surviving.

The door was too tough, they would need to gang on it and hit it several times while staying in the same position.

Therefore, they had to first take down the eyes, unless they wanted to get roasted alive while dozens of lasers hit them from every damned angle.

"Target the big eyes!" Anna said, the entire group sprang into action. "Go! {Familiar Blessing Aura}!"

Anna commanded her four Familiars, the Red Phoenix, the Emerald Storm Wolf, the Titan Stone Golem, and the new Giant Fang-Toothed Ice Wease overflowed with new power, as Anna infused her own Stats into their bodies as Blessings.

This was one of the Summoner's most powerful buffing Spells, which was made into buffing their own familiars by adding their stats into them.

Although Summoners were regarded as weak compared to other magicians individually, Anna had continuously invested into the growth, evolution, and equipment of her familiars.

And right now, all four of them were letting all her efforts shine the brightest!

"CRYAAAH!"

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The Red Phoenix roared with a golden divine aura of blessings, the giant blazing bird rushed down, using its talons, which were equipped with giant golden claws made of metal!

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

Using them and its flames and quick movements, the Red Phoenix crashed into the eyes one after another, burning them and making them blow up into pieces.

"AWOOOO!"

Meanwhile, the Emerald Storm Wolf howled mightily, using its massive body to charge forward, and swinging its giant claws against the eyes, destroying them one after another, while unleashing giant storms of slicing winds.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

The slicing winds expanded rapidly, cutting and slicing more eyes, although the eyes also fired their lasers, pushing the wolf and the phoenix back.

"GRUOOHHH!"

However, that's where the Titan Stone Golem entered, its entire body overflowing with mana suddenly went from stone to steel, and then from steel to mithril.

This was the Titan Stone Golem's Special Skill [Alloy Body]; by using Mana, it could temporarily reinforce and forge its own body into progressively stronger metals.

Using its own body, it quickly covered the phoenix and the wolf from the beams, tanking them with its mithril physique, which even bounced off some damage.

And while doing so, it conjured giant mithril spears, piercing eyes whenever they got closer.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

"Nice! Nice! Keep going!"

Anna hid behind her golem while she saw everyone fighting, but quickly noticed someone wasn't around.

"Wait, where's the weasel at?!"

As she wondered that, suddenly...

FLUOOOSH!

A small snowstorm came from behind her, rapidly slowing down several of the eyes nearby, and making them easy to pick up.

"KYEEEEH!"

The Giant Fang-Toothed Ice Wease expanded its Pseudo Domain and moved at lightning speed around the snow left behind, using its giant fang tooth to destroy the slightly frozen eyes and supporting the rest of the familiars.

"Ah, there you are! Wow, you're stronger than I thought!"

As Anna saw this happening, the rest of the team continued battling. Angelina infused her body with as much holy light as possible, and then fired beams of light herself.

"{Holy Light Beam Lasers}!"

The lasers emerged from her body and quickly impacted various eyes, although most were missed, a couple were hit directly, exploding.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"Hey Angelina, that's not going to be near as enough!" Gandalf complained, conjuring barriers.

"{Mirror Barriers}!"

The mirrors surrounded them, as lasers were sent back right where they came from, although the barriers gained cracks quickly, so he had to replace them over and over again.

"Predict them as they come! Trap them! paralyze them, like this!" the old wizard pointed his staff at the nearby eye, releasing sparks of electricity that didn't do too much damage, but spread on a wide area.

"{Thunderbolt Magic}: {Thunder Wave}!"

FLUOOOSH!

As he did, several eyes were instantly paralyzed, the status effect lasted like 3 seconds, but it was enough for everyone nearby to crush the eyes, including Angelina.

"I guess using flashy attacks won't do in this situation!" Angelina used her golden shield to defend and protect Gandalf as well. "I'm slowly getting the hang of Magic itself, so let me copy you a bit, Gandalf!"

Angelina pointed into the distance, the holy light she controlled concentrating into her hand and then, she manipulated its magic fluctuations and mana quantity, imbuing "commands" into the magic itself, something that was a derived power from Players being able to automatically use skills by "commanding them" to activate.

"I got it!" Angelina smiled. "{Soul-Chasing Holy Laser Star}!"

A miniature star of holy light was conjured, firing dozens of lasers that began chasing the moving eyes, no longer failing anymore, they blew the eyes into pieces one after another.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"W-What the hell...?!" Gandalf gasped in disbelief as he glanced Angelina using her new Spell. "Y-You created a Spell so easily?! That's not fair, it took me a while and you're doing it instantly!"

"You should've picked an Angel as your Race then, Gandalf!" Angelina smiled coquettishly. "It seems we come packed with talents for all sorts of things. Also Holy Light as the primary element is amazing against all these monsters and demon king-derived creatures. I am surprised it hasn't become completely meta by now."

"Maybe because they're laughably weak at the beginning?!" Asked Gandalf. "If we hadn't carried you back then you wouldn't be here, don't get cocky!"

"H-Hahaha, don't remind me of those times..." Angelina smiled bitterly.

Angels would only get this strong after several evolutions and were known to be one of the weakest starting classes, only bested by Dryads who had little physical strength, defense, speed, agility, and only were good at luck and a bit of magic, mostly healing and buffing plants.

"GRUUUAARRGGH! S-STOP DOING THAT, FUCKERS!"

And the Demon Door was struggling to keep up, his eyes were being destroyed faster than he could keep making them!

Chapter 1392 The Resilient Boss

The Demonic Door wasn't a true Demon, it was a designated Demonic Artifact where a Demon Soul had been infused into it. Its functions were simple, protect, guard, and defend a very important area of the tower, not letting anybody inside except Merlinus and his most trusted allies. Its form wasn't defined by the door, however, as it expanded through the walls and ceiling, capable of slowly "devouring" his surroundings and replacing them with his true body.

His power lies within his eyes, however, as he can create many, firing rapid lasers from every direction, a lethal weapon to most foes, giving the door the power to pulverize them and cover with holes most enemies easily, making it the ideal, loyal guardian that Merlinus could have ever asked for.

However, although it could produce eyes for more rapid fire, whenever they were shattered, it would feel a part of its powers growing weaker, and as many were broken, dozens of them, the demonic door was already on the verge of collapsing!

"E-ENOUGH WITH THIS!"

The Demon Soul within the Door, an unknown Demon without Title or Name, but that was fairly strong amongst the "Demon Warriors" that were candidates to become Demon Dukes, had grown completely exhausted, reaching his limits.

Suddenly, all the eyes retreated and disappeared, leaving everyone finally safe from their deadly demonic lasers, capable of ignoring most defenses and even piercing through most common armor, although things with mithril could resist it to an extent.

"I'VE HAD ENOUGH... UUGGH...! I'M GOING TO EAT YOU UP!"

The Demonic Door did something it didn't expect it would be pushed to do. To begin with, this move by itself was risky, but it had no other option right now.

"Huh? What's going on- Uwah?!"

Suddenly, Anna panicked as she saw massive fangs emerge from the floor.

"Look!"

Elisa panicked, noticing more of the same fangs on the walls, moving around, everywhere.

"The ceiling as well!"

Monica was terrified as she noticed hundreds of fangs over the ceiling too.

The entire corridor was getting full of fangs, fleshy tendrils moving around, the bricks and everything else was nothing but a façade, the scales of the monster.

"Don't tell me the entire corridor is the Demonic Door's mouth?!" Anna panicked. "Tomas! Why didn't you tell us?!"

"I-I had no idea myself!" Tomas panicked. "I seriously didn't know this! Uwaaagh! RUN!"

The ceiling, walls, and floor started to quickly close, as the Demonic Door laughed.

"You won't be able to run away in time! I'll devour you and crush you into meat paste, you bastards!"

As the massive jaw rapidly closed, everyone flew away, but it was too late, the exit was gone, there was a huge wall in the place, with teeth as well!

"We'll have to break through!" Angelina said. "Elisa! You're the physically strongest here! Let's charge together! Monica, Anna, attack it from the sides with your magic, weaken it! Gandalf, prepare a big attack! Tomas, support him!"

As she said that, the jaws were rushing towards them, the group acted as quickly as possible, Angelina and Elisa nodded together, holy spear and golden dragon claws piercing and cleaving through the walls, as giant chunks of flesh were sliced apart and destroyed.

The wall was very thick though, massively at that! Even as they cut giant cubes of meat, there seemed to never be an end.

The jaws rushed towards them, giant sharp teeth trying to crush them one by one!

"Not on my watch! {Familiar-Bond: Elemental Magic Beam}!"

"Take this! {Accursed Phantasmal Claws}!"

Anna and Monica unleashed their magic, as Anna fired four elemental beams channeling the power of her Familiars, while Monica's arms turned into massive shadow and phantom claws that were infused with weakening curses.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! CRASH! CRASH!

As their magic attacks landed, the entire wall began to tremble and the jaws coming quickly seemed to stop momentarily.

"Now, master Gandalf!" said Tomas.

"I am not your master, brat!" Gandalf roared. "...But I like the sound of that."

A giant magic circle was conjured, as Gandalf unleashed a titanic beam of three elements, ice, thunder, and fire, the beam powered up by Tomas grimoires pierced through the wall completely!

BOOOOMMM!!!

The wall exploded and burned, being pulverized into ashes and rapidly letting everyone escape before the jaws were to close.

"UUAAARRGH! THAT FUCKING HURT!"

The Demonic Door complained as its jaws closed, to everyone there, it looked as if the door wasn't even there, but everything was walls.

"T-That was hardcore, but we managed to escape somehow..." Anna muttered. "Howe do we deal with this guy?! Do we just..."

"Yeah, we just blast him!" Angelina nodded. "His eyes are very few and now he can't spam them to laser us into Swiss cheese, so it's the perfect time to just reduce whatever he is into a pile of minced demon meat."

"I agree with her, let's just go ham, we can't waste our time any longer! Planta and the rest are waiting for our help!" Gandalf said. "Tomas, can you channel your demonic powers? We'll need more power."

"M-My demonic powers?" Tomas asked, feeling slightly afraid. "I-I don't know... I... Lady Planta said she sealed them so..."

"Ah, well, a pity, we'll have to deal with this on our own then," Gandalf said. "Let's prepare a big beam again, this time, we'll have to divide it into ten other beams, like a machinegun but with magic beams! Do you get it, boy?"

"A-A machinegun? What is that, sir?" Tomas wondered.

"Ah right you're from this world dammit! Whatever, just help me out!" Gandalf said crankily.

"Y-Yes!" Tomas nodded.

Meanwhile, the rest of the party drank mana potions and ate special nutritional bars of fruits and cereals that Planta had given to them, which she prepared using her magic.

They were quick meals packed full of nutrients, carbs, proteins, and more, which healed someone's satiation completely and much better than Stamina Potions, as they gave stat buffs and everything.

Gandalf and Tomas ate their own too, as the Demonic Door began trembling only after two minutes since it closed its jaws.

RUMBLE!

"BASTARDS... YOU'RE STILL THERE?! WANNA GO AGAIN?!"

The Demonic Door opened its jaws, inviting them in.

"THEN COME IN!"

Chapter 1393 Intense Battle!

The Demonic Door opened its massive jaws, inviting the party to gamble it against him once more. Despite growing weaker after most of his eyes were destroyed, it would eventually recover, everyone noticed the wall they pushed through had fully regenerated now, and it moved like a giant limb, shapeshifting into some kind of tentacle.

"Just what the hell is this guy?!" Asked Anna. "He ain't no possessed door! He's more like... Like some kind of Mimic Monster, no?"

"Exactly my thoughts, girl," Gandalf nodded. "I believe this is not quite a simple door possessed by a Demon Soul, but a Mimic-like monster that expands inside a certain building, slowly eating and replacing its walls, ceiling, floor, and so on."

"If that's true, then how can we defeat such a huge thing that's everywhere?" Monica asked. "C-Can we even do it to begin with?"

"We must," said Angelina. "We'll kill and destroy everything... We'll have to do that and see if it works."

"I'm almost ready," Gandalf's Magic Circle was growing larger. "Runic Inscription Arts is sure a useful Skill! I have to thank Planta for recommending it. It wasn't cheap in the Player Market, but the Skill Book was worth the price!"

FLUOOOSH!

The magic circle continued growing larger, and larger, and larger...

The tremendous magical power exuding from it made even the Demonic Door grow slightly alert, and in response, they also decided to use magic.

"You think I'm defenseless or something?!" The door roared furiously. "Watch this!"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Dozens of small black and dark red pentagrams were manifested out of thin air in front of the door, overflowing with demonic energies and mana.

"He's also conjuring magic?!" Tomas wondered panicking slightly.

"It's not that strong," Anna analyzed. "His energy fluctuations have become much weaker! He's most likely preparing it for a last resort attack, one to eliminate us all once we get close enough."

She was using her {Familiar-Bond: Beast Senses} to share her senses with her familiars and vice versa, allowing her to see through their special eyes that could easily see fluctuations of various energies.

"So we are in a similar position, kind of," Elisa said. "Hmm, well, we've still got an advantage. Let's go all out!"

FLUOSH!

Her Draconic Aura surged, resembling a giant golden dragon from her own body, with massive claws and everything, she had become stronger beyond the System, as her Real Life Body had become magically more powerful after absorbing all those Mana Cores a few days ago when they invaded Planta's house.

"Then team, let's go!"

Angelina nodded, her Holy Lance overflowing with her holy energies, glowing brightly, and so did her powerful holy aura, increasing the power of her own magical and elemental attacks, as it was a Skill.

"I'll begin then! Tomas, with me!" Gandalf called out Tomas, as the young man's grimoires glowed brightly, he summoned three more to empower the spell.

"Y-Yes, master Gandalf!" Tomas instinctively called him like that even though Gandalf wasn't too sure if it was a good idea to get a disciple yet.

FLUOOOSH!

The magic circle rapidly activated in that moment, as silence fell, and nothing happened...

"Wait, is there an error? There's nothing-"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Before Anna could finish her words, the magic circle fired dozens of thunderous, fiery, and freezing beams against the entire corridor.

"NNNGGGH?!"

The Demonic Door panicked, using giant walls to defend...

And yet.

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

"UWAAACK!"

The beams pierced through all walls, leaving gigantic holes behind! The ceilings, walls, floor, everything started to be burned and pulverized. Everyone saw more of the Demonic Door's "true body" resembling a giant octopus-like monstrosity merged with the tower's floor, ceiling, and walls.

Several parts of its body were pulverized, burned, and frozen, torn to shreds and more! It was finally growing weak enough!

"NOW!"

Angelina roared, rushing with Elisa by her side, their Auras converged, very compatible with one another, making the two stronger as a result.

FLUOSH!

"D-Don't think you'll get any closerrrrr!"

The Demonic Door grew desperate, attacking with whatever was left of his body, gigantic, muscular tentacles fired powerful demonic beams at them.

And yet...!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

They swung their weapons and claws, tearing through them as they advanced! This caused great agony to the mimic-like demonic door, who screamed louder.

"GRYYAAAH! S-STOP! STOOOOP!"

As he continued complaining about the pain, something that a demon wasn't used to after living in Hell for so long, Angelina and Elisa broke through!

Followed by Anna, Monica, Gandalf, and Tomas, they kept running straight into the Demonic Door once more, inside of his jaws.

However, whenever the jaws tried to close...

"Take this!"

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

Gandalf and Tomas conjured deadly piercing magic, intimidating the jaws to pull back, or even ultimately destroying them one after another.

"Now or never! {Familiar Fusion: Great King of Four Elements}!"

FLUOOOSH!

Anna activated her strongest Skill, as her Familiars suddenly became slightly metallic despite being very much alive and fleshy.

CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

Their bodies, metalized, merged together into a humanoid machine-like beast monster form, with the torso and wings of the phoenix, legs of the golem, right hand of the weasel, and left hand of the wolf.

As it was completed, a new humanoid head emerged from its torso, although completely made of the same metal as the Familiars.

This was Anna's ultimate Skill, her powerful Soul-Bound Fusion Skill itself!

The Great King of Four Elements manifested a blade made of magical rainbow spirit flames, swinging it around, and unleashing massive shockwaves of various elements at once.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

As this happened, Monica expanded her ghostly and cursed powers, weakening everything around her that wasn't an ally, and Elisa punched them and cleaving through them as if she were a machine.

As they kept moving forward, the Demonic Door grew desperate, its pentagrams activated, as he fired a massive rainfall of Demonic Blazing Meteors!

Chapter 1394 The Desperate Demon

Once he realized they started to break through, the Demonic Door grew desperate, immediately deciding to activate his magic circles, the pentagrams, ahead of his planned time just to get rid of these foes as quickly as he possibly could.

Dozens of these demonic magic circles activated, as gigantic two to three-meter-big blazing meteors were summoned, beginning to rapidly be shot at his foes, the entire group was caught mildly off-guard, as they didn't expect the Demon Door to grow so desperate so quickly.

The meteors weren't just blazing stone but made out of crystalized demonic energy covered on demon flames, merely being touched by these flames would immediately drain people's mana, lifeforce, and stamina instantly, and cause severe, cursed burns.

It wasn't something they could afford to take!

"Dammit!" Angelina screamed. "Behind me! NOW!"

As she screamed, the Valkyrie rushed forward against the dozens of meteors!

"A-Angelina?! What are you doing! Wait!"

Gandalf panicked as he saw Angelina rush forward, her shining holy spear glowing brightly, as her winged feathers turned into pure light.

"RAAAH!"

Her entire body transformed, as her body gained several new wings, and she was covered on divine armor made of her own aura, her spear became even longer and majestic, while she gained a shield.

She unleashed her special Divine Fusion Skill!

"{Heavenly Archangel Embodiment}!"

FLAAASH!

She rushed towards the meteors, using her holy lance and her shield to clash against them all, moving at lightning speed as she shocked everyone!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The demonic flames were reflected by her holy powers, as her weapons crushed the meteors before they could reach everyone else.

However, in this area, without Planta's Domain, Angelina's Skill became a terrible drainer of energies, her Mana rapidly depleting, and so her Satiation!

"An Angel?! Here?!"

The Demonic Door grew shocked, as he continued firing projectiles, until Angelina reached the magic circles themselves, tanking hundreds of blows at once constantly.

Using her Spear and her Rays of Light coming from her wings, she destroyed every one of the pentagrams, shattering them into pieces.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

"NOOOO!"

The Demonic Door roared in fury and frustration, as he saw Angelina rushing towards him. The Demonic Door roared back, quickly transforming, growing dozens of massive, muscular, red-skinned arms covered on stone-like scales.

"YOU THINK I'LL GO DOWN EASILY?! I AM A MIGHTY DEMON MYSELF!

"UGH?!"

BAAM! BAAM! BAAM! BAAM! BAAM!

"Aaarrgh!"

Countless punching attacks reached Angelina, her energies fully depleting in that moment without Planta's support to maintain her overpowered form, crumbling as countless blows rapidly began depleting her health!

"Bastard! Let go of her!"

Gandalf screamed loudly, his magic warping around his hands as he fired a series of thunderbolts, fire snakes, and frozen spears at the door.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

As the magic began to destroy the arms one after another, Angelina was finally dropped, her health already going almost to single digits.

She barely survived thanks to the barriers that Planta had set on her, letting her live with exactly 1 HP, tanking a lethal blow.

"Heal her! Quickly!"

As Gandalf screamed, Elisa, the only one with proper healing spells as a golden dragon rushed towards Angelina.

"Angelina! Well done, but that was too reckless!"

As she reached the woman, suddenly, gigantic tentacles stopped the girl from advancing, wrapping around Angelina's body and also attacking Elisa!

"I'll have her as my meal! If I devour an Angel, I'll grow tremendously powerful!"

The Demon Door laughed, as his jaws began to wrap around Angelina, seconds from crushing her and swallowing her.

"Not on my watch!!!"

Elisa screamed loudly, her entire body suddenly exploding into pure light, as she became a golden-scaled dragon, rushing towards Angelina, using her claws and jaws to bite through and cleave the tentacles apart.

"UUGGH?! Y-YOU WERE A DIVINE DRAGON?!"

The Demonic Door was shocked to see a Dragon, and not a normal one, a Divine Dragon, a race of ancient intelligent beings created by the Yggdragon and the Gods.

Unlike the Dragon Borns, which cannot turn into dragons and whose humanoid forms resemble lizardmen with draconic features, Divine Dragons can take more human-like or perhaps elf-like forms, with hair, humanoid face, and only scales around their arms, neck, and legs.

The biggest difference, however, was that Divine Dragons could transform into their "true forms", becoming gigantic, powerful dragons capable of devastating armies on their own.

They were among the strongest Ancient Tribes, and their legacy spread through all of Arcadia!

However, to see one alive was simply something incredibly rare.

"RAAAHHHH!"

Elisa didn't hold back anymore, using claws and teeth to chew and cleave through all tentacles stopping her, she grabbed the tentacles wrapping around Angelina and tore them open, grabbing her and healing her while flying away.

Angelina coughed, she seemed to be paralyzed after she emptied her Mana and Satiation, a common status effect that is a penalty when something like this happens. This was one of the reasons why having healing items is always a must in this game.

"GoldenLady...?" Angelina groaned. "Ugh, I can't...! My health is depleting!"

"Wha...?!" Elisa panicked as she ran away from the tentacles and jaws, realizing Angelina was covered in cursed marks, draining her life, mana, and satiation constantly. "You were cursed?! But aren't you an angel?!"

"It seems that Demons have the power to ignore... certain resistances and skills to an extent!" Said Angelina. "But fear not I have... Ugh, I can't reach my Inventory...!"

"Don't worry, I got this!" Elisa evaded the tentacles coming at her, firing giant swords made of her divine holy light, as she took out an Elixir made out of Planta's Sap, and fed it to Angelina. "Drink it! Hurry!"

"Y-Yes... Gulp...!"

As Angelina started drinking the Elixir, which was as sweet as syrup with a flowery smell and a flavor similar to honey with strawberry, the battel raged around them.

"RAAAHHH!"

Although the Demonic Door could no longer conjure magic after what Angelina did, its body continued shapeshifting and regrowing new limbs, mostly tentacles with teeth now.

"Dammit! I'm running out of Mana way too fast with this!"

Gandalf's hands trembled as he felt dizzy by draining his mana so quickly by conjuring so much magic at once, keeping the whole Demonic Door from attacking anybody else singlehandedly.

"YOU'VE GROWN WEAK, WIZARD!"

The Demonic Door laughed, manifesting a titanic hand and crushing Gandalf.

"Ahhh!"

CRAAASH!

Chapter 1395 Sacrifice

As Gandalf's hands trembled while trying to get to drink a Mana Potion, the rest of the party was right behind him, unleashing spells and attacking the walls, skinning them apart to limit the expansion of the demonic door's attacks. Anna, Monica, and Tomas were fully concentrating on this task after Gandalf told them to do so while Elisa went to fetch Angelina.

Of course, Anna and especially Monica didn't like the idea at all, risking Elisa's soul getting cursed by demons and everything, but it was still the best strategy to minimize damage and create less chaos in the small and tight battlefield within the corridor.

"Elisa!"

Monica smiled as she saw Elisa rush towards them carrying Angelina who was slowly healing thanks to the Elixir's effects.

"I'm here! Let me help-"

"YOU'VE GROWN WEAK, WIZARD!"

The Demonic Door laughed, manifesting a titanic, red-skinned hand pointing at Gandalf, who was in the middle of drinking a Mana Potion while Tomas took the responsibility of firing magic missiles everywhere.

"Ahhh!"

Gandalf felt the immense pressure of the hand as it opened a giant crimson eye, a pressure only exuded from Demonic Energy Aura alone, making him drop his Mana Potion and become staggered for a moment.

"Master Gandalf!"

Tomas screamed in horror as he saw the massive hand rushing down, he ran to help his new "master" but it was futile, his speed was too slow, and his body was weak, he would only get crushed like Gandalf!

He fired magic at the hand rushing down, but it easily reflected the magic, as the Demonic Door put all its demonic soul into creating an aura to reflect most common elemental magic.

"IT'S FUTILE! DIE LIKE A COCKROACH!"

The hand went down, as Gandalf looked at it in disbelief, and then at Tomas, smiling.

"Don't worry kid, I'll revive later... Carry on the mission!"

CRAAASH!

"Nooooo!"

Gandalf was crushed, his body glitching and beginning to disappear into digital particles, it wasn't bloody, but it was still impacting, as his body had still been crushed, with his arms and legs twisted, and his head destroyed.

He said he'll revive later, and he wasn't wrong... But Tomas knew of a fact that made him still angered. A fact about Players that nobody knew except Merlinus and his most trusted magicians.

A truth that was revealed to him after Merlinus successfully managed to capture and experiment on a Player for a couple of days by killing him constantly.

As Players die, their souls weaken.

A single death might not cause any effect, but the way they die sometimes has an effect.

If they die against a demon, they might receive great damage, which would affect their everyday lives in that "other world" where they came from.

But despite all of this, there was another reason...

Another reason why Tomas felt so shocked and angered.

"He reminds me of my original master..."

A master that once taught him everything about magic, but that died tragically against the demonic wizards when he tried to expose their real identities.

A master named Gandolf, similarly to Gandalf too.

For a moment, Tomas had even believed that Gandalf was his reincarnation or something, as stupid as it sounded.

"You didn't have to do that!" Tomas screamed at the Demonic Door, tears falling from his eyes. "Master Gandalf...!"

He fell to his knees, as he glanced at the body of the Player slowly disappear.

"I couldn't protect you back then, and now...! Even now...!"

"Gandalf's dead?!" Angelina asked. "Dammit! He won't be able to revive in over a day now! We have to stabilize our formation or else-"

"Stop crying like a little girl!" The Demonic Door laughed. "If you're so sad, why don't you join your damned master?!"

"A-Aah...!"

Tomas felt paralyzed as he saw the massive hand's eye, a pressure that left him completely to the demonic door's mercy.

"I'LL CRUSH YOU TOO!"

Angelina, Elisa, Anna, and Monica panicked.

"No! Tomas!" Angelina screamed.

"Get back here!" Elisa cried. "You can't die! You aren't a Player!"

"We won't get there in time! Space around is warping, it slowing us down!" Monica said. "It's a risky move but the Demonic Door is using their bare soul to unleash this pressure! It's immense!"

"Dammit! {King of Four Elements: Speed Mode}!" Anna screamed, jumping over her Familiars fusion, which rapidly transformed into a huge motorbike-like magical construct.

CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

As it transformed, it rushed at lightning speed towards Tomas!

And yet, even then, as Monica said...

TRUUUM!

"Ah!"

Anna's eyes widened, space warped around them, as they were being pushed back instead of being allowed to move forward.

"Hehehe! Fools!" laughed the Demonic Door. "It doesn't matter if I have to expose my soul! It's not like you pathetic ants could ever harm it enough now that your angel is so weakened! GAHAHAHA!"

Indeed, by his words, it was already confirmed! His Soul was a warping space within his own body, making it possible for him to push foes back constantly, without letting them get close to his "main body", the door itself.

"M-Master Gandolf...! I've failed you again...!"

Tomas felt powerless as the Giant One-Eyed Demonic Hand rushed down to crush him as well, his hand trembled, his entire body trembled.

"I don't want to die but...! This is...! This is how it should be at the end, right?"

He kept crying, lamenting his own existence and the tragedies around him.

"I've done so many horrible things... I-I deserve... to die..."

"TOMAS! FIGHT BACK! GANDALF WOULDN'T HAD LET YOU KILL YOURSELF LIKE THIS, YOU STUPID KID!"

Angelina screamed, her words reaching Tomas' ears, as the boy woke up from the Fear Status Condition he had been inflicted.

CRAAASH!

He used Mana to push himself back, a second before the hand was to crush him, something Gandalf was unable to do as he had his Mana depleted in that moment.

"Damn cockroach! Stay put! Die like the pathetic vermin you are!"

TRUUUM!

The Demonic Door released the pressure once more, as Tomas vomited blood, falling to his knees once more.

"Aaargh...!"

As he faced the demonic hand coming after him once more, Tomas gritted his teeth, furrowing his eyebrows.

"Dammit...! Dammit...! Dammit!"

His heart was filled with frustration, with anger against his own weakness, against his own pathetic self.

"Why cannot I protect anything?!"

"It drives me... so mad!"

FLAAASH!

His eyes began glowing bright red, as something sealed within him started to awaken.

CRAAASH!

And his Inner Demon Awakened.

Chapter 1396 The Life Of Someone That Could Never Fight Back

Tomas life flashed through his mind for a moment, he was able to have another glimpse at his childhood, his early steps as a magician, and how his first master, Gandolf, taught him everything he knows.

Tomas was never very talented at magic, he wasn't the best at it either, where he got at was through sheer effort and practice, constant and without end, every day, every night, for years.

At first he could barely conjure a small, tiny nail-sized ice crystal, so weak it broke when it touched almost anything.

But over time, as he was taught and learned his real abilities, he slowly shaped magic and mana differently, transforming, evolving as a person.

He dedicated his whole life to this, to magic.

Since he was a child that his wish was to join the Magician Guild and become a prestigious mage that could raise his small family from their poverty.

Despite coming from a noble family, he was the illegitimate son of a noble man, and his mother was a maid whose his father had a hidden relationship.

"Mama, when will I meet my father? All the kids at school laugh at me because I told them I didn't have one..."

"Y-Your father? Ah... well, he's... he's a very important man, someone... that is too busy. I'm sorry, Tomas..."

He never saw his father in his entire life, and his mother was always working to keep him well fed. His father only gave him and his mother their house and paid for basic expenses.

But everything else, such as education, food, clothes, water, and so on, had to come from their own hard work, completely abandoned after that.

"Haaah... My back and my foot hurt so much... I want to sleep... T-Tomas! Did you have dinner?"

As he saw his mother come back tired from working every night, Tomas constantly made his goal to earn money through his magic, to become the best magician.

Gandolf, a wandering magician, became his master after he saw him starving on the streets and was fed. As a reward for letting him live in their house and give him food, Gandolf became his personal magic tutor.

"Thank you for your kindness, son. I have nothing to repay you for your favor, other than my own knowledge and life experiences, however."

"You're... a real mage, right?! Would you become my tutor? I want to become a great magician and earn money for mom!"

Wandering Magicians were different than the Magicians of the Prestigious Tower, they were often times treated as vagabonds, people that wandered from town to town, learning about magic alongside life and experiences.

"Hahahah... So eager... Very well, perhaps this too, is part of my destiny. Let's see where the Flow of Mana brings me to this time around."

They came to the realization that the only way for their magic to no longer stagnate, and for them to discover the wonders of mana, was to experience a life full of adventures and dangers and search for magic around the world.

They followed the doctrine of "The Flow of Mana" a belief amongst Wandering Magicians that Mana had a predetermined "Flow" for every person in the world, and that the Flow of Mana led them to their destinies.

By denying the Flow of Mana, they would be unable to learn more and grow as people and magicians, but if they embraced these little opportunities, and took advantage of them, they would grow, learn and even become stronger.

"Magic is so hard..."

Tomas took a while to even conjure more than the tiny little spell he could create, but Gandolf was an incredibly patient and good-natured magician.

"Patience, patience... Everything will come naturally, the Flow of Mana is always protecting you, Tomas. Believe in it and believe in yourself."

"The Flow of Mana...?"

"Once more, check these books drawings. See these Runes? Your Runic Inscriptions are a bit... well, not good, let's practice by doing a hundred of them today!"

"A hundred?!"

"Do your best trying to copy these Runes! It is within human nature to copy and imitate the other people we see around us to learn, right? That's how we learn how to talk after all."

"Y-Yes... I guess... I'll do my best."

Years passed, and although it was hard at the beginning, Tomas improved, becoming better and better, and ultimately, despite his background, he was accepted into a Magician School, with Gandolf becoming a teacher there to supervise him.

He faced countless challenges, and most of the time, the more talented and richer noble magician students bullied him a lot, Tomas was a very meek and shy boy, he was unable to fight back against their bullying, and only Gandolf could protect him.

However, despite all of that, he kept working hard, no matter how others treated him, and eventually, he grew strong, stronger, and even stronger after that.

His magic became proper magic, and his knowledge and spells allowed him to finally give the final step, reaching the tower he dreamed for his entire life.

"Congratulations, Tomas! This is just what you wanted, right?"

"A-Ah, yes... I still can hardly believe it. But what about you, Master Gandolf?"

"Ah well, I've grown rather used to the city life by now, so I've decided to join the Tower for a while, see how the people are over there, maybe make new friends? Before I depart. I want to see you become a full-fledged magician first after all."

"Master... Thank you, for everything."

"It's nothing kiddo. That's just how the Flow of Mana willed it to be."

And yet, although their lives looked to be improving.

It all came down the moment they joined that wretched tower.

"Tomas! Tomas! We have to run away!"

"M-master?!"

Gandolf came running towards him, his eyes full of horror and terrified.

"They're demons! They're dealing with demons, Tomas! The Magicians of this tower are insane! They're a cult!"

"W-What?! No... t-that cannot be!"

"It's the truth! They tried to turn me into one of them, I ran away but- Ah! They're here, we have to get out of the Tower, hurry!"

Gandolf grabbed Tomas by the hand, dragging him away.

Chapter 1397 Tomas' Demon

Out of nowhere, Tomas saw his master become bewildered, coming back to him and telling him to escape as fast as possible.

What he had learned regarding the Magician Tower was something beyond his imagination, that the Wizards here had not only dealt with demons but experimented with their souls and even used them to fuel their powers was simply insane.

Even worse when he learned they wanted to do the same thing with him and his disciple... These were simply things he couldn't allow to happen.

"M-Master?! Wait! I can't! T-The tower...! It means all for me! I can't abandon it!"

However, the moment Gandolf tried to drag Tomas away, Tomas hesitated, resisting.

"But Tomas, they're demons! They don't want to help you; they're going to devour your soul and use this city to-"

"He's over there! Kill him!"

"W-What?!"

Tomas panicked, as he saw dozens of magicians surround Gandolf, pointing their staffs and wands at him.

"Bastards! Don't you think I'll die so easily! Tomas, run! RUN!"

"A-Ah...!"

But in that moment, the moment that mattered the most...

Tomas didn't run.

He was paralyzed, he didn't know what to do.

In one hand, this was his dream, he was earning a lot of money, his future looked bright.

And in the other, he was worried about his master, he was talking nonsense but...

Could that be the truth too?

At the end, Tomas' greatest mistake was his hesitation.

He felt a hand touch his shoulders, as he felt even more paralyzed.

"Tomas, don't listen to that old man, he has gone insane."

Merlinus himself was right there.

"M-Master Merlinus?"

"Your master has been cursed by a demon and have gone mad. Don't trust him, we must put him down before it's too late. There's no cure for such a thing unfortunately."

"E-Eh? No, but he said that-"

"Hm? Do you have... a problem with that, boy?"

"A-Ah...!"

Tomas looked at Gandolf, as his master fought against all the magicians with his three-elemental magic, explosions of elements erupting everywhere.

"Don't believe him...! Tomas! Run...! You have to run away!"

As he saw his master dying as countless spells reached his old body, Tomas started crying.

"Don't you dare run, or your mother will pay for that."

Merlinus whispered one thing into his ear, and Tomas finally realized.

That nothing had changed.

As he saw his master die, he realized that his life, even now, was never something he could control.

And that it would always remain below the mercy of others.

"M-Master..."

This wrath, this rage, this demonic fury continued growing within his heart, flowing through his entire body.

Tomas eyes glowed red, the Demon they had put inside of him, the monster they had turned him into, all because of his own weakness, started to awaken.

His madness that surged within his head, suddenly overflowed.

"UUAAAARRGGH!"

As he screamed furiously while the demonic door's hand came rushing down, an explosion of demonic flames erupted from his body.

BOOOMMM!!

Everyone in the scene gasped in disbelief, as they felt an immense demonic power surging from Tomas.

"I've had enough... Haaah... I'm tired...! Haaah... I can't... hold it any longer...! Haaah...!"

His arms had managed to hold back against the demonic hand, and even started burning it.

His entire body began to transform into his demonic form, as the demon within him started to take over.

"Yes... Give your mind away to madness! You're mine! Your body is mine, Tomas! Now- UGH?!"

However, glowing chains made of golden divine light surged from Tomas body, wrapping around it, and restraining his powers.

FLAAASH!

"Aargh...!"

The chains burned and hurt, but they also granted him a different power, his full demonic monster transformation came to a halt, as he remained half-human and half-demon, with horns, demonic scales around his arms and legs, and a large musculature improvement, with glowing red eyes and long red hair.

"T-This is...?"

The golden chains wrapped around his body merged with him, moving as Tomas regained his consciousness, remaining within a state between normalcy and madness, of total balance.

"I-Impossible...!" The Demonic Door screamed. "THIS CANNOT BE! YOU... YOU HAD A DEMON INSIDE?! AND YOU'RE CONTROLLING IT?!"

Tomas felt an endless source of power flowing through his body, as he glanced at his own clawed hands, and then at the Demonic Door.

"I won't hesitate anymore..." Tomas had changed, his face remained calm, his eyes furious. "My life is only mine... And I won't let anybody else control it anymore. I'll crush you, and avenge Master Gandalf!"

TRUUUM!

Tomas stepped forward, destroying the floor beneath him as his massive, scaled fists reached the Demonic Door, punching it, and blowing several holes through it.

BAAM! BAAM! BAAM! BAAM!

"UUAARRGH!"

The Demonic Door screamed in agony, as it quickly manifested countless arms and tentacles everywhere, pushing Tomas away!

CRAAASH!

"Y-You bastard...! Urgh...!" The Demonic Door groaned, bleeding everywhere. "Don't you dare... GET COCKY!"

Countless crimson eyes opened through his body, the last eyes he had saved, firing lasers from them at Tomas.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

And yet...

Tomas was barely damaged, the natural demonic armor around his body, resembling a dark red exoskeleton with eyes and jewels, protected him quite well.

"Everyone! I'll distract him!" Tomas said. "Please, help me defeat him!"

Anna, Angelina, Monica, and Elisa were left in utter disbelief at the scene.

But they nodded, nonetheless.

"Sure!"

Tomas gained a new resolve, as his demonic powers emerged from within his soul, and thanks to Planta, they were finally below his control.

What he had thought to be his curse had now become his greatest power and weapon, one he planned to use to finally stop the world and destiny from trampling over him and those he cared for.

"So you're a member of the guild?!" the Demonic Door asked angrily. "Why?! Why are you fighting against me then?! And why is the Demonic Soul within you... Suppressed?! How is it possible for a human to do that?!"

"I was also someone that became possessed, someone who was forced to fight for them, but no more!" Tomas roared, as Demonic Ice covered his entire body, forming an icy armor as he clashed against the Demonic Door's countless limbs. "I will fight for my own convictions now, for what I believe! I will no longer be forced... I am no longer the slave of someone else!"

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

Chapter 1398 Demonic Awakening

"I was also someone that became possessed, someone who was forced to fight for them, but no more!" Tomas roared, as Demonic Ice covered his entire body, forming an icy armor as he clashed against the Demonic Door's countless limbs. "I will fight for my own convictions now, for what I believe! I will no longer be forced... I am no longer the slave of someone else!"

Tomas overflowed with Demonic Power, as his Elemental Magic responded to this Demonic Power, quickly evolving and even mutating, his Ice turned into Demonic Ice, gaining curses that drained energies when they froze a target, and caused more damage over time.

Covering his body with this crimson and purple ice as an armor, he fought back against the Demonic Armor, who even now as it was bleeding and with hole in its body, continued fighting relentlessly, showing the true resilience of demons.

"DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR LITTLE SPEECH IS GOING TO MAKE ME CRY OR SOMETHING?! FUCKING DIE ALREADY!"

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

The Demonic Door roared back, as its form continued to transform and shapeshift, its muscular arms merged and formed the heads of dozens of giant wolves, biting through Tomas icy armor as they froze their teeth and jaws.

"I'm much stronger than before, but we're pretty even!" Tomas thought, gritting his sharp teeth. "It's mostly because I'm tired and I don't have the time to drink any potions or eat Lady Planta's provisions but... I've got another trump card as well!"

The shiny golden chains around his arms moved on their own, quickly wrapping around the frozen parts of the Demonic Door.

"URGH?!"

The Demonic Door screamed in surprise and pain, as the holy chains started to seal part of his soul, the powers he was using to warp space began to rapidly weaken.

"N-NO! T-THESE CHAINS?! WHAT ARE THEY?!"

"Lady Planta might not be here, but her powers are within me!" Tomas roared.

Although Planta could create Avatars, they were all busy around the entire city, both helping soldiers, setting up a special formation with the druids, and also some were deployed into the Forest of Beginnings to protect it in case of a surprise attack.

So, ultimately, she was unable to come help those that came here, but she had given them everything she could, from provisions to buffs and barriers, and trusted their strength would be enough.

"Did you know?! Lady Planta can kill Demons!" Tomas smiled maliciously. "And with these chains, she can seal their souls!"

"NOOO! STOOOOP! AARRGGH!"

The Demonic Door screamed as the chains wrapped around his various limbs, weakening him more and more. The party right behind Tomas began to finally advance forward after being always pushed back.

"W-We're getting through!" Anna said, smiling. "Tomas, you can do it! Just a bit more!"

"Just a bit more, Tomas!" Angelina said. "You can do this; we trust you can do this!"

"Hurry alreadyyyyy!" Elisa complained, her draconic form overflowing with power.

"We're almost there!" Monica said. "Almost... there...!"

Tomas gritted his teeth, as he continued fighting, unleashing beams of demonic frost against the demonic door, while the door attacked with massive limbs and beams made out of his pure soul.

Explosions of demonic energies and demonic elements erupted everywhere, as Tomas was being rapidly pushed back, his armor breaking down constantly!

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

"Almost there...! A bit more...!" Tomas roared. "I cannot give up...! Master Gandolf... Master Gandalf...!"

The chains wrapped around the demonic soul began to suddenly loosen up, as more of the demonic soul's powers flowed through him by his command.

"Uuurrgh...! AAARRGH!"

He roared in both pain and fury, his body became bulkier, his hair longer, his icy armor fused with his skin, transforming him and giving him a mighty exoskeleton, helping him resist the many blows coming at him.

Bright lights within Tomas began to glow brightly, each one shining brightly as he continued overflowing with demonic energy and combining it with his mana and the holy power of the chains.

"I can do this...!"

His eyes continued shining brightly, as he started bleeding from his ears, eyes, nose, and mouth.

"Master Gandolf... Mother!"

He kept fighting, swinging his fists, firing magic beams.

"Lady Planta...!"

As he fought, the Demonic Door manifested a massive draconic jaw, opening it and catching Tomas off-guard.

CRUUUNCH!

"Urgh?!"

His left arm was devoured, as blood splattered everywhere...

"TOMAS!"

Angelina panicked, as everyone else kept pushing.

"G-Guurrgh...!"

Tomas kept bleeding, as the chains became weaker... and weaker...

His eyes spiraled, as it seemed.

To not be enough?

BA DUM!

"Haah..."

BA DUM!

"Haaahh..."

BA DUM!

His heart started beating faster and faster, as he saw the demonic door monstrous form shapeshift into the head of a red wolf, smiling at him, even though the door itself was already tremendously wounded.

"YOUR... LOSS, BRAT!"

Its jaws opened, rushing towards Tomas to devour him and end this!

BA DUM!

Tomas mind flashed with countless memories.

The words of his master quickly appeared.

"Tomas... Let the Flow of Mana guide you."

"The flow... of... Mana...!"

Tomas looked at the massive jaw, as he felt these lights within him, which were so faint, blaze with power.

This was...

His own Mana?

But why?

Just what was happening to him?

BA DUM!

As his heart continued beating, he finally saw something.

It felt as if reality itself was warped.

Endless rivers of bright colors...

He could see them everywhere!

"T-This is...?"

They flowed everywhere, suddenly warping around certain areas of the demonic door, the walls, ceiling, and floor.

And he understood.

"The Flow of Mana will guide you towards your dreams, kiddo."

He moved his hand, as he touched the "Flow of Mana"

And its light fueled him with more and more energy.

"Ah!"

His Demonic Energy and Mana continued fusing through his heart, and the Holy Chain.

Producing...

FLAAASH!

"Spirit... Energy...?"

The truth was unveiled at that very moment.

The convergence of energies.

The synthesis between elements.

"DIEEEE!"

As the jaws rushed down, Tomas gritted his teeth, biting his lips as more blood came out of them.

"Move...!"

He forced his body to move.

"MOVE!"

And with all his strength, his right arm absorbed this energy.

FLUOSH!

Becoming a gigantic, muscular arm, as he mastered the power of body manipulation through demonic transformation.

"UUUUAAAARRRGHHHH!"

And Tomas roared, as his fists crushed through the Demonic Door's head, and then...

The door itself!

BAAAMMM!!!

"GUH?!"

The Demonic Door couldn't believe it, as countless cracks spread through his entire body.

Crack, crack...!

"I-Impo... ssible!"

Tomas' fist continued moving, until ultimately...

"Uuuaaaarrgghhh!"

The Demonic Soul within the Door screamed in agony, as it felt its entire being shattering into pieces.

CRAAASH!

The Demonic Door exploded into pieces, revealing the passage underground everyone had been fighting so hard to get through!

BOOOMM!!

Tomas watched what he did, gasping for air.

"Haah... Haahh..."

He looked happy, smiling.

"I finally... did something... useful..."

He cried, falling to the ground.

"Tomas!"

"We need to heal him!"

"Hurry, use your Elixirs!"

Tomas stopped breathing, as his heartbeat had become much slower.

He was dying.

As they poured Elixirs on his body, his large wounds slowly regenerated, but even then.

"Ugh... Haah... Is this how I'll die?"

He looked at the ceiling, remembering his master.

"Maybe... this is... fine..."

And Tomas smiled, closing his eyes.

...

"Don't think I'll let you die, damn brat."

Chapter 1399 The Mysterious Demon

Tomas unleashed everything he had, and in the last moments of his battle, he even saw through the "Mana Flow" which he always believed was nothing but a metaphorical belief his master had.

But now, he realized was real. Mana Flow was everywhere, and it guided living beings somehow, if someone managed to learn and see these flow, they could be guided towards what they desire.

It was something similar to the concept of Fate itself, but it wasn't something predestined either, Mana Flow didn't control people.

But it could guide them towards what they wanted, as long as they continued to believe, grow stronger, and understand magic and its roots and concepts, to connect with the world itself.

In that moment where Tomas reached his limits, the Demonic Energies within him, the Holy Power of the Chains, and his own Mana converged, synthetizing through his soul as he saw the Mana Flow move.

And Spirit Energy was born from this fusion, as bizarre as it sounded, this and the Mana Flow fueled him with enough power to swell his own arm and gain more power, in exchange for his life.

BOOOMM!!

As the Demonic Door screamed in agony and felt even its soul shatter into pieces, as Tomas' punch carried the holy power within the chains themselves, his form quickly went back to normal, his human body, his original appearance, covered with wounds and with a missing arm.

He had lost too much blood already, dropping into the ground while looking exhausted. He was unable to even breath anymore, and his heart was quickly slowing down its heartbeat, until ultimately stopping.

At the end, he was unable to stop things from escalating to this point, but even then, he made sure to destroy the damned Demonic Door and open the way for everyone to go underground and destroy the Demonic Formation.

"Haah... Haahh..."

Yet despite all, he looked happy, smiling.

"I finally... did something... useful..."

He cried, falling to the ground.

"Tomas!"

"We need to heal him!"

"Hurry, use your Elixirs!"

Without breathing and with his heart stopping its heartbeat...

Tomas was dying.

As they poured Elixirs on his body, his large wounds slowly regenerated, but even then, he had still yet to breathe, and even then his heart wouldn't start back up again.

"Ugh... Haah... Is this how I'll die?"

He looked at the ceiling, remembering his master. His consciousness began to be consumed by darkness, as he recalled the memories of his rather short life.

He had done so many things he regretted that at the end, perhaps this was...

"Maybe... this is... fine..."

It was perhaps alright now.

To go this way, finally making a difference, finally helping many people.

Even if he had to die at a young age.

It didn't matter as long as he was useful.

Tomas had always wanted to do something of significance, through his entire life.

"Mother..."

He recalled his mother, who had been brought to the Forest of Beginnings already.

He knew she was safe now, and although he felt sad he would have to leave her behind...

He still felt it was okay.

Tomas glanced at the girls around him, and how they were trying to help him revive but...

"Please... carry on the mission... defeat that monster..."

Tomas smiled, closing his eyes.

"T-Tomas...?" Angelina muttered, feeling shocked. "TOMAS!"

She knew that this was a "game" and that Tomas was simply another NPC.

But seeing how intelligent and real they felt, and how NPC didn't revive no matter what, they had permanent deaths.

It made them feel perhaps more real than the Players themselves.

"Oh no... No, no...!" Anna muttered. "Shit! Fuck! You can't die man! No...!"

"He gave his life for us to get through..." Monica muttered, crying. "Tomas..."

"A-Ahhh..." Elisa looked troubled, without being able to properly express what she felt. "D-Dammit!"

Tomas was dead.

His consciousness slowly drifted away, alongside his soul.

The darkness became a tunnel, and through the tunnel, there was a light.

Whatever remained of his sense of self... followed that light.

He felt peace, he felt... calm.

This was a good way to go, a good way to...

"Don't think I'll let you die, damn brat."

"Ah?!"

However, Fate had other plans for him.

He felt cold hands grasp his soul, pulling it down.

They grasped his soul tightly, with immensely sharp claws.

"Aaaaggh! W-What's happening?!"

His soul glanced into the abyss beneath, as he saw a sea of blood.

And two crimson eyes glaring at him through the abyss.

"You're my only connection to the Mortal Plane... Do you truly believe I'll let you go?"

He immediately realized who this being was, who was pulling his soul back into his body.

"T-The Demonic Soul?!"

As he felt despair, the Demon continued dragging him down more, and more, and more.

"I am no mere Demonic Soul."

"E-Eh?"

Tomas soul eyes widened, as he saw a monstrous being within the sea of blood and the abyssal darkness.

With eight arms, three heads, nine eyes, four tails, and three crowns.

"W-What... What are you?!"

"Hehehe... You don't have to know yet. Not yet, brat."

The monstrous demon opened its jaws, which spread through its three heads all the way down its stomach, and devoured Tomas soul.

"You're mine!"

CRUNCH!

"That Demonic Door... Without me, you wouldn't have won!"

CRUNCH!

"You owe me a lot, brat! So don't you dare die yet! Hahahaha!"

CRUNCH!

"UUUUAAAAGGGHH!"

As Tomas screamed in agony, suddenly, he gasped for air, his heart beginning to rapidly beat once more, as he coughed blood from his lungs.

"Cough, cough...! Ugh...! Aaah! W-What...?!"

As he gasped for air and looked around, he realized he was back to life.

Angelina, Anna, Monica, and Elisa by his side were in tears, shocked he was back!

"TOMAS!"

Despite how little they knew him, they already admired him a lot, and didn't even hesitate to hug the young man.

"Uuaaagh!"

He was naturally crushed by all the strong women's powerful arms, but he felt... both happy and afraid

He was happy he was back but at the same time.

Afraid of whatever monster had been implanted into his soul.

"It would be too boring if I went back to Hell too soon, don't you think, brat? So stay alive for a while longer... We've got things to do, you and me. Let's become great friends! Heheh... HAHAAAAHA!"

Author's Note: Out of nowhere I made Tomas more important than I imagined he would be... He might stick with the main gang at this point. He has better potential than you imagine, and the Demon inside of him... well, he might be a little too important for the main plot.

Also I'm a sucker for underdog characters that are total losers until they finally start improving and get their hype moments of improvement, growth and self-evolution. So Tomas was the perfect vessel for me to channel this.

Chapter 1400 Reaching The Demonic Domain Underground Formation

Within the endless abyssal darkness there was a sea of blood, and in this sea of blood, a gigantic demonic monstrosity was devouring another.

A large door-like creature with tentacles, its massive jaws tearing it apart into pieces, eating it to regain even more of its original powers.

"S-Stop! Don't eat meeee!"

CRUNCH!

"Why?! Why are you eating me? We are fellow demons!"

CRUNCH!

"Uuuuaagggh! Stoop!"

CRUNCH!

The monster devouring the door stopped for a moment, glaring at him with his nine glowing eyes, piercing through its very existence.

"Fellow Demons you say?"

The monstrosity smiled.

"Precisely because of that! Why must I give excuses to eat you up, weakling? Become my sustenance!"

"Uuuuaarrggh!"

CRUUUNCH!

.

.

.

Tomas slowly opened his eyes, realizing he was fine, and then how he was hugged by everyone.

Angelina was happy to see him and hugged him without hesitation, most of her strength had finally been recovered after she went all-out rather dangerously.

Anna was just fine, although her fused Familiars had gone back to normal, and looked quite tired, except for the Golem.

Monica looked alright, although she was a mess after crying so much, and her hair was all messy too.

Elisa quickly composed back, although her face clearly looked a bit redder, she had almost started crying like a baby.

"Everyone... Ah, sorry... I... I didn't know I would've died. It's my fault." Tomas sighed. "But the Demonic Door is finally gone, isn't... it?"

"Yeah, it's gone, all thanks to you, Tomas!" Said Angelina. "Please, remain here, you're still missing an arm, and you're in no condition to fight or even move anymore."

"I'll leave my Familiars to protect you," Anna said. "If danger approaches, they'll fight for you and one of them will grab you and escape."

"A-Ah... But the Demonic Formation, I need to go as well!" Tomas said. "I might be the only one that could help you destroy it quick enough... Sorry, maybe it wasn't the best to die after all... Without me it might've been hard."

"Hmph! Why are you playing so much as the self-sacrificing hero?" Elisa asked. "We're all here risking everything to win. You shouldn't had gone out of your way to die..."

"Yeah... Elisa is right," Monica nodded. "Tomas, please don't be so reckless again... You're our friend after all."

"I'm... your friend? Really?" Tomas felt moved. "I... I've never had friends, now that I think about it..."

"Wait, seriously?!" Anna asked. "Jesus, this guy is really quite something! Anyways, Wolf, carry him!"

"Woof!" The Emerald Storm Wolf quickly grabbed Tomas and pushed him over his large, fluffy back.

"We can't waste any more time!" Angelina said. "Let's get going now!"

"Uh, yeah!" Nodded Monica.

"We better hurry!" Anna said. "Let's go, Tomas!"

"Y-Yeah!" Tomas nodded, looking at the scar left where his left arm was. "My arm... Did you use Elixirs on me?"

"Yeah we did! Most of them!" Elisa said. "However, I guess NPC have a different regeneration than us Players, you can't easily regrow limbs, can't you?"

"Yes, I guess its more complicated," nodded Tomas. "Magic and even Potions can heal large wounds if applied on large quantities, refill holes and even fix broken bones and stuff, but whole missing limbs is another whole different magic, it's more on the Life and Biomancy Fields, which are quite rare. Usually if you have enough money, you have to find a Priest or Priestess of the Goddess Gaia, who specialize on

Life Magic and Biomancy, and they'll be able to recover your missing limbs by helping the cells of your body multiply and grow, I've heard that even then, it's a slow and slightly painful process..."

The truth everyone didn't know about was that NPC were much more "realistic" than Players, who could regenerate any missing limbs after healing back to full.

They couldn't easily heal, and if they took too much damage they would simply drop dead too, therefore the difference between Player and NPC was very big.

Of course, that wouldn't be the case if Tomas had the "Honorary Player" Title, although he still wouldn't be able to revive like Players, he would gain various of their abilities.

Such abilities included being able to see their own Status, and also these supernatural regeneration abilities that made Players so strong, among having access to Skill Points, Stat Points, and Skill Trees, and even being able to choose how to evolve and rank up their class.

But even then, it was dangerous as NPC could still die easily, therefore Planta had taken the decision to leave all of their beloved friends from this world back in the Forest of Beginnings for this battle.

"We're almost there!"

The group descended rapidly through the stairs, reaching finally a large area, a gigantic underground hall. It was completely dark, but the moment they got there, blue, will-o-wisps were lit, illuminating the hall faintly with their phantasmal light.

"W-We're finally here!" Tomas said, looking into the distance. "That must be it!"

Everyone gasped as they saw the "Demonic Formation" that had been boosting the power of Merlinus, his Demonic Wizards, and had been allowing him to unleash this gigantic Domain he had created to trap everyone inside.

The Formation itself was massive, spanning over a hundred meters underground, it had the shape of a pentagram, surrounded by over a hundred Demonic Idols made out of crystalized blood and the bones of human sacrifices.

The Demonic Idols resembled monstrous and abhorrent forms and shapes, each one was a Demon, and within them, everyone could immediately feel it, they had Demonic Souls as well!

Surrounding the formation of one hundred Demonic Idols, there were countless Demonic Runes and Pentagrams made out of red colored crystal powder, most likely blood too, and also white powder made of strange crystals, which Tomas realized were crystalized human souls.

"This entire thing... It was made using hundreds of human sacrifices... their bodies and even their souls, nothing was spared..." Tomas muttered, feeling disgusted. "It's... disgusting... Ugh...!" he could barely hold the desire to vomit.

"Wait, what's that thing?" Anna asked, pointing at something at the center of the whole formation.

It resembled a huge statue of some kind of demon, it had three legs, four heads, and one long, snake-like tail.

"It must be the Core, another Demonic Idol that-"

FLASH!

Before Tomas could speak any longer, the Demonic Idol's eyes shone bright red, firing two laser beams at the group!

BOOOM! BOOOM!