

Card Apprentice Daily Log #Chapter 40: Negotiation - Read Card Apprentice Daily Log Chapter 40: Negotiation

Chapter 40: Negotiation

Date 21 Mar 2321

Time 18:27

Location Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no.234

"10% is not enough after government tax I will have nothing left, 40%!"

10% sounds a lot but nothing much is left after paying 34% government taxes.

"10% and we will take care of the taxes."

With 10% I would have to spend 100 million dollars to get 10 million dollars and the problem is 10 million dollars is not enough for my plans, it could barely make up for the ingredients and copyright of 50 E-rank armour I am planning to make.

"Nope! 30% plus you guys take care of the taxes."

My experience has taught me that you do not get what you want, you only get what you negotiate. Many do not consider negotiating but negotiations mean getting the best of your opponent and knowing your worth in the market.

"20% plus we take care of taxes, this applies only if the card creation is successful. If you fail 100,000\$ minimum wage for your services."

"Now you are talking. Let's sign a contract."

I was excited but not stupid what if this blondie decides to dine and dash or worse deny any verbal agreement. This deal was too good to be true for me, and I could not afford to make mistakes.

There are so many ingredients out there I want to get my hands on, obviously I will only be ordering the ingredients required for the creation of said origin card but nobody is stopping from ordering expensive stuff.

After learning golem and undead card creation I wanted to get my hands on a Soul reactor and the artificial beast will.

I did come across beast will but it was a natural remnant soul, not a man-made artificial beast will.

How did they create it? Is it like the AI in my previous life? Is it even possible to create artificial intelligence using soul energy and soul paths? Or could I use beast will to create a fully functional artificial intelligence with its own will?

The more I thought the more excited I grew, this opened endless possibilities in the field of AI and my hands were itching to try them all out.

Recovering from her shock Debra looked at Cindy and said, "Are you sure about this? What if he just beef ups the bill to fill his pockets?"

Cindy sneered and said, "Fine Gold money is not easy to take but he can try."

Susan looked at Cindy and Debra with serious eyes and hurled, "Wyatt doesn't need to steal, Debra how could you say that?"

Debra gave Susan a guilty smile, she barely knew Wyatt and just wanted to get on the good side of her new boss.

Cindy did not bother about their quibble and sent the contract to my grimoire saying, "send me the list of ingredients I will have someone bring them over."

I did not sign the contract yet, "Love the enthusiasm but we have to make few things clear before I sign the contract. I am an exclusive client of Susan I would appreciate it if you buy all the ingredients from Susan."

"No the ingredients will be provided by Fine Gold, we have wider options and our ingredients are of higher quality than the guild association mall."

Before I could argue Susan butted in saying, "Cindy is right all the good and rare ingredients in guild association mall are reserved for big families or the officials of guild association. It would be better if Fine Gold provided the ingredients."

'What are you doing Susan! Are you too good or just stupid!' Glaring at Susan I said, "Okay but you will have to pay the broker fees to Susan, if not for her contribution we would not have any deal in the first place."

"Sure, Miss Susan will be paid her fees according to Fine Gold regulations. Miss Susan our finance department will contact you."

This should be acceptable for Susan if anything more she will reject again. I respect that she doesn't want to make money off of her friends but I think she is a fool to give up on a good opportunity.

After signing the contract I share a copy with Cindy and looking at Debra I asked, "So, what is your fate ingredient? What type of origin card would you like me to create for you?"

“Um...W-wait! You agreed to create my origin card without knowing what my fate ingredient is and what type of Origin card I want.” Debra shouted in shock.

“Don’t sweat the small stuff lady, Susan did say it was a part of undead remains, am I right?”

Debra felt hopeless seeing my lack of professionalism and was in no state to answer me.

“Her fate ingredient is the femur bone of a skeleton centaur knight, as for the type of card... Impress me.”

Hearing my conversation with Cindy, Susan felt bad for Debra and said, “How about a sword? Debra is skilled with swords.”

“Nah! A bone sword will not cost much, I need to make something grander to beef up the bill... I got it, this should be possible.”

Saying that I share the list of ingredients with Cindy.

[C-rank Skeleton Centaur Knight Core, preferred with the beast will if available x 1

C-rank Ram Bull Core, preferred with the beast will if available x 1

C-rank Skeleton war horse core, preferred with the beast will if available x 1

C-rank Skeleton knight core preferred with the beast will if available x 1

C-rank Soul reactor x 1

C-rank Artificial beast will x 1

E-rank High Wood Wisp x 100

Unique-grade Core x1

C-rank Core x 1

C-rank Gemini Card x 1

D-rank Pair Share Card x 1]

“Is this it, report if you need anything more. Here at Fine Gold, we won’t tolerate any reasons for failure.”

Cindy did not seem to be fazed by the ingredients on the list, but her words told another story.

I did not know the exact total but I knew C-rank ingredients costed a small fortune. And I listed about 8 of them, each rarer than the other. The total should have crossed the 100 million dollars mark.

“I thought there are no consequences to failing.”

“That’s for Debra, not you. Let me remind you again Fine Gild money is not easy to take.”

“Is that a threat?”

“I don’t know you decide.”

“Since you are my first big client I will forgive your ignorance this time.”

