

## **Brand New 1411**

Chapter 1411 Trump Card

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Planta emerged in the last moment, like an Yggdragon made of gold through the combination of several transformation Skills into one. One of her bodies kept him still while using her golden metallic roots to seal part of his powers and weaken him, and the other appeared as a full-fledged Yggdragon, aiming to strike him down.

**BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!**

Three massive explosions engulfed Merlinus completely, the beams piercing through his body and hitting his crown, spreading cracks through it! Planta had specifically aimed at this location, completely screwing up his ascension entirely, she knew that crown was useful somehow.

"N-NO...! MY CROWN!"

Merlinus screamed, as he saw his crown beginning to fragment into pieces! His Demonic Ascension began to suddenly grow much slower and weaker, making him panic.

At the same time, Erebus smiled, rushing towards Merlinus in that moment. He didn't waste any time as he manifested his sword once more, larger than ever before, and fused it with Miasmatic Spirits like Planta does, attempting to unleash a truly terrific attack.

"{Abyssal Demon Hero Swordsmanship}: {Demonic Descent}!"

SLAAAASH!!

A mighty vertical slash sliced through Merlinus' gigantic body, splitting him apart into two halves, at the same time as the slash destabilized Merlinus' spatial powers, making them much weaker and slower, his regeneration also took time, even as his black and red flesh tried to recover and merge back as one.

"I'm not done either, you know?!"

Elena's voice echoed from above, Merlinus two halves gasped as they saw Elena descending to attack him once more! After he had thrown her away, he had actually imagined she was done for.

But he couldn't be far from the truth, Elena's Aura warped space around her, as she took the stance of a descending white crane, the Heavenly Stance!

The power of several Elemental Stances flowed through her body, strengthening her powers even further once more.

And her swords swung down, vertically and horizontally, as she weaved the power of Emptiness through her attacks.

Each of her slashing blows carried this near invisible energy, which Merlinus could barely discern.

A greater level of Void he had yet to even accomplish!

Turning the complete absence of reality itself into a weapon, a power.

Something that only the most ancient masters of swordsmanship within the Eastern Continent had ever managed to catch a glimpse of.

Emptiness!

And a technique that she could only use within the Heaven Stance!

Her Oni Eyes shone bright red, as her entire body grew bulkier while she activated strengthening skills and also spells, covered with runes to enhance her strength even more.

She went all-out; to show she could also do something on her own, that she could also help her mom.

"{Empty Blade Arts}: {Heaven's Sword Echo}!"

Three waves of emptiness that shone as bright as the white heavens impacted Merlinus at once, deleting several parts of his body's halves!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

"NGAAAGGH?!"

However, she wasn't done with that, Elena's eyes became completely white, as she went even beyond her previous technique.

Her Shikigami manifested behind her, resembling a giant, ghostly samurai, swinging a gigantic katana down towards Merlinus.

Her Shikigami, her swords, her technique, she merged with all her techniques, into a single attack!

"{Zen and the Sword As One: Kenzen Ichinyo}!"

SLAAAASSHH!!!

Merlinus was sliced only a single time, and yet...

It felt as if his very existence was split hundreds of times at once.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

The attacks never stopped, reducing him to tiny fragments of himself! Even his grand and powerful soul couldn't resist, as it began to be sliced too.

"IMPOSSIBLEEEEEEE...!"

Merlinus screamed in horror as he saw Elena's crimson eyes, feeling fear before her might.

The level of damage that he took was so immense that he ultimately exploded.

BOOOMMM!!!

Planta and Erebus were forced to step away beforehand, as they glanced at Merlinus combust and exploded into ashes.

He... he truly blew up to almost nothing!

"I-Is this it?" Elena muttered, gasping for air. "Haaahh... I'm exhausted. A thing... of the soul I think? I might've gone too far."

"That was amazing, Elena!" Planta gasped. "Maybe we won't need the other plans? Is... is he really dead?"

"No..." Erebus squinted his eyes, glancing at the skies and his surroundings. "His presence remains... somewhere. The Demonic Domain is not gone, the Hell Pit is not gone, the Demonic Beasts aren't gone either... So where did he go now?"

"Did he even had the power to manipulate his Soul to this extent?" Asked Elena. "Even if he's still somehow here, he should be greatly weakened now! R-Right?"

"...He had a fragment of the Demon King of Death," said Erebus. "I'm afraid that he could have applied some sort of Necromancy Sorcery upon himself, or something of that sort! The Domain also is what guarantees to somehow keep him living... Could it be, is there something... someone else helping him aside from his wizards?"

Erebus glanced around, trying to find the one that could have kept him "alive" even now, but he could only catch faint things, nothing completely there.

And yet...

RUMBLE!

"RAAAHHHH!"

A mighty roar echoed from the ground, as a gigantic skeletal claw broke through the floor, and a giant skeleton of over thirty meters emerged.

Although it was completely white, it had black and red demonic runes imprinted into his entire body, and a long beard...

Without a doubt, the presence he exuded.

"Merlinus?!"

Planta, Elena, and even Erebus were shocked by what they saw.

"Hmph... he had kept his promise! I am indeed not dead... Within this Domain, I am truly... immortal!" laughed Merlinus. "And once this ritual is done, I shall be immortal forever, with or without domain! Hahahahah!"

The massive skeleton that had become the vessel of Merlinus seemed like a new body, or perhaps, a new evolution of himself.

"How did you...?!" Planta asked angrily.

"Surprised?!" Merlinus laughed. "This body is the embodiment of his fragment, the Demon King of Death's present!"

The truth was revealed in that moment, the skeleton was nothing but a form the fragment of the Demon King of Death had taken upon being absorbed by Merlinus!

"Just how many phases will this old man have?!"

Elena was already tired!

Chapter 1412 Pulling Out Every Trick!

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Planta grew frustrated, but at the end, she smiled. Her first body dug underground to not be detected, and meanwhile, her golden draconic body overflowed with energies, as she spread more and more of her nature everywhere, her powers combining, condensing into something stronger.

"It doesn't matter at the end," she said. "Merlinus, no matter how many times you stand back up, we will slay you. Try as hard as you can, but we will kill you again. And again, and again, and again. Don't expect us to falter, we won't."

She infused her powers into her daughter, as her soul was fully recovered, Elena looked at her giant, draconic mother, smiling, gripping her katanas tightly.

"Well said, mom!" Elena nodded. "We aren't backing down, no matter how many tricks you come out with! At the end, that's the only thing you can rely on!"

Erebus smiled back at Merlinus as well and laughed slightly.

"You're desperate, Merlinus... to resort to turn into a pile of bones... It's pathetic. Even more when you've already lost your Demonic Void Body... Hah," Erebus smiled. "It seems that despite your stubbornness to die, you're much weaker than before in that form!"

"Hahahah...!" Merlinus' skull face distorted in anger, it wasn't static, and it could move despite being solid, hard bone. Despite laughing, he was furious because they were right, he wasn't as strong as before now, they had dealt a lot of damage, and his transformation into a Demon King had been slowed down and distorted, it wasn't moving towards the direction he wanted anymore. "We'll see about that..."

However, as an old and cunning man, he had many plans, he wouldn't have been so confident he could pull this out if he didn't prepare properly this whole time. Although most of it, if not everything, depended on this Demonic Domain, which he had made sure to protect with everything he could.

"As long as my Demonic Domain continues, I can keep going as much as they want..." Merlinus thought, rising his claws upwards. "I will simply have to adapt to whatever I am becoming and overcome these challenges! The thing I desire the most is way too close now, almost within my grasp... I will not give up on my dream! I've sacrificed everything for it, EVERYTHING!"

His glowing crimson eyes spiraled with madness as his Demonic Nether spread out everywhere, rapidly beginning to make the ground around him tremble.

As Planta, Elena, and Erebus charged against him, he brought one of his trump cards!

RUMBLE!

From the floor, dozens of skeletons, almost identical to him, emerged!

"Wha...?!"

Planta was shocked, as she felt Merlinus' Soul within all of them.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

And before she could react in time and analyze the situation properly, Merlinus skeletons surrounded her, their white bones becoming black and metallic, punching her entire draconic body.

BAAAM! BAAAM! BAAAM! BAAAM! BAAAM!

Although he had lost his Demonic Void Body which he was forging and creating with so much effort and resources, he still had it within him!

"Unnggh...!"

Planta gasped, noticing her soul being damaged greatly! If she hadn't strengthened it a lot before this battle, she was sure it would have been destroyed, as she felt cracks through it.

"His physical blows can directly target your souls, watch out!"

As she quickly realized Merlinus intentions right now, by embracing the Element of Death and corrupt it through Demonic Energy and add the element of Space, he was able to punch through physical matter and reach the soul directly, dealing great damage to it instead.

A lethal technique that could very much kill most people that didn't expect it, no matter how strong they were, even Level 300 or higher than that, they would simply perish as their souls are broken and fragmented into pieces!

"They can?!" Elena angrily asked, gritting her teeth, keeping her Heaven Stance as she swung her katanas.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

Every step she took, her stance changed, quickly evading dozens of blows directed at her while her sword cut through the skeleton's arms and legs, making them collapse into the ground.

At the same time, her Shikigami swung its massive phantasmal katana, blowing away any nearby giant skeleton in the vicinity and giving Elena and Planta some space.

CRAAASH!

However, the bone fragments quickly started joining back together, merging into giant, chimeric bone skeleton monsters.

"GRAAAHAHAHA!"

RUMBLE!

And more and more of Merlinus' skeletons kept coming from the underground, endlessly!

"Just how many has he prepared?!" Planta wondered, swinging her claws against them and tearing them to shreds.

She quickly brought out her swords, enhanced in size to fit her dragon form, as she cut through all of them with powerful swordsmanship techniques whose strength and power was multiplied upon her height increase.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

At the same time, she conjured powerful Spells from her Green Magic and her Spirit Magic, combining the power of Spirits and Elements into one.

While Luz the Shiny was resting, her other two Higgledingles were getting ready to unleash their power, but Planta saved them for later.

"Pyguuuhh!"

"Pigeeey!"

"I know you're eager to fight but wait a bit longer!" Planta said, combining the power of hundreds of Fire Spirits to unleash a rain of giant fireballs. "{Spiritual Fireball Rain}!"

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"We have to find a way to identify where's the real one is, or if they're all real, what can we do to deal with him," Planta explained. "But for now, we have to take care of the huge army...!"

And so, she decided to bring out her own army as well, as she spread hundreds of already created seeds beforehand while expanding a powerful and magical field around her!

"{Divine Draconic Spirit Harvest Field}!"

FLUOOOSH!

A farm field expanded for hundreds of meters around her, as she produced hundreds of seeds through the field, harvesting them and combining them into...

"ROOOAARRR!"

Enormous draconic creatures, Divine Elemental Spiritual Draconic Beasts!

As she summoned them, she also opened her Divine Draconic Spirit Harvest Field's Dimensional Field, a huge farm of her own where she stored seeds.

And also more of these beasts!

RUMBLE!

They stepped out by the dozens, quickly making an army of hundreds. Merlinus couldn't believe what he was seeing as the Spiritual Draconic Beasts started wrecking his skeleton bodies.

"S-She had an army of Dragons with her?!"

Chapter 1413: An Army Of Dragons

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"{Divine Draconic Spirit Harvest Field}!"

Planta activated one of her strongest army-managing and creating Skills, while at the same opening the Dimensional Field where she had already stored most of the ones that had survived her previous battles, which amounted over two hundred of them total, and growing.

As this happened, she used her Time Magic to accelerate the growth of the seeds she combined together, instantly summoning more Divine Elemental Spiritual Draconic Beasts this time infused with Elements she chose, such as Holy Light.

Why? It was quite obvious, it was the Element all Undead were weak against, Merlinus included!

Ding!

[You have fused 100 Spirit Dragon Seeds!]

[You have summoned the [Divine Elemental Spiritual Draconic Beast: Holy Hydra]!]

[You have fused 100 Spirit Dragon Seeds!]

[You have summoned the [Divine Elemental Spiritual Draconic Beast: Heavenly Feathered Snake]!]

[You have fused 100 Spirit Dragon Seeds!]

[You have summoned the [Divine Elemental Spiritual Draconic Beast: Holy Light Wyvern King]!]

[You have fused 100 Spirit Dragon Seeds!]

[You have summoned the [Divine Elemental Spiritual Draconic Beast: Holy Fire Dragon]!]

[You have fused 100 Spirit Dragon Seeds!]

[You have summoned the [Divine Elemental Spiritual Draconic Beast: Holy Frostfire Hydra]!]

[You have fused 100 Spirit Dragon Seeds!]

[You have summoned the [Divine Elemental Spiritual Draconic Beast: Giant Cloud Whale Wyvern King]!]

[You have fused 100 Spirit Dragon Seeds!]

[You have summoned the [Divine Elemental Spiritual Draconic Beast: Two-Headed White Drake]!]

[...]

The notifications kept popping as Planta managed the creation of these powerful beings, with the power of her new Acceleration Abilities, included within her own Domain and Terrain Expansion through her Farming Tool Skill and her Divine Presence Skill, she was able to accelerate the speed in which seeds germinated.

Usually, these combined beings would take several minutes to grow to their full size, which had made it so Planta had to prepare a lot beforehand (and she still did anyway), but with these new additions, it meant she could spam them much more openly and within the moment.

"ROOOAAARRR!"

"SHAAAAAHHH!"

"GRUOOOHHHH!"

Massive Draconic Beasts charged forward, exuding holy spiritual light within them, the Skeletons recoiled against their heavenly light, but didn't escape, quickly clashing against Planta's summons.

Their Phantasmal Attacks aimed to shatter their souls, as Merlinus thought it would be possible for him to turn these into Undead once he destroyed their souls.

CLAAASH! BOOOM! CRAAASH! RUMBLE!

Explosions of heavenly light beams, phantasmal punches, slicing waves of emptiness, and miasmic crystal projectiles piercing and exploding across many skeletons echoed through the battlefield, as Planta, Elena, and Erebus didn't even let Merlinus catch a single breath.

"Right, I've got these as well!"

Planta quickly remembered another Skill, activating it instantly as yet another field manifested around her previously created one, both merging together and expanding even further.

"{Draconic Farm Spirit Protection}!"

As her new, and much more colorful farm field manifested, it expanded and revealed colorful, gigantic vegetables shaped as dragons, the largest of them as big as twenty meters.

After all, Planta didn't have just one type of army summoning ability!

Although she was also using other skills to summon spirits and her own familiars to help out the rest of the army, all these skills had been saved for a moment like this, when Merlinus was finally being cornered.

"{Draconic Farm Spirit Summon}!"

RUMBLE!

The entire field trembled, as gigantic chimeric plant dragons manifested, rapidly crawling out of the soil and roaring mightily, joining the ranks with the Spiritual Draconic Beasts.

And yet unlike the Spiritual Draconic Beasts, the Draconic Farm Spirits were much more different, although they were also solid, they were more spiritual than beast.

They surrounded the Spiritual Draconic Beasts and supported them, offering buffs, healing, barriers, and additional elemental spells to their repertoire!

Ding!

[You have summoned the Draconic Farm Spirit: [Greater Carrot Drake Spirit (Element: Earth, Nature)] x23!]

[You have summoned the Draconic Farm Spirit: [Blazing Tomato Dragon Spirit (Element: Fire, Nature)] x27!]

[You have summoned the Draconic Farm Spirit: [Venomous Onion and Garlic Hydra (Element: Poison, Nature)] x19!]

[You have summoned the Draconic Farm Spirit: [Frost Radish Wyvern (Element: Ice, Nature)] x28!]

The Greater Carrot Drake Spirits offered great protection and healing, encompassing their allies into powerful armor made of stone and metal.

The Blazing Tomato Dragons unleashed powerful explosive attacks, burning through everything rather mercilessly.

The Venomous Onion and Garlic Hydras created deadly poisons and venoms and spread them as large clouds of gases, making even Undead recoil and become slightly paralyzed.

And the Frost Radish Wyverns unleashed freezing breaths, slowing down foes!

More and more of them kept popping as Planta spread her seeds everywhere, showcasing the true power of a Farmer at the core.

"This woman is unbelievable! She's literally farming in this battlefield?!" Merlinus groaned. "IS SHE MOCKING ME?!"

Merlinus roared furiously through all his skeletons bodies, as all of them charged towards Planta at once, while he used the bulk of the chimeras made from merged bones to stop Elena and Erebus from reaching her.

"So you're coming to me once more, Merlinus...!" Planta roared. "You sure love fighting me on your own! Do you think that because I don't have my friends by my side I am any weaker?!"

Planta charged forward recklessly, as she encompassed her entire body with golden armor after discarding her Yggdragon form, which she found was useless if her foe could ignore her physical body and reach her soul directly.

And instead, decided to do something else entirely, activating the power of her equipment specifically designed and gifted to her by Gaia!

After accumulating so much damage through her entire set, Holy Light Essence flowed by hundreds of thousands all across its connected glorious golden orichalcum!

FLUOSH!

Holy light manifested through all of Planta's humanoid form as she was a second from clashing against Merlinus skeletons.

"{True Valkyrie Transformation}!"

RUMBLE!

A gigantic beam of light reached from the skies, piercing Merlinus Demonic Domain as it suddenly grew much weaker, not from this, but by some other factor he had realized a bit too late!

BOOOM!

The beam of light hit Planta, however, not him!

However, the shockwave was so strong it sent all his skeletons flying away, with half of them turning into ashes instantly before such a powerful divinity.

"T-This is...! Wait, what's going on?!" He gasped. "Y-You have even more trump cards?! No wait, my Domain! Why is it suddenly weaker?! Who... did they infiltrate the tower?! No wait, but there's the Demonic Door and the...! No, no! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!"

As Merlinus began to realize how fucked he was, Planta unleashed her new form, resembling a giant angelic Valkyrie, fusing with one that descended from the Realm of Heaven all for this moment.

She spread out her six golden feathered wings, as her golden armor covering her body had grown more beautiful than before, merging her other equipment into it, and even transforming all her weapons into golden, heavenly Valkyrie equipment.

Her stats skyrocketed, as her divine and holy power reached new heights never seen before.

"Are you ready, Merlinus?! Because I am!"

Planta rushed forward, Merlinus' army of skeleton vessels attacked her while panicking, flames of space-distorting phantasmal flames reached her, aiming for her soul.

And yet, as they touched her soul...!

FLAAASH!

A divine protection manifested, negating all damage and instead sending back rays of light, the skeletons exploding into ashes one after another.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"Impossible! She has even made a Valkyrie her friend?! How is this...! It can't be! Are even the Heavens plotting against me?!"

The moment Merlinus decided to make deals with Demons, it was already set on stone that Heaven would oppose him.

Chapter 1414: Mark's Trump Card

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There were several things that were beginning to make even Merlinus lost more of his confidence as each second passed. From Planta's ever-growing army, something he had never expected at this point of their fight which seemed to be one of the many trump cards she had been saving this whole time, and to her strange ability, something he sensed came not from her, but her equipment combined together, which he had finally realized was actually forged using Orichalcum, the toughest metal made by the Gods themselves.

And things didn't end there either! With the descent of a Valkyrie that literally temporarily fused with Planta and her prompt transformation into a divine being, the Realm of Heaven had officially declared war against Merlinus and his forces, most likely because of his strong connection with the many Demons of hell, and for turning himself into a demonic being through pure sheer malice. He had reached a level of destruction and danger that not even Heaven would hesitate to descend and stop him.

But that, all of that, would be completely inconsequential to him if it wasn't for another thing, how his Domain seemed oddly... weaker? It was growing tremendously weaker at that, to the point a huge hole was pierced through by the descent of the Valkyrie, which should have been regenerated by now, but it didn't.

"I didn't realize before, but the Domain's strength and durability had grown tremendously weaker, and its regeneration is becoming so slow!" He thought through his many vessels, whose number were rapidly being reduced by Planta's army and also her own, holy attacks. "There's someone disturbing the Ritual Circle underground! But how?! I had left it protected by the power Demonic Door; a composite Demon made using near a hundred demonic souls...! Did that damn door die?! Against whom?! Planta's allies? There's more?! But my Demonic Wizards should have stopped them! There are dozens of them protecting the tower's underground! I also left Demonic Runes as traps everywhere, no person other than those that contain Demonic Souls inside of them could get down there! It's... Impossible!"

Merlinus never took into consideration another of Planta's trump cards, a boy he had given for dead already, someone that was looked down by everyone, whose presence seemed completely pointless and inconsequential to all.

Tomas!

Thanks to him, his team was able to infiltrate the underground area, together they killed the incredibly powerful Demonic Door, and went to the Demonic Ritual Circle, where they're currently destroying it.

And once it's finally done, the entire Domain should be destroyed alongside it, foiling all his plans forever more!

"N-NO...! NOOOOOO!!!"

Merlinus couldn't accept that there were cracks within his plans, all because Planta and her allies had hastily attacked him, without properly letting him prepare everything completely and properly. But at the end, he was the only one that he should blame.

After all, it was his fault all of this was happening to begin with!

If he had kept himself low profile, if he hadn't attempted to continuously destroy Planta and her allies or attack the royal family.

He could have remained lowkey and advance over time without problems.

His greed was his greatest sin, and his undoing.

**BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!**

Planta charged forward, her swords and her shovel glowing with divine golden light, as her entire body had become completely divine.

Her attacks unleashed explosions of holy light and divine flames everywhere, burning through dozens of giant skeletons.

The chimeras managed to tank a few hits, but were ultimately burned to ashes, purified by a power Merlinus simply couldn't fight against at his current state.

All this long fight, all of this arduous battle... slowly, Merlinus had been weakened, they were managing!

"NNGGH...! D-DAMMIT! IS THIS IT?!" Merlinus groaned angrily. "DEMONIC WIZARDS! DON'T YOU DARE LOSE! ATTACK THEM! FIGHT!!!"

As he screamed, his skeletons began to rapidly merge together, the ground beneath, infected with Demonic Miasma, fused with his soul, as Merlinus started to rise from the ground.

"DON'T THINK THAT I WILL GO DOWN LIKE THIS! NOT LIKE THIS!" Merlinus kept screaming, as Planta and everyone else in the battlefield gasped at the scene, his gigantic body reaching hundreds of meters of height, becoming a massive titan of stone and bones. "MY ASCENSION... I MUST ACHIEVE IT!!! I'VE SACRIFICED EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE FOR THIS MOMENT!"

Planta watched the scene, shocked of how far Merlinus would go to not lose, but she smiled at the same time, as she quickly contacted her allies that weren't here.

Mark, Rita, Camilla, Lily, and also Melissa!

"He's grown desperate! It's now or never! DO IT!"

As they heard her commands, a huge formation suddenly began to activate, Merlinus countless eyes opened wide, as he saw with horror something he didn't expect!

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Over a dozen gigantic wooden totems rose from the ground, becoming gigantic from their smaller forms, and unleashing holy divine and spiritual flames, interconnecting into a gigantic pentagram.

The entire Formation surrounded the entire interior of the Formation, including the Hell Pit, the Demonic Tower, and Merlinus.

"It's our time to finally shine, everyone!" Mark roared, as he activated his powers to his limits.

"Merlinus! Never underestimate the strength of family and friends, the bonds you abandoned will be your undoing, you piece of shit!"

"{Divine Blazing Dragon Spirit Totem Magic}: {Five-Pointed Multi-Elemental Dragon Totem Formation}!"

RUMBLE!

From several of these gigantic totems, there were allies on top! One of the totems resembled a fiery black and blue dragon, its flames becoming blue and black, as Rita sat on top, infusing her Malice Essence and Mana in large quantities, her Familiars accompanying her to infuse even more power.

"Yeah, whatever that guy said! Although that was pretty cringe, did you get that dialog from some 90's anime or something?" Laughed Rita. "But yeah, let's fuck him over!"

Rita slammed the wooden floor, her entire Aura infusing into the totem, merging with its flames and rapidly beginning to manifest something.

"T-This is...?! Ritual Magic of such a level?! IMPOSSIBLE!"

Merlinus roared furiously, swinging his titanic claws against the totems!

And yet!

YET!

CRAAASH!

"UNGH?!"

His eyes widened, as he saw something stopping him from stomping over everything with his titanic size.

A massive dragon made of darkness and blue flames, infused with Rita's powers, made of steel-like wood and spiritual power.

"Everything is possible, gramps."

Chapter 1415: An Incredible Formation

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CRAAASH!

Merlinus was stopped by the claws of a gigantic dragon made of steel-like black colored wood, covered on darkness and blue flames, a furious, darkness dragon born and "piloted" by Rita herself, perhaps something similar to both a golem and manifested spirit.

This was Mark's latest power, his newest Soul-Bound Fusion Skill, {Divine Blazing Spirit Totem Magic}, giving him the power to unleash even stronger formations, and create even mightier totems.

Totems themselves were considered spirits in many cultures, sometimes believed to harbor spirits and souls themselves, protectors and guardians of people. This concept was elevated to the divine level with Mark's power, as he learned the ability to infuse a powerful individual's soul and powers into a totem, allowing for the manifestation of what could only be described as a miracle.

"{Divine Blazing Dragon Spirit Totem Magic}: {Five-Pointed Multi-Elemental Dragon Totem Formation}!"

He called this technique "Five-Pointed Multi-Elemental Dragon Totem Formation", and for it to properly form, five incredibly powerful individuals must be placed on the largest five totems, where they would have to focus all their energies, mana, and souls into them for several minutes.

This formation not only had the power to manifest their powers as golem-like spirits, but also...

RUMBLE!

"NNGGH?!"

Merlinus was pushed back slightly by the gigantic 150-meter-tall black dragon golem, as he felt his Domain trembling, gaining tiny cracks around the edges.

Crack, crack...!

Yes, the Formation had the wonderful power of disrupting Domains! It could be said that this entire battle was to buy time until Mark could get done.

"DON'T THINK A MERE GOLEM WILL STOP MY ASCENSION, FOOL!"

Merlinus didn't give up, more and more skeletons coming from the underground and beginning to battle Planta's army while his body transformed, skulls opened their jaws through it, firing beams against Rita's Dragon.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"GRRHHH...! ROOOAARRR!"

The dragon groaned, as it was pushed back, receiving some severe damage, but it stood its ground, swinging its claws against Merlinus and then charging a breath attack over time.

"DON'T THINK I'LL LET YOU FIRE THAT!"

Merlinus swung his massive arms, smashing the dragon's mouth and stopping it from firing its breath, exploding into the ground instead.

BOOOMMM!!!

"Dammit, that bastard disrupted my attack!" Rita complained.

"Not for long, I'm coming!"

RUMBLE!

The voice of Lily echoed through the Formation, as the entire ground trembled, as a gigantic dragon made of stone emerged, resembling a draconic turtle of brown stone covered on bright diamonds and metallic ores.

"ROOOAAARRR!"

The dragon charged forward, slamming Merlinus down and making him fall into the ground, making the entire Luminous Kingdom City tremble, as massive fissures and cracks spread through the paved streets.

CRAAASH!

"T-THERE'S ANOTHER ONE?!"

Merlinus gasped, as he saw the two dragons rushing towards him, beginning to use their huge legs to stomp over his entire body, spreading cracks through it all.

At the same time, their magic and spiritual powers manifested, black beams pierced his body and massive spears made of diamonds impaled him, promptly exploding right after.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"UUUAAAARRGHHHH...!!!"

As Merlinus screamed in agony while his soul agonized, he grasped the ground tightly, absorbing more and more of the power of his Domain even as weakened as it was growing.

"MORE...! MORE... POWERRRR!"

As he cried, the souls of hundreds of innocent people screamed through the domain, fusing into his body and making him grow larger.

Using his two gigantic hands, he pushed the two giant dragons away, and quickly conjured powerful space-distorting magic, waving his hands down.

"{Demonic Space Compression}!!!"

TRUUUMMM!!!

A powerful spatial pressure crushed both dragons, trying to rapidly compress them and destroy them from above, the ground beneath began to shatter apart!

Crack, crack...!

CRAAASH!

And yet, another third attack reached Merlinus, his eyes widening as his entire head was sent flying away, before exploding into pieces.

BOOOM!

"W-WHAT...?!"

His soul gasped, the countless eyes across his body glancing at this third contender appear, a black, red, and blue demonic dragon with enormous, spiraling horns, and a more humanoid shape, with four arms, and encompassed on cursed metal, although made also of wood inside.

This demonic, and rather spiky, armored demonic dragon being, was controlled by nobody else but Melissa, her eyes shining bright red as she let out of all her cursed powers into the entity, which seemed endless.

"I can finally do something important!" Melissa muttered, gritting her teeth. "I'm going to stop you, Merlinus! For everything you did back in the competition! It's your fault everything was ruined!"

The fact was that Melissa had a big grudge against Merlinus after she learned he was the one behind everything. Despite still hating her former Guild Master, she pitied her a bit, and felt angry whenever she realized Merlinus was behind her transformation into a monster.

"SUCH POWERFUL CURSED POWER...!" Merlinus muttered. "THAT POWER SHOULD BE MINE, NOT YOURS! GIVE IT TO ME!"

His monstrous, ugly and old face filled with wrinkles manifested within his torso, as his body began crawling like a spider towards Melissa's giant golem.

"You want this power? You can have all of it, as much as you want!"

Her eyes shone as they synchronized with the four crimson eyes of her golem, which rushed forward, swinging its massive, muscular arms and punching Merlinus entire body, blowing holes through his body as explosions of cursed demonic darkness engulfed him.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"NGAAAGH?!"

Merlinus eyes were shocked, as he realized that the attacks, infused and fueled by demonic energy, weren't actually being absorbed by him, despite Melissa wielding a similar power, he was unable to make it his own.

"W-Wait a second, how is this possible...?!" He thought. "She wields such a refined demonic power... And I can't... absorb it?!"

Merlinus finally realized that Demonic Power by itself wouldn't simply obey anybody demonic, it had a much deeper connection to who wielded it.

Melissa's heart was filled with hope and goodness, she was an honest girl, someone that only wanted to help out her friends, especially the kind NPC of this country.

She didn't know the truth about the game yet, but as a lonely girl, these people, the NPC, felt like her real friends, and she knew that even if they were programs, if they died, they would die forever.

"I will protect the friends I made here, even if they're virtual... I value them as real!"

She shed a few tears, the shy and fearful girl's heart gained the blazing flame of courage, as Merlinus was punched until he screamed in agony.

"NNGRAAAARRRRHHHH! STOP. DOING. THAT!"

Merlinus rapidly grew more arms and legs, pushing Melissa away and punching her back several times, her entire golem beginning to fall back, gaining a lot of damage.

And yet, Lily and Rita appeared behind him, their draconic golems striking him down once more, stomping over him and blasting his body with breath attacks and magic.

"ENOUGH!"

Merlinus' entire body transformed titanic hand, grasping Rita's golem and then splitting it into two halves, throwing it into the ground!

CRAAASH!

As he did that, Lily and Melissa attacked him again, his entire body beginning to break down and fall apart, yet he kept rapidly regrowing.

"I AM. NOT. DONE!!!"

As he kept growing back more and more, his demonic aura grew out of the souls he burned away, but he was literally grasping at straws now.

"It's time for my fabulous entrance, isn't it?!"

The roar of the Queen of Luminous reverberated above the skies, as Merlinus glanced at yet another titan appearing.

A gigantic, humanoid draconic vampire golem, flying above the skies with enormous bat-like wings, and holding in her hands a massive crimson spear.

Chapter 1416 Breaking The Demonic Formation

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BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

Explosions reverberated through the entire Demonic Formation underground, flames spreading everywhere, burning through the attackers, but which were rapidly deflected as giant walls of ice materialized, stopping the flames from burning through all things.

Monica, Anna, Elisa, and Angelina were constantly blowing away the Demonic Idols by the dozens, the Demonic Formation barely left with a dozen more Idols, protected by a massive Infernal Demonic Soul, a powerful Demon Soul powered up by the Formation itself, and also the soul of its core node.

"DON'T THINK... I'LL LET YOU DESTROY... THE FORMATION!"

The Infernal Demonic Soul roared angrily, fighting against Tomas, who was constantly using his Magic, now powered up with Demonic Energy which he was learning to manipulate and draw its powers from.

The demonic entity made of flames charged towards Tomas, attacking fiercely, each blow releasing explosions of infernal flames, and each claw attacks a cutting wave of demonic energy.

And yet Tomas held his ground, covering his body with Demonic Ice, forming an armor, while conjuring walls and then reshaping them into spears and fists, piercing and punching his foe.

BAAM! BAAM! BAAM! BAAM!

Demonic Flames against Demonic Ice, both elements countered one another, and yet they were rapidly becoming even the more power their wielders put into their attacks.

Crack, crack...!

CRASH

The ice shattered into pieces, as Tomas was pushed down, the Infernal Demonic Soul smiled, reaching him, its humanoid body, with the head resembling the skull of some kind of horned beast, laughed.

"GRYEHEHEHE! IT'S... OVER... TRAITOR! TIME TO... DIE!"

As its infernal flames started burning through Tomas, the young man screamed in agony, but gritted his teeth, holding the pain while his body began to rapidly transform.

"Are you ready for round two, brat?"

The voice of the Demonic Soul within him spoke to him once more, as golden and red colored chains began to come out of Tomas' soul, wrapping around the arms of the Infernal Demonic Soul.

"Yes... I am!"

BOOOM!

An explosion of demonic energy erupted from Tomas, his entire body transforming into his humanoid demonic form, a mix between his true demon form and his human appearance, perfectly balanced.

"THE FLAMES...?! YOU'RE ABSORBING THEM- ACK!" The Infernal Demonic Soul realized it couldn't move its arms. "CHAINS?!"

"I'm done playing mister nice here..." Tomas said, his eyes glowing bright red. "I'm going to kill you."

"NNGGH?!"

The Infernal Demonic Soul felt an immense pressure weighing down over him, as he vomited demonic miasma in agony!

Tomas grasped his entire body and then twisted it down, pushing it below him!

CRAAASH!

At the same time, the rest of the team rushed towards the Demonic Idols that the Infernal Demonic Soul had been protecting this entire time, beginning to destroy them.

The magic and attacks of these idols weren't as strong either, allowing them to easily evade them and reach their bodies, shattering them apart and freeing the souls inside.

"NO! THE IDOLS...! NNGAAAARRGGH!"

The Infernal Demonic Soul roared in anger, attacking Tomas with everything it had, flames shaped as skulls and bony jaws biting through Tomas' demonic body.

And yet, this barely achieved anything.

"With these chains, you cannot easily unleash your true power anymore!" Tomas roared. "These are the very chains that keep my own demonic powers from taking over my mind, and I'll use them to purge you from this world, demon!"

With a furious roar, Tomas manifested his Demonic Ice, covering the Infernal Demonic Soul with it, freezing his flames and reducing the demon's size constantly.

FLUOOOSH!

As the demonic soul was rapidly frozen, it stopped moving, although its claws only an inch from reaching Tomas' face.

His chains wrapped the entire thing and tightened their grasp, until enough force was applied...

Crack, crack...!

CRAAASH!

And the Infernal Demonic Soul was shattered into countless frozen pieces, Tomas' Demon Soul manifested as many jaws as possible, eating the tiny fragments.

"Thank you for the meal! Gahahahaha!"

As this happened, at the same time, the last Demonic Idol was destroyed, the Formation grew to its weakest point, but the imprinted things on the floor remained active.

"Destroy this entire place!" Angelina said. "That's the only way we'll get rid of the Demonic Formation completely! Shatter the floor, cover the runes with magic and destabilize them!"

As she ordered, everyone nodded, even Tomas, they began striking the floor, destroying the formation's runes and destabilizing it even more.

RUMBLE!

Until the entire underground hall started to tremble, the ceiling began falling down as massive boulders crushed the formation's runes, making them explode.

"It's crumbling down!" Monica said. "We have to get out of here!"

"Yeah, let's go!" Tomas nodded.

Elisa transformed into her golden dragon form, grabbing Monica, Tomas, Anna, and Angelina, and flying upstairs as everything behind them crumbled to dust.

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

Explosions of demonic energy erupted everywhere, the destruction of the Demonic Formation ended creating a downpour of demonic miasma, rushing towards the surface from the underground, chasing them.

"GRUOOOHHHHH!"

They could swear they heard the waves of demonic miasma groaning and roaring furiously, as Angelina noticed thousands of souls within the demonic miasma wave screaming loudly, together.

"Hurry! It's about to catch us!!!" Anna screamed in horror. "HURRY!"

"I'm flying as fast as I can, you know?!" said Elisa. "This thing is way too damn deep!"

"Demon! W-What's going on?!" Asked Tomas to his own demonic soul within him.

"Aah, did you think all of that demonic energy and souls would go nowhere? I was unable to eat them all after all! So at the end, even if the Formation was destroyed, the condensation of their souls and demonic energy created this thing... Heheh, isn't it funny?"

"It's not funny at all!" Tomas screamed, quickly pointing his hand at the wave of demonic miasma and unleashing a beam of demonic ice.

BOOOM!

The demonic ice covered the miasma, rapidly stopping it as it was freezing over time.

And yet...

Crack, crack...!

CRASH!

The ice ultimately broke, a second after Elisa flew into the skies above, evading a gigantic wave of demonic miasma, which rapidly began to spread through the tower's surroundings, and then flowing across the city's streets, overrunning everything.

SPLAAASH!

"GRUOOOOAAAAARRRGHHHH...!"

And as it began to spread, the screams of hundreds of souls reverberated.

Chapter 1417 Assault From Every Angle

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As Merlinus was being overwhelmed from every angle, he grew furious. From Melissa's deadly attacks that somehow were nullifying his control over demonic energy, to Lily's endurance and enormous charging attacks, to Rita's destructive beams of darkness and void, he was having a rather bad time.

"ENOUGH!"

With all his power, Merlinus' entire body transformed into a titanic hand, grasping Rita's golem and then splitting it into two halves, throwing it into the ground!

CRAAASH!

As he did that, Lily and Melissa attacked him again, his entire body beginning to break down and fall apart, yet he kept rapidly regrowing, his pieces floating around, controlled by his soul, reassembling.

"I AM. NOT. DONE!!!"

As he kept growing back more and more, his demonic aura grew out of the souls he burned away, but he was literally grasping at straws now. After this reserve energy and souls, he literally had nothing else to use. Even the power of the Demon King Fragments was fading away the more his Demonic Domain weakened.

However, his will to win and not lose was immense, the accumulation of his entire life's worth of efforts was crumbling in front of his eyes, his demonic, evil will be unparalleled.

"RAAAHHH!"

His fragments merged into gigantic, spiraling spears, drills made of demonic stone and bones, hitting Lily and Melissa's golems at the same time!

CRAAASH! CRAAASH!

Both were sent flying away, using their magic and arms to defend, which caused their golem's arms to break down into pieces.

"I AM NOT... DYING...! I AM NOT LOSING! I AM ALMOST... I'M ALMOST THERE!"

Merlinus screamed, feeling something within him was still growing, something minuscule, if he kept struggling, if he kept fighting and showing how demonic he could be.

Maybe this minuscule ember of malice would grow and awaken into a blazing fire that would consume it all.

"This guy's seriously a pain in the ass..." Rita's voice echoed behind Merlinus, as his shapeless form opened its crimson eyes, glaring at her with surprise.

RUMBLE!

Het wo halves quickly stood up, beginning to merge back together through countless black wood roots and the power of Rita's Malice Orbs, which were constantly being filled with all the Malice in this Domain, allowing her to unleash her strongest magic continuously.

And also to feed Mark's Formation with her powers, making her Totem incredibly strong... And also giving it the ability to regenerate much faster.

"ROOOAARRR!"

Her dragon golem roared furiously, charging against Merlinus and swinging its massive tail against him, destroying several of his gigantic weapon-shaped bodies, reducing them to ashes he could no longer recover.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

She did so by coating the tails with her own Spiritual Aura of Shadow Void, learning how to do this to damage foes like Merlinus, and even targeting his soul in the process.

Crack, crack...!

"NGH?!"

He felt his soul gain tiny cracks the more Rita hit him with her dragon golem's tail! However, she wasn't stopping there, her dragon suddenly dropped several of its scales, becoming more streamlined and agile.

RUMBLE!

And with a kick in the floor, it appeared in front of his shapeless body, which was rapidly taking the form of another gigantic hand.

"Not going to work again, fucker!"

She used her golem's own body like a weapon, piercing through the giant hand with immense force, and blowing it up into pieces; at the same time as she did that, she struck his soul even harder than before!

Crack, CRACK!

"AARRGH!"

As he screamed, he quickly manifested three drills out of the floor, moving them towards Rita's back and striking her down by surprise.

CRAAASH!

As her golem fell, he quickly tore its torso apart and destroyed its head and tail, grabbing the tail and throwing it at Lily and Melissa, who were rushing towards him for a sneak attack.

BAAAM!

Melissa was hit with the huge tail, but kept her golem's balance, while stepping forward, and putting her golem's claws together, the metal covering it began to move.

"HAAAH!"

With her Skills and Magic, and especially her Alchemy and Forging Skills and Magic, she rapidly synthesized, forged, and reshaped the metal around her golem's arms into a huge...

"A black urn?!" Merlinus muttered. "Whatever you're planning, it's not going to work!"

He rapidly spread his soul through the ground, as more skeletons emerged, fusing together alongside the stone that had become demonic stone by merging with his demonic miasma.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

He shapeshifted into dozens of massive, stone and bone-made vipers, wrapping around her golem's arms and aiming to destroy them and grab that urn for himself.

As Lily and Rita had yet to recover, it seemed that it was a matter of a couple seconds for Melissa to be defeated!

And yet...

"It's time for my fabulous entrance, isn't it?!"

The roar of the Queen of Luminous reverberated above the skies, as Merlinus glanced at yet another titan appearing. At the same time as he felt a powerful pressure of crimson and black energies converged together, sometimes resembling a huge swarm of bats.

A gigantic, humanoid draconic vampire golem, flying above the skies with enormous bat-like wings, and holding in her hands a massive crimson spear. The golem looked both elegant and vicious-looking, with a humanoid face but the helmet of a dragon with sharp fangs, it had long bat-like wings with sharp crimson metallic blades, and her claws looked as lethal as the huge weapon she carried.

"Queen Camilla!"

Melissa smiled as she heard her, a second after, a blur of crimson light rushed down, impacting Merlinus with immense force and destroying his vipers, as her long spear rapidly struck every construct he created, blowing it up into pieces.

**BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!**

"EVEN THE QUEEN?!"

Merlinus would have gritted his teeth if he had any anymore, his phantasmal and demonic soul surging from the entire ground, rapidly flowing together into a single form.

A huge, humanoid golem-like being, covered by a skeletal armor, with six arms, four heads, and demonic horns above his head, alongside...

A crown floating above his head.

FLUOSH!

"Even amidst this struggle and my despair, I find my power growing! I am almost about to grasp it! And I will struggle and fight...! Until I achieve my dream!"

As he roared with all his might and soul, Camilla rushed towards him.

"Spare me the monologue, I don't give a damn about your dream!"

CRAAASH!

Chapter 1418 The Strange Entity

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Merlinus would have gritted his teeth if he had any anymore out of the sheer frustration he felt, every time a new fighter arrived even stronger than the last, constantly pushing him back, making him struggle!

First was just Rita, then Lily, and then Melissa, each one gaining new abilities and improving over time, getting ahead of him, constantly stopping him.

This frustration, anger, and wrath festered within his demonic phantasmal soul's heart, as he felt it was beating faster and faster.

This ethereal heart composed of the crystallization of all his efforts...

BA DUM!

The crystallization of his malefic and selfish dreams.

BA DUM!

The condensation of his path towards his goal.

BA DUM!

His phantasmal and demonic soul rapidly surged from the entire ground, flowing together into a single form.

To anybody watching this, it would be as if a sea of blue, red, and purple flames emerged from the ground, spreading cracks everywhere.

RUMBLE!

And then, something began to rapidly manifest, the Demonic Stone and the Demonic Skeletons combined.

A huge, humanoid golem-like being, covered by a skeletal armor, with six arms, four heads, and demonic horns above his head appeared.

Everyone quickly realized something, however, as there was a certain thing floating above his head.

A black and red crown, made of crystalized demonic soul energy.

FLUOSH!

Merlinus felt that even as he struggled and literally was grasping at straws...

There was something more within him!

He simply rejected the idea of thinking that his entire path towards his goal, all his efforts through hundreds of years would amount to nothing.

They had to get somewhere, he had to achieve something!

No matter what.

"Even amidst this struggle and my despair, I find my power growing! I am almost about to grasp it! And I will struggle and fight...! Until I achieve my dream!"

Just like a hero would never give up towards despair, Merlinus was similar, but also the complete opposite, a villain, a monster that held an incredible force of will.

He was proud of his malice; he was happy to have done everything he did!

Even now, as he sometimes remembered his loved ones, he didn't lament having left them behind.

"YOU CANNOT STOP ME!!! MY DREAM... WILL BECOME TRUE!!! I WILL BECOME... A DEMON KING!!!"

As he roared with all his might and soul, while his voice reverberated through the entire Luminous Kingdom, spreading shockwaves everywhere...

Camilla rushed towards him, her eyes synched with her golem's magical eyes, glowing bright red, resembling crimson stars amidst the darkness of the night.

"Spare me the monologue, I don't give a damn about your dream!"

Camilla rapidly thrust her massive spear against Merlinus, hitting his body several times in a row, unleashing a powerful barrage of blows as she activated her techniques.

CRAAASH! CRAAASH! CRAAASH! CRAAASH!

Merlinus armor instantly shattered, it was nothing but a bluff at the end. She quickly rushed forward, jumping over his own chest and grabbing his crown.

"I'll take this with me! I am the Queen here, old man."

"FOOL!"

BAAAM! BAAAM! BAAAM! BAAAM!

Merlinus roared, as he swung all his arms at once, punching Camilla's golem and tearing holes through it, blowing it away before it fell to the ground, destroyed.

CRASH!

"Hahaahahh... Hahaahhh...!" Merlinus laughed, his crown was still intact, and it was growing larger with each passing second. "I've been finally given another crown! I cannot lose it... I CAN'T LOSE MY LAST CHANCE...!"

As the crown grew, his madness only intensified, however, making him go madder with each passing second.

RUMBLE!

And to his surprise, a huge pit opened beneath him, as he saw someone inside of it, looking at him, a giant dragon made of stone.

"It took me a bit, but I made it!"

"Ungh?!"

Merlinus fell instantly, he was unable to lift his gigantic body, even less when the crown was manifesting, taking most of his focus to keep it growing.

"You think this is spart?! I'LL CRUSH YOU WITH THE WEIGHT OF MY BODY!"

He rushed down with even more demonic power flowing through him, aiming to crush Lily beneath him...

Only for Lily to quickly merge with the ground, disappearing.

And then, as he fell, he saw hundreds of diamond spikes growing out of the pit, each one at least several dozens of meters long.

"NOO!"

Merlinus panicked, as the spikes pierced his entire body, his hands wrapping around his crown as he tried to protect it.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

As this happened, he noticed each spike was encompassed by a black and purple aura, realizing that the power of his other opponent, Achlys, was infused into them.

"AAAGGGH! M-MY SOUL IS...?! TAKING GREAT DAMAGE...?!"

Indeed, this wasn't just Lily's doing.

"Teamwork, bitch!"

Achlys' golem had already recovered, although with a missing tail and looking rather worn down, her powers infusing into the ground as she kept in contact with the floor using her claws.

By just a stroke of luck, Merlinus' crown wasn't destroyed as he fell, although ninety percent of his body was gone by now.

"W-What do I do?! I'm going to... I'm going to...!"

He grasped the crown tightly, everything he had, everything he had sacrificed, was for this!

"NO...! I WON'T LET IT GO!"

His entire body crumbled into pieces, but his soul rapidly flowed towards...

The crown itself!

FLAAASH!

"Ungh?!"

"Aagh!"

"What the...?!"

Lily and Rita were sent flying away by the sudden bright crimson light emerging from the crown, as Camilla held her ground, while Melissa walked behind her, the urn within her hands, overflowing with cursed powers, it was ready.

"T-That's...!"

Melissa and Camilla were shocked, as they saw Merlinus' crown suddenly grow five times as large, reaching a hundred meters of length, floating above the skies, while spinning around like an UFO.

His Demonic Soul flowed through it, as he had done something completely insane... His phantasmal soul materialized beneath the crown, resembling a man made of pure red and black light with no facial features other than a single crimson eye in the middle, and a lean, slender body.

"..."

In silence and without saying a word, he pointed his hand at them, and...

**BOOOMMM!!!**

Everything became white.

Chapter 1419: It's Not Over Yet!

Merlinus mind was consumed by pure demonic power, his mind was unable to remain with his ego, as it was consumed by the intense power of the crown, which he possessed to become his new body, creating a contradiction, a paradox that granted his soul immense power, and allowed him to become something.

His phantasmal soul materialized beneath the crown, resembling a man made of pure red and black light with no facial features other than a single crimson eye in the middle, and a lean, slender body.

It wasn't a real Demon King though, but it was something beyond his previous form, beyond his previous strength! While his demonic will remained within the faceless, featureless being, there was nothing else than that.

"..."

In silence and without saying a word, he pointed his hand at Melissa and Camilla, and before they could do anything to stop him...

**BOOOMMM!!!**

Everything became white, as a massive explosion consumed them, a bubble of white, pure white, devoured it all.

Their golems instantly disintegrated to a subatomic level, disappearing into nothingness, the floor beneath them was also gone, leaving a massive crater.

The white light quickly compressed back into a single point in space, and with a last and tiny flash of light, it disappeared.

And the destruction he caused was evident to all...

"Ughh...!" Camilla felt nauseous as she fell to her knees, standing on top of the massive wooden totem she was infusing her powers into. "F-Fuck! I am... I'm about to puke! Agh...!"

"Aaah, no! The urn..." muttered Melissa. "Well, I still have this one...! Mark! Are you alright?"

"I'm fine..." Mark glared into the distance. "But I have no idea what we can do regarding that thing... it just blasted you all into nothing... If it gets to the formation, we're done."

"No idea? I'm still kicking!" Said Lily.

"Me too!" Said Rita. "We'll distract him and see what we can do. Can you regenerate their golems?"

"It'll take a bit, but yes I can," Mark nodded. "My own golem should be ready as well, I'll join you... Erebus, Elena, Planta! Can you offer some support? I don't want to risk your lives but..."

"It's fine," said Planta, flying above Mark. "I've been watching and recovering some energy, but I'm ready to go."

"Me too," Erebus said. "That thing must be some kind of Demonic Soul Projection created by the Crown, which has now become Merlinus' body."

"C-Can we beat it?" Elena wondered, squinting her eyes.

"We could try," Erebus said. "But ultimately, we simply have to shatter the crown and it'll be over... the Demonic Domain is... falling apart slowly it seems."

Their eyes glanced into the sky, from the hole created by the Valkyrie, several glass-like pieces fell and turned into dust, the Demonic Domain was disappearing.

The Hell Hole, however, remained, but its flames and intensity were dissipating, almost gone. The Demonic Beasts that were summoned were also only a few, and the Demonic Wizards were beginning to grow weaker.

"Tomas and everyone else did it, the Demonic Formation must have been destroyed by now if this is happening..." Said Planta. "Alright! No time to waste, let's do this."

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Elayne, Elena, and Erebus rushed towards the Demonic Soul Projection, who stood there in silence, doing absolutely nothing after it disintegrated his foes, it was as if it even lacked a will.

However, when enemies drew closer, its crimson eye opened, as it was closed before!

"...Kill."

It spoke a single word, as his hands pointed at Elayne and Elena at the same time.

RUMBLE!

The air became heavier, and drier out of nowhere.

And then...

BOOOOMMM!!! BOOOOMMM!!!

Two massive explosions engulfed everything within their vicinity, destroying all matter within mere seconds.

There was barely anything that said where the attacks were coming from, and no charge up at all, just... destruction!

"Planta!"

Mark felt terrible, he had told her to help him out and now...

"I'm fine!"

RUMBLE!

Amidst the smoke, Planta emerged, her body encompassed by a golden bubble of pure divine holy light created by the Valkyrie within her.

With this, she quickly moved towards her daughter at instant speed, protecting her.

"S-She survived that attack!" Camilla gasped. "Is that Valkyrie transformation that strong?!"

"A-Amazing...!" Melissa said. "Lady Planta, please take this!"

Melissa quickly sent the Urn of Demonic Darkness towards Planta through Player Item Trade, Planta quickly accepted it a second before the Demonic Soul Projection were to aim for yet another attack.

"Thank you, Melissa! Elena, let's go! Erebus! Distract him please!" Planta asked, as she and her daughter rushed forward.

"Very well," Erebus nodded, his eyes glowing bright red. "I'll copy your technique, Merlinus."

He smiled, as a mass of pure miasmic demonic void gathered within his hands, rapidly expanding into a sphere.

"{Miasmic Void Calamity}!"

The sphere reached the Demonic Soul Projection, only to quickly rush towards the crown.

However, the projection's hand moved quickly at the same time as Erebus' attack exploded.

Two explosions, white and black colors, erupted, clashing against one another.

The massive and destructive force generated by their energies clashing was even bigger than anything before.

**BOOOMMM!!!**

The explosion was massive, releasing shockwaves that shattered the Demonic Domain's walls completely, making them disappear.

Crack, crack...!

CRACK!

At the same time, the gigantic UFO-like Demonic Crown gained several cracks, tiny pieces of its crystalized body fell into the ground.

"Well done, Erebus!"

Planta celebrated, as she swung her swords at once, unleashing a devastating combo of attacks while her feathered wings divided into holy swords, flying towards the monster and hitting it from every angle.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

Hundreds of slashing attacks, projectile-like blows, ascending slashes, cross-shaped slashing waves, and explosions of holy light engulfed the entire Demonic Soul Projection.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

As it was being bombarded with tremendous power, the massive entity fell to its knees, groaning in agony, its soul gaining countless cracks!

Its entire ethereal body was beginning to slowly dissipate as well... however, it would rapidly attempt to regenerate.

"Looks like it can regenerate...!" Elena said. "Mom, we have to destroy the crown then!"

"Very well, on it!" Planta nodded, gathering her energies into a single point, as a huge golden gate manifested.

"{Gate of Heaven}!"

And from the gate, a massive, explosive and all-encompassing beam of holy light impacted the crown!

BOOOOMMM!!!

Chapter 1420: Keep Going, You're Almost There!

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Planta only had a few more minutes of her transformation at best, before being unable to use it for the rest of the day. She had to make every minute worth it, even though she stayed in the background watching, she was using her powers to rapidly heal and even revive a few of the dead soldiers nearby, it was only like two minutes at most, but her friends were able to buy her enough time to reduce the level of casualties of the kingdom's army.

Not, with her full power, she released it all, combining and stacking several magic circles and runes together into a gigantic, holy magic circle, channeling the power of Heaven itself, which the silent Valkyrie that had possessed her body granted her access for.

"Planta... Destroy that monster... Use all my power if necessary."

Her gentle and calm voice echoed in her mind, perhaps for the first time since she possessed Planta's body, the Valkyrie wasn't just a soldier, she was also technically a person too, someone that came from heaven with the job of helping her defeat this demonic human.

"Thank you, Lady Valkyrie!"

Her eyes shone bright gold, as her wings spread out, turning into holy blades and spinning around the magic circle, as she turned them into holy blade spirits alongside stacking its powers with her arcane blade wings.

The result? A massive Heavenly Magic Circle of such length and power that it surpassed even the complexity of Merlinus Ancient Demonic Magic.

FLAAASH!

The bright heavenly light it emanated quickly brought the attention of the Demonic Soul Projection that was regenerating beneath her.

It rapidly moved its arms towards her, aiming to blast her into smithereens before she could unleash her spell.

"...Die."

It spoke for the second time ever, wishing Planta to die, as a massive mass of white light was manifested from its hand and then...!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

"Uh...?"

The Demonic Soul Projection was shocked, his entire arm was sliced apart, his attack was unable to be conjured properly, backlashing and exploding on the projection's face.

BOOOMM!!

The giant thing was thrown away several hundreds of meters, its entire body falling to pieces, but then rapidly recovering.

Elena appeared above it, hitting its head and arms again with her sword, unleashing a storm of slicing attacks infused with the power of Void and Nothingness.

"Don't you dare think you've got a chance to stop her!"

With all her willpower, Elena's Aura and Magic combined her two swords alongside her Shikigami phantom blade, manifesting a titanic katana made of pure... nothingness.

She focused to her limits, once more growing stronger.

Going beyond!

"{Empty Blade Arts}: "{Second Form: Horizon Blade}!"

The horizon seemed to be cut by Elena's gigantic Nothingness Blade, as it seemed like the line that divided the heavens and the earth together.

SLAAAASSHH!!

A massive slash cut through the Demonic Soul Projection, deleting over half of its entire body, and the other exploded.

BOOOMM!!

As this happened, the crown gained more and more cracks!

Crack, crack...!

CRACK!

Erebus quickly rushed forward, the crown manifested giant arms to hit Elena and Elayne as they had just finished attacking or were conjuring their spell.

"I won't let you."

He manifested his miasma, crystalizing it into gigantic black and purple claws, and swinging them against the crown again, hitting it incredibly hard, the tiny cracks spread a bit.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

And then, Planta was ready, all of this only taking but a couple of seconds.

"{Gate of Heaven}!"

Her magic circle activated, as a massive golden gate opened in the middle of the empty air, glowing brightly with heavenly and holy light, as shiny as the sun itself.

In fact, it was so shiny it was illuminating the entire night sky!

FLAAASH!

RUMBLE!

And from the gate, a massive, explosive and all-encompassing beam of holy light impacted the crown, as an erupting explosion quickly covered the skies.

BOOOOMMM!!!

Crack, crack...!

The Demonic Crown was unable to defend against the beam of light, even as it tried to create barriers, attack it, or destroy it.

It was all futile, and useless.

CRAAASH!

The beam pierced the skies and then disappeared, as the entire crown's crystal shards fell to the ground, scattering everywhere.

At least a third of the crown was disintegrated, but the shards were tough enough not to be destroyed so easily, falling into the ground, most fragments as huge as several meters, from the smallest at one meter, to the biggest at ten, or slightly more.

"Haaahh... Haaahh... Phew..." Planta sighed in relief. "D-did that... do it? Maybe we didn't need to summon Lady Verdant or call for Gabriel's help at the end, it's a relief honestly. It's better... that way, haaah..."

"The Demonic Domain is completely gone by now!" Said Elena, looking into the sky. "Just how long has this battle been? I think that's some light on the horizon? It'll probably dawn in a few more minutes."

"Oh my... I need to sleep... I really need to," Planta sighed. "Is everyone else okay?"

"I'm alright..." Camilla sighed. "What a pity, I was unable to- Ah right, my husband! I need to go see how he is! And what about the other Demonic Beasts and the Demonic Wizards? We can't just sit down here; we have to clear them out!"

"R-Right..." Melissa nodded. "Uuh, I didn't get to use my Urn, I thought I could help some more..."

"I wanted to enter the stage myself... I guess I didn't have the time... I feel a bit useless now," Mark sighed.

"U-Useless?! What are you even talking about, Mark? You helped us all! you made this entire formation to begin with!" Said Planta. "Every golem was ultimately modeled and created by you as well, you were the hero!"

"Yeah, honestly, this formations' fucking insane," Rita nodded.

"Yep!" Lily nodded. "Thank you Mark!"

"I agree..." Elena nodded. "Don't say that."

"U-Uh... Ahahah..." Mark giggled nervously, whenever he was praised a lot, he would get embarrassed. "I see... well, you're welcome then."

Erebus analyzed the crystals down below in silence.

"Merlinus' soul isn't completely destroyed; he remains within these crystals... I wouldn't say he's sealed, but it seems he has become part of them," explained Erebus. "Don't call for victory yet, we have to do something about these things, they could become very dangerous."

"Aw, come on, let's just relax for a bit, I'll pick them up inside my inventory and-"

SPLAAASH!

When everyone was finally relieved things were done.

A huge tsunami of Demonic Miasma reached them, splashing everywhere.

"GROOOOEEEEUUURRGHH...!"

And the souls of hundreds of innocents used for the Demonic Formation echoed from within it, as the mass of Demonic Miasma that expanded for hundreds of meters across the city manifested eyes, mouths, heads, arms, hands, and legs.

RUMBLE!

"W-What the hell is that thing?!" Lily screamed in horror.

"P-Planta! Watch out!"

Mark panicked, his powers manifesting as a titan made of black steel wood surged from the ground, smashing it to bits and rapidly flying into the ground with its blazing wings. A perfect mech-like fusion between dragon and phoenix.

Using its massive hands, he grabbed Planta and Elena and flew as high into the skies as possible, missing Erebus, but he knew he would be fine.

BOOOM!

As the Demonic Miasmic Monstrosity splashed into the area where they were, the crystals left by Merlinus' Demonic Crown were devoured.