Hearing my words Cindy sneered, she didn’t seem to consider me a threat which kinda hurt my ego. I decided to let it slide as she did not know what I was capable of. I will teach her a lesson later.

Chapter 41: Mental Health

Date 21 Mar 2321

Time 19:17

Location Sky Blossom City, Fine Gold Sky Blossom Branch, Fine Gold Tower 1, Card Lab

Since Fine Gold was my client it was decided that it would be better if I used the Card lab in Fine Gold Tower.

Having rich client’s has its perks, I was escorted to Fine Gold Tower in a luxurious car and received like a VIP.

A nobody high schooler like me was not worthy of this treatment but still was treated with utmost respect and care because of Cindy the Managing Director who accompanied me.

It seems for some reason Cindy cared about my ability in card creation a lot as she acted as my host in Fine Gold. Even though any other staff should be more than efficient to receive me.

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[C-rank Skeleton Centaur Kight Core, with the beast x 1 – 25 million \$

C-rank Ram Bull Core x 1 – 16 million \$

C-rank Skeleton war horse core x 1 – 7.7 million \$

C-rank Skeleton knight core x 1 – 8.2 million \$

C-rank Soul reactor x 1 – 6 million \$

C-rank Artificial beast will x 1 – 8 million \$

E-rank High Wood Wisp x 100 – 10 million \$

Unique-grade Core x1 – 125,000\$

C-rank Core x 1 – 100,000\$

C-rank Gemini Card x 1 – company issue

D-rank Para Share Card x 1 – company issue

Total – 91,125,000\$]

Within 30 minutes the employee's of Fine Gold brought all the ingredients mentioned in the list but the total cost did not reach 100 million \$ as I expected it to.

That's because of two reasons firstly the ingredients are priced at discount prices and secondly the Gemini card and Para Share cards seem to be issued by the company.

Since Debra is a Fine Gold employee she gets a 10% discount on every Fine Gold purchase, leading to discounted prices of the ingredients.

Gemini and Para Share cards are Cards that help party members share their mental strength, they are basic cards used by card creators to help them use their party members as mental health banks.

It is not a surprise for a company like Fine Gold to have Gemini and Para Share cards as they employ a large number of contracted Card creators.

"Anything else?" Cindy asked.

"Um...I require one more C- rank Skeleton Knight and War Horse cores."

"Okay!" said Cindy nonchalantly.

But Debra gave me a doubtful glance, 'I swear I am not trying to cross the 100 million mark.'

Another 5 minutes and the employees brought the two cores. And now the total cost reached 108,025,000\$ meeting my estimated cost.

"Done?" Asked Cindy

"Yes" I replied

"Then shall we get started!" Debra said hurriedly, it seems she has completely given up hope on an origin card and wants to get it over with quickly.

"Not yet miss, the card creation will take at least half a day to create. I would like to have dinner before we start, you should do the same as we will be inside the card lab for a long time."

"He is right, I will arrange for dinner. make yourself comfortable." Supported Cindy as she left the Card lab.

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"Wyatt you are in over your head, Fine Gold is like a Hornet nest, it is peaceful to watch but if you poke at it, it will sting you to death." Warned Debra.

"Are you worried about me or worried that I will fail and it would cost you your precious fate ingredient?"

"Both, since you are a friend of Susan I believe you are a decent guy and not someone who will play with your own life.

Fine Gold is not somebody you should mess with, if you fail they will find a way for you to cough up the 100 million they wasted on you."

"What about you then?"

"Me? I am a Fine Gold employee as long as I am hardworking, loyal and never betray them I will be fine, maybe even promoted in rank."

"Don't worry, I will be fine too since I won't fail."

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Having a light dinner, I and Debra head into the card lab.

Forming a party with Debra, I equip the Gemini card and Para Share unequipping the rest of the cards in my grimoire. Since I am the only one with a Silver Grimoire of the two of us and can equip C & D cards within my soul power.

[Card Name: Gemini

Card Type: Skill Card (active)

Card Rank: C-rank, uncommon grade

Card Ratings : [19]stars

Card Durability : [82/82]

Card effect: user can form a mental connection with a party member. Additional effect – Share mental strength with the said party member.]

There is a myth that twins have a subconscious connection to each other. Gemini Cards function is similar to that it allows two party members to have a mental connection and share their mental strength.

Thanks to this card I do not have to worry about running out of mental strength during the card creation process as I will have a mental strength bank, Debra.

[Card Name: Para Share

Card Type: Skill Card (active)

Card Rank: D rank, uncommon grade

Card Ratings : [14]stars

Card Durability : [87/87]

Card effect: the user can share a single stats parameter with a party member (active)
Addition effect – increased mental health(passive).]

Since I am creating cards of higher soul power requirement than my current soul power, the Para Share card is the most important one as with this I will be able to borrow Debra's Intelligence stats and add them to my stats. Making up for my lack of soul power.

The only drawback of this card is Debra won't be able to use the stats I borrowed from her, therefore this card is not used in combat by the card apprentice.

Having solved the issue of mental strength and soul power, now I could focus on the Origin card creation.

Chapter 42: Trial and Error method

Date 21 Mar 2321

Time 20:13

Location Sky Blossom City, Fine Gold Sky Blossom Branch, Fine Gold Tower 1, Card Lab

The first step to card creation is to decide on which type of card to create, since the fate ingredient is a part of the undead remains I choose to create an undead summoning card.

There are three important parts of the undead summoning card creation,

Undead Core

Beast will

Skeleton body

The undead core is the power source and the foundation of the card, the Skeleton body is the machine and the frame of the card while the Beast Will is the operator and the conscious of the card.

Right now I was in a bind as I did not have an complete skeleton body, all I had was a femur bone, how am I supposed to create a complete undead from it?

That's where the Ram Bull core comes into the picture. Ram Bulls are Sheep with a body size of a bull, hence the name Ram Bull.

There is another thing that Ram bull does not have in common with the sheep and that is instead of growing wool on their bodies Ram bull can grow and manipulate bones on its body similar to an exoskeleton.

Ram bull bones are different from other beast bones, they are stronger than steel yet soft as rubber.

Ram bull bones make excellent C-rank ingredients for weapon cards. Making them one of the most valuable livestock. Therefore its core is twice the cost of other C-rank cores.

Since I have a part of the skeleton body instead of a complete skeleton body I came up with an ingenious plan to recreate the complete skeletal body of the undead creature.

That is to transfer the abilities of the Ram bull to the Femur bone, with the ability of the Ram bull the Femur Bone can be grown into a complete skeletal body of the undead creature.

Not only will I be creating a complete skeleton of the undead creature but an enhanced skeleton stronger than steel and softer than rubber with the ability to grow and manipulate bones at will.

Low-level skeletons below the Lich cannot grow or regenerate lost bones, they can only reconnect the severed bones. But thanks to enhancement from Ram bull ability the new skeleton can regrow the lost bones at will.

Usually, people mistake the refreshing of the undead card in the grimoire for a low-level skeleton growing its lost bones.

But in reality, after a fight, the undead summoning card goes into a period of cool downtime, during this period the card with help of soul energy gathered in the grimoire regrows the lost bones of the undead.

Finally, when the creature is completely healed the card comes out of cool downtime. People mistake this as the ability of the creature itself.

This is true for other summoning creatures too. After the battle when they return to the grimoire they are healed by the grimoire using the soul power stored in it.

During dire situations, the card apprentice does have the option to summon the creature in cooldown time but the summoned creature will still have the wounds from the previous battle.

Therefore a skeleton or any other summon with regeneration ability is a huge deal.

Knowing what I had to do I place all the ingredients on the card creation page and start with the creation process,

First I combine the soul pathways of the Femur bone with the Origin core forming the Femur bone core as the Femur bone is the fate ingredient and is supposed to be the core part of the origin card.

After combining the femur bone and origin core, next I had to transfer the abilities from the Ram bull core to the origin core which is now combined with the femur bone.

Now, this is a tricky part as I did not know which soul pathways of Ram Bull core contained the ability that I wanted, I could try the trial and error method but it was time-consuming and I would run out of mental strength even before finding the correct soul pathway.

There is no correct method for this if there is I did not know, but I could shorten my options using my soul pupils.

The stronger and most used ability tends to have a high wavelength making the soul pathway of that ability bulkier than other soul pathways, which I could differentiate using my soul pupils, but I still had to use the trial and error method with the remaining soul pathways.

To make sure that the soul pathways of the femur bone core are not damaged I enhance them using the High Wood wisp core soul pathway.

High wood wisp is the evolved form of the wood wisp. Unlike the Wood wisp, the High Wood wisps are very rare as a wood wisp requires a large amount of vitality to evolve into a High Wood wisp.

Since High wood wisp has a large amount of vitality their soul pathway is used to enhance the soul pathway of high-level ingredients.

After about 13 tries I was able to transfer both the required abilities of Ram bull to the Femur bone core.

During these 13 tries, I had to strengthen the soul pathway of the femur bone core 13 times using the soul pathway of the High Wood wisp, this is one of the reasons why even though the card creators of this world theorised about this they could never achieve it but I could using my soul pupils.

Even though the new femur bone can regrow into a full skeleton it could not for now as it did not have a conscious or the required amount of soul power.

With no conscious to take control or power to act the enhanced femur bone was nothing but a bone with new fancy abilities.

Therefore next I had to focus on the beast will and the power source for the undead creature.

Chapter 43: Success

Date 21 Mar 2321

Time 23:57

Location Sky Blossom City, Fine Gold Sky Blossom Branch, Fine Gold Tower 1, Card Lab

It took me nearly 4 hours to just create an enhanced femur bone core. I had yet to add the soul reactor and the artificial beast will to the femur bone core.

Without further ado I began with the creation of the Artificial beast will for the undead creature.

I already had a working artificial beast will ingredient but it was not what I expected it to be, it did not have consciousness of its own and it could only follow perfectly defined commands.

This artificial beast will would be enough for labour or mount summon beast but not enough for combat summoned beast. The artificial beast will was a total let down.

But I could still use it to create a perfect beast will with the help of other ingredients and my otherworldly knowledge of AI.

Then I enhance the skeleton centaur knight beast will core using the other 4 skeleton knight and warhorse cores.

From the two Skeleton Knight cores, I transfer the skills Sword mastery, Blunt weapon mastery, Heavy weapon mastery, Shield mastery, Spear mastery, Archery and Cavalry to the Skeleton Centaur Knight core.

From the two Skeleton Warhorse cores, I transfer the skills Stampede, Storm rush, Epicenter, Barrow strike, Earthshock, Enrage to the Skeleton Centaur Knight core.

Being half humanoid and half horse, Skeleton Centaur Knight should have no problem using these skills.

Having enhanced the Skeleton Centaur Knight core, I strengthen the soul pathways of the artificial beast will using the High Wood wisp soul pathways more than enough to dominate and control the Skeleton Centaur Knight beast will.

After that, I combine the Skeleton Centaur Knight beast will with the artificial beast will, the resistance from the Skeleton Centaur Knight beast will was not much of a fight for the strengthened artificial beast will.

I combined the two wills to remove the resistance of Skeleton Centaur Knight beast will and give the artificial beast will a conscience.

This new artificial beast will was enough for the creation of undead summon but I want to add something I learnt back on earth to achieve a more efficient beast will.

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There is a pop-psychology concept that each of us is right-brained or left-brained but it's just a myth you're not left-brained or right-brained.

Although the two sides function differently, they work together and complement each other. You don't use only one side of your brain at a time. Whether you're performing a logical or creative function, you're receiving input from both sides of your brain.

Based on the type of work you are engaging in one side of the brain is dominant while the other side is supportive.

But this myth led to one of the greatest inventions ever in the history of earthlings, that is using the supportive part of the human brain to download AI to control automated prosthetics.

The theory is quite long but in short the human conscious would occupy the dominant part of the brain while the AI would be downloaded in the supportive part of the brain to command automated prosthetics.

This way there would be no conflict between the host conscious and AI rather the AI could assist and support the host conscious actively in controlling automated prosthetics.

There are two types of conscience in our brain, the normal conscious and the subconscious. Their relation is such that they complement each other.

The normal conscious is the dominant conscious while the subconscious is the supportive one which will be downloaded with AI to complement the normal conscious efficiently.

One would ask why not download the AI in the dominant part of the brain, doing this will lead to the host turning brain dead. As the normal conscious will actively resist and try to be the dominant conscious.

Whereas the subconscious will not fight back as there is no such thing as subconscious they are just second thoughts of the normal conscious that humans are too afraid to think. So, the AI can easily occupy the supportive part of the brain and follow the command of the dominant conscious in controlling automated prosthetics.

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Using this concept I connect the soul pathways of the new artificial beast will and Debra's supportive part of the brain forming a bond between them. This way I download a copy of the new artificial beast will in Debra's supportive part of the brain.

This concept was used to control automated prosthetics back on earth but in the case of Debra, I think it will give her better command over her undead summon.

Then I transfer the new artificial beast will soul pathways into the enhanced femur bone core. With this, all that is missing is the power source soul reactor.

A soul reactor is just like a heart its function is to circulate soul power.

All that was left to do was transfer the soul pathways of the soul reactor into the femur bone core. But before doing that I enhance the soul reactor soul pathways.

Having transferred soul pathways of the soul reactor and the new artificial beast will in the enhanced femur bone core. Now all I had to do was interconnect all three soul pathways according to the life equation as specified in the basic undead creation book.

Done with that I start to inject soul reactor with soul power which in turn activated the beast will which lead the femur bone to regrow into a complete skeleton.

Since the artificial beast will was made using a Skeleton Centaur Knight beast will and the femur bone was also of a Skeleton Centaur Knight it did not take long to create a complete skeleton of Skeleton Centaur Knight.

This Skeleton Centaur Knight was different from other Skeleton Centaur Knight as its skeleton body was completely covered in an exoskeleton knight armour.

Finally, all three parts of the undead card creation had been achieved, The skeleton body, the beast will and the undead core.

Now having created the undead creature I activated the morph ability of the origin core converting the undead creature into an undead summoning card.

Appraising the card stats and skills I nodded in satisfaction. Then I looked at the time it was 9:20 in the morning, it took me 12 hours to create the origin card.

My eyes were red with stress and lack of sleep while the owner of the origin card was sleeping curled up in a corner of the card lab.

With a sadistic smile on my face I kick Debra, not hard but enough to wake her up.

“Hey! WTF?” shouted Debra glaring at me.

I did not bother to answer her. I throw the origin card at her face and walk out of the card lab.

Right now all I wanted was to return home, take a bath and have a good nap.

But all my sleepiness and tiredness left my body after hearing the high pitched scream that came from the card lab.

“Aaahhh... OMG!”

Chapter 44: Jaya Keith

Date 21 Mar 2321

Time 9:35

Location Sky Blossom City, Fine Gold Sky Blossom Branch, Fine Gold Tower 1, G6 Training Hall.

“Cindy, Hi. It’s rare to see you down here. I heard you signed a new adventurer offering more than 100 million dollars just for her origin card. She must be quite something to catch your eyes. Was the card creation a success?”

“Morning Jaya meet Debra Khan, the recruit I signed. From today she will be joining team 6 for training until she is officially assigned a team. And yes, the card creation was a success.”

“Really! tell me about this origin card worth 100 million dollars.”

Cindy nodded and turned to me asking to explain. I just ignored her. I did not agree with this. You asked to create a card, which I did now pay me.

If not for wanting to see my creation in action I would have already left.

Debra panicked seeing me ignore her new boss and said, “It’s an undead summon card, Skeleton Centaur Knight.”

“What! It took 100 million dollars to create a Skeleton Centaur knight origin card. Are you kidding me?”

Jaya Keith the adopted sister of Diana Keith chairman of Fine Gold Group. 14 years ago Diana out of nowhere brought a 3 years old baby girl and adopted it as her sister.

This move surprised everyone, some of her competitors even thought that she had gone soft which costed them heavily as Diana did prove them wrong in the upcoming years.

Jaya was the only one in the Fine Gold Sky Blossom Branch who could question Cindy other than her sister.

“No kidding. That card is worth every penny Jaya.”

Yes, an undead summon card is not worth 100 million dollars. But this money was not spent on the origin card instead its purpose was to check and validate Wyatt’s prowess in card creation.

What’s more, the skeleton centaur knight card was not made in the conventional methods used by most of the card creators.

The conventional way was to use a complete skeleton of the skeleton centaur knight to create the undead card.

It seems Wyatt had used the age-old hypothesis of using Ram bull abilities to create an undead card, even though she thought Wyatt did this to increase the card creation cost over 100 million dollars. It was worth it now she knew that she could not underestimate this high school student.

“Cindy, no offence but I think otherwise.”

Of course, Jaya would think otherwise as she did not know the entire story behind the creation of the origin card like Cindy did.

“Ok Jaya I will explain it to you later, now let’s check the goods. Debra.”

‘Tsk’ Jaya was annoyed by how Cindy treated her like a child.

“Yes, ma’am.” Saying that Debra summoned her bronze grimoire and activated her origin card.

A huge 3-meter tall Skeleton Centaur knight covered in pure white armour appeared in the training hall. Its armour sparkled under the light.

‘Thud’

The Skeleton Centaur knight facing Debra kneeled showing its loyalty and respect. Debra somehow understood what it was conveying subconsciously.

Seeing the Skeleton Centaur knight and its deterring red flaming eyes within the helmet Cindy, Jaya and the rest of the people training were shocked. Especially by its armour which covered it from head to hoof and its build was enormous for a skinny skeleton knight.

Skeleton Centaur knights are supposed to be wearing fallen armour corroded with undead energy of the dead centaur knight, not a full body armour made up of high ranking ingredients.

“Wait! is the armour covering the skeleton made of C-rank Ram Bull bones. Impressive this is one of the most intimidating skeleton knights I have ever seen.” Jaya exclaimed.

“Impressive indeed, Paul check out what it is capable of, Debra go all out.” Cindy asked one of the card apprentices training the hall.

Seeing Debra hesitate Jaya said, “Don’t worry Paul is a C-rank Shieldbearer and a Card Master he can handle it.”

“Ok” Debra nodded seriously she knew now is the time for her to impress the new boss.

The whole training hall was made up of enchanted black steel, these walls and floors could withstand the damage of an A-class monster.

Being the training hall for card apprentices it had to be of this level otherwise the whole tower would collapse with aftershocks from the training.

The training ground was cleared for the showdown between the Skeleton Centaur knight and Shieldbearer Paul.

Paul and Skeleton Centaur knight both stood in the centre of the training ground.

“Begin!”

With the signal, Paul immediately summoned a huge black steel tower shield.

Seeing the large metal tower shield, a bone extended from the armour of the Skeleton Centaur knight slowly forming into a huge two-handed war hammer.

“WTF is that? some kind of skill. I have never seen a skeleton knight do that.” Jaya asked

“Bone Weapon mastery.” Replied Debra.

Bone Weapon mastery (passive) – the ability to understand and use any weapon made up of bone with the proficiency of a master.

Additional effect – proficiency increases with the increase in the realm.

Restriction – the skill only works on weapons made up of bones.

Paul was unfazed he had fought hundreds of monsters bigger than him and this one was no different. He stood in a perfect defensive stance.

Using Storm rush the Skeleton Centaur knight charged at Paul in full force and hammered hard on the Tower shield.

Seeing the undead charge at him, Paul’s shield glowed with purple light. With the impact of the hammer on the shield, the purple light dimmed a lot but Paul was unharmed.

Even though Paul was unharmed the force of the attack was such that Paul’s hands were numb and stepped back 12 steps.

Storm rush (active) – upon activation users agility doubles for 45 seconds.

Additional effect – the user gains zero wind resistance for 45 seconds.

Cooldown – 30 seconds.

Chapter 45: Undead Minions

Date 21 Mar 2321

Time 9:49

Location Sky Blossom City, Fine Gold Sky Blossom Branch, Fine Gold Tower 1, G6 Training Hall.

Stampede (active) – the user can charge 150 meters in a single direction, crushing all the enemies in its way.

Additional effect – the user is invincible to all physical damage during the charge.

Cooldown time – 75 seconds

Epicentre (active) – After channelling for a couple of seconds, Skeleton Centaur Knight slams his front hoofs on the ground sending a disturbance into the earth, causing it to shudder violently. All enemies caught within range will take damage and become slowed.

Additional effect – Each subsequent pulse increases the radius of damage dealt.

Cooldown time – 60 seconds

Barrow strike (active) – Bones extends out of Skeleton Centaur Knights hoofs burrowing into the ground and tunnels forward, damaging enemy units surrounding him as the bone spikes resurface.

Additional effect – wounded targets enter a period of stun depending upon the strength difference between them.

Cooldown time – 55 seconds

Leap (active) – Skeleton Centaur Knights leaps forward 150 meters.

Additional effect – none

Cooldown time – 10 seconds

Enrage (active) – user goes into a frenzy, providing damage reduction and status resistance.

Additional effect – Removes any existing debuffs.

Cooldown time – 70 seconds

Debra tried all the skills of Skeleton Centaur Knight on Paul one by one and Paul like a worthy C-rank shieldbearer took them head-on.

Even though Skeleton Centaur Knight is a C-rank summon its strength was reduced to D-rank summon as Debra was still a Card soldier.

Since the origin cards are the individuality of the card apprentice their rank is dependent on the realm of the card apprentice.

If Debra were ever to become a Card Grandmaster or higher then her origin card would also undergo baptism and become a B-rank or higher card.

Even though the Skeleton Centaur knight is weakened it is still invincible under C-rank. And most of the skills shown by Debra's Skeleton centaur knight are rare skills.

"The origin card is good but I still don't think it's worth 100 million dollars." Said Jaya.

Seeing that Jaya's problem is not with me, all she wanted was to criticise Cindy I choose to ignore her comments.

"Miss..madam there are still two more skill to test." Said Debra, it seems she did not know how to address Jaya.

"No need for honorifics, I am a trainee just like you. I think we have seen enough except for few rare skills there is nothing special about the skeleton worthy of 100 million." Criticised Jaya.

Debra did not know how to reply. after all, Jaya's status was special and she did not want to be on her wrong side on the first day of her new job or any other day.

"No, Debra display the other two skills. So I can judge your strength and decided on the role you will be playing in your new team." Cindy thought otherwise.

Debra nodded and looked at Paul, he nodded and shouted "Don't hold back newbie"

With a serious expression, Debra chanted "undead minions"

Suddenly, an eerie breath started to leak from the skeleton centaur knight and filled the entire training hall. The skeleton centaur knight raised its front hoofs and stomped hard on the ground.

The ground vibrated and 100 skeleton centaur soldiers surfaced above the ground surrounding the skeleton Centaur knight. Unlike the skeleton centaur knight who was covered in bone armour, the skeleton centaur soldiers were equipped with worn-out dirty armour and weapons.

Looking at the 100 skeleton centaur soldiers that surfaced on the ground everybody was dumbfounded, even though I had already read the card skills beforehand I was also shocked as the scene of 100 skeleton centaur soldiers in the formation surrounding the knight was dreadful and overwhelming.

Facing 101 Skeleton Centaurs Paul's knees were trembling and they almost gave out, if not for his years of experience as an adventurer.

'I am shieldbearer, not a roadkill.' He thought looking at 404 hoofs in front of him, they can stomp him to death.

Jaya's mouth hung open, not just her everyone else in the training hall was in a state of shock.

I was looking at Cindy she seemed to still maintain a calm expression and did show any emotion on her face. Are her facial muscles dead or what!

But 4 members of Paul's party quickly responded and went to support him. It seems Fine Gold Guards are not to be underestimated.

Thankfully the Skeleton centaur army did not plan on attacking or else it would be a blood bath. 100 D-rank undead monsters were more than enough to bring down a C-rank party.

"Is this worth 100 million dollars?" I asked mockingly. I did not know why I said that but it felt good.

Jaya did not respond as she was still in a state of shock. Pointing her fingers at the skeleton centaurs she exclaimed "It's a Boss monster!.. It's a boss monster ability how can a card have boss monster ability!!"

Undead Minions/ Minions is a Boss skill only the dungeon bosses have them to call for reinforcement.

'Huh,' I snorted not bothering to enlighten her and I had a feeling of satisfaction for some reason.

"My fated ingredient was part of a Boss monster." Debra tried to explain even though she did not know the reason.

Undead Minions (active) – The user can summon 100 undead minions of the same race.

Additional effect – ability to induce fear in the opponent.

Restriction – the summoned minions are a rank lower than the summoner.

Cooldown time – 12 hours.

“Now that’s worth 100 million! Hell, I almost pissed myself.” Said Jaya with a wild look.

And eagerly asked, “use the next skill, I want to see. come on!”

About the next skill, even I was eager about it because I did not know what this skill did as I did not add this skill to the card. when I tried to read the skill effects it only showed a series of question marks.

Chapter 46: Summon Soul Link

Date 21 Mar 2321

Time 9:55

Location Sky Blossom City, Fine Gold Sky Blossom Branch, Fine Gold Tower 1, G6 Training Hall.

Under everyone’s gaze, Debra slowly walked towards Skeleton Centaur Knight and his minions while removing her jacket and boots.

As she walked milky white fluid started to pour out of the pores of her palm and sole. The fluid climbed covering her entire body. The layer of milky white fluid covering Debra started to harden forming a modern full-body knight armour exactly similar to the one worn by the Skeleton Centaur Knight.

Seeing Debra walk towards it the skeleton centaur knight walked out of the formation and behind him the skeleton centaur soldiers lined up in a 10×10 formation.

‘Thud!’

When bone armour covered Debra stood in front of it, the skeleton centaur knight and its minions bowed while kneeling in respect.

Debra turned to face the crowd while chanting ‘summon undead mount’.

A 1.7-meter tall skeleton warhorse surfaced above the ground next to her. With a flip, Debra mounted the skeleton warhorse and started to demonstrate all the skills previously performed by the skeleton centaur knight.

Bone Weapon Mastery

Storm Rush

Stampede

Epicentre

Borrow Strike

Leap

Enrage

For the finale, she muttered 'Undead Minions'

100 E-rank humanoid skeleton foot soldiers in a perfect 10×10 formation equipped with old tattered armour and weapons surfaced above the ground behind her.

Since Debra is a D-rank Card soldier and of the human race, she could only summon E-rank humanoid skeleton foot soldiers.

Even though Skeleton Centaur Knight's strength has been weakened to D-rank due to Debra's lacking strength. Skeleton Centaur Knight is still considered a C-rank undead and therefore it can summon D-rank Skeleton Centaur Soldiers.

Both the humanoid skeleton foot soldiers and skeleton centaur soldiers infantry stood next to each other. While the skeleton centaur knight and the skeleton warhorse stood in front of the skeleton centaur soldiers and humanoid skeleton foot soldiers infantry respectively.

Getting off the skeleton mount, Debra stood in between the warhorse and the centaur knight.

Looking at me she and the skeleton army behind her with a hard stomp on the ground in unison bowed and expressed their gratitude while Debra shouted, "Thank You, Master Wyatt!"

...

Debra had almost given up on her career as an adventurer, no guild was willing to recruit her as they considered her finding her fate ingredient as a lost cause because no

matter what Debra would not give up on creating her origin card. Which was a gamble with less than 50:50 odds and costed a small fortune to create.

The money for the origin card creation was not a big deal for these guilds but they did not think that Debra was worth it as they could easily hire any other capable D-rank card soldier.

But all this changed a day ago when her childhood friend Susan mentioned the name, Dalton Wyatt to her.

If not for Cindy wanting to test Wyatt's card creation prowess it is debatable if she would have hired Debra in the first place.

She had given up on her origin card and was satisfied being recruited in the Fine Gold Guards. But her fate surprised her once again and she had a powerful origin card overnight all this was possible due to one person Wyatt.

Because of him, she was recruited in Fine Gold and because of him, she had a powerful origin card that even she could never dream of.

Being treated like trash in society these past few days Debra appreciated her new life and opportunities more and she had one man to thank for all of this, Dalton Wyatt a high schooler.

Right now everything she had was given by Wyatt either directly or indirectly, so all she could do was offer a bow as gratitude.

...

200+ skeleton bowing to me was a majestic sight and all but I did not know how to respond to her theatrical gesture of gratitude.

The whole crowd in the training hall turned their gaze at me, all of a sudden everyone started to notice me now. I wasn't bothered by their gazes. I looked back at Debra and said, "Summon Soul Link right? So it allows you to use all the abilities of your undead summon. Interesting"

"Yes, Master Wyatt. I can use all the skills of Skeleton Centaur Knight thanks to the skill Summon Soul Link. Not only that we can speak to each other mentally using the link." Debra respectfully answered me.

I did not know that downloading the artificial beast will to her subconscious would lead to unexpected gains. Looks like I will have to do more research on this part.

...

Summon Soul Link (active) – The user can use the skills of his summon. The user and the summon can communicate with each other using the link.

Additional effect – Summons intelligence grows according to users intelligence stats.

...

Summon undead mount (active) – the exclusive ability of every undead knight to summon an undead mount.

Additional effect – Cavalry Master level

...

Being a half-horse Skeleton Centaur Knight did not require an undead mount but Debra who was equal to an undead knight thanks to summon soul link she could use the skill 'summon undead mount'.

By now everyone was out of the shock of 200 undead soldiers infantry unit summoned by Debra. An origin card being able to summon 200 undead and providing 8 different rare skills could be considered a mythical grade card. this caused them to envy Debra for having such dumb luck.

After knowing that I had created the card they all looked at me with eyes filled with worship. There was no envy or jealousy or disdain in their eyes because they knew about all the knowledge and hard work required for card creation. For a high schooler to be able to achieve that, they acknowledge me wholeheartedly.

Especially Jaya, she looked at me as if she would swallow me whole. So I chose to distance myself from her, in response she just sneered.

Even Cindy looked at me differently I could tell from her eyes even though her expression remained unchanged.

Debra's show of power just now had gained her approval of all the trainees in the training ground. They surrounded her and asked her various questions about her origin card and me.

They did not dare to near me as Cindy was standing next to me. Having watched the Skeleton Centaur Knight in action it was time for me to leave.

"Transfer the money to my account. I will be heading home." Having said that to Cindy I headed towards the elevator I did not wait for her reply. But only to be blocked by Jaya who suddenly appeared in front of me.

“Mr Wyatt you must be really tired after making such a powerful origin card. Why don't you enjoy our Fine Gold hot spring, it will relieve you of all your stress and fatigue.” Suggested Jaya.

Soaking in hot springs sounds better than a bath at home and I have heard a lot about Fine Gold hot springs, let's check it out today. So, I agreed, “sure why not.”

Hearing me agree Jaya excitedly called a trainee and had her escort me to the hot springs.

...

“Carla, escort Mr Wyatt to hot springs no.02” Jaya whispered in Carla's ears.

Hearing Jaya, Carla looked at her wide-eyed as if she heard wrong and said “ but ma'am that spring is..”

“Shh! Just do what I say, I will handle the rest.” Jaya hushed Carla.

Carla hesitated at first but Jaya was her boss's sister and she could only bite her lips and do as she was ordered to.

Chapter 47: Misunderstanding

Date 21 Mar 2321

Time 15:55

Location Sky Blossom City, Fine Gold Resort, Hot Springs Bathhouse no.02

The soak in the hot spring was so soothing and relieving that I fell asleep in the pool. Thankfully I had previously equipped the mud frog skin card to breathe in the minerals of the hot spring water through my skin pores, allowing me to breathe underwater.

Right now I was very hungry as I had a good 6 hours of sleep in the hot spring skipping breakfast and lunch. Summoning my grimoire I call the resort service and ordered a fattening meal.

[Thank you, the estimated wait time is 11mins]

Climbing out of the pool I dry myself and put on a robe and sat on the poolside patio waiting for my meal.

I was yet to get comfortable on the couch but I heard footsteps walking into the bathhouse.

'That was fast.' I thought it was the resort service with my meal but to my astonishment it was Jaya.

"Hi, Mr Wyatt forgive my intrusion. Can we talk?" Asked Jaya giving me a charming look.

Even though Jaya is just 17 years old she had a very bumpy figure which I noticed at the training hall when she was in her gym tights. But right now she is wearing a grey brand name logo print gym pants under a camouflage hoodie.

The hoodie was large for her size and it was covering both her front and back bumps. But it could not cover her juicy thighs wrapped in gym tights.

Remembering her expression in the training hall earlier and seeing how she showed here unannounced and uninvited I had a slight guess of what she was up to.

But I was not interested, from the perspective of my mental age I considered her a little too young for my taste. Knowing the right thing to do I said, "Mrs Jaya let me stop you right there, I am flattered really! I am sorry to say this you are not my type and I am not a casual person."

"What? No no... I am not here for that! I am not interested in you and you are also not my type." Jaya denied hurriedly.

"Of course you would say that now that you know" I said stretching comfortably on the couch.

".."

Hearing me put it that way Jaya was dumbfounded but soon her expression changed to that of anger and shame as she shouted, "No you creep I was here to ask your help in the creation of my origin card. And what do you mean by you are not casual are you implying that I am easy!"

Hearing her it dawned upon me that I had misunderstood her intentions. So I apologised, "Sorry It was all a misunderstanding."

'Humph' Jaya snorted.

"I am waiting" I demanded.

"I want you to create an origin card for me. Of course not for free I will pay you handsomely." Said Jaya arrogantly.

"Not that, Apologise!" I stressed.

“For what?”

“For calling me a creep.” I am not some pushover who could stand being called creep to his face by a pompous little girl.

“..” Jaya stared at me menacingly

“Well, you do want me to create a card for you right.” I threatened using my only leverage.

Well for someone as rich and powerful as Jaya, she does not require a high schooler to create a card for her still if she does then there has to be a critical reason behind it.

I will use this to my advantage and milk the cow that walked into my den. Hey, don't blame me she can only blame herself for her ignorance and foolishness.

“You! ... I am sorry.” Jaya was never this angry before in her life, nobody dared to be so disrespectful or threaten her to her face.

Not even her sister's enemies dared to be disrespectful to her, she was the Fine Gold princess and everyone knew that touching her was equal to unleashing hell upon oneself.

If it was anybody else she would have given them a glimpse of the Fine Gold Princess's prestige but since the boy in front of her was the only one who could help her she had to swallow her pride and anger just this once until her work was done of course.

“Ok, now please leave. My meal has arrived and I can't enjoy it with someone watching me.”

A waiter walked into the bathhouse pushing a trolley, greeting me and Jaya he placed the trolley next to the patio furniture and left quietly as if he was never there.

Seeing the waiter leave, suppressing her anger Jaya said, “you agreed to create my card if I apologised.”

“I never did. I just asked if you wanted me to create a card for you. It's not my fault if you don't understand English.”

“Don't play word games with me. Tell me how much? Everything has a price.”

‘Sigh’ I sighed, this right here was why I wanted to hide my skills in card creation. But this was the only way I could amass a large sum of money quickly.

I had my pride and blah blah but it was not worth making an enemy of Jaya, at least not right now.

Jaya was the Fine Gold princess, it would be smart to have her as a friend, then an enemy just over some misunderstanding.

I am not an MC from a third rate novel who could not swallow his pride or control his dick.

But right now things between me and Jaya were way past where I could be friends with her. Even though she was smiling on the surface I knew she was holding a grudge against me.

I had to solve this before I even considered helping her out because I would lose my only leverage on her by then.

Chapter 48: Identity

Date 21 Mar 2321

Time 16:05

Location Sky Blossom City, Fine Gold Resort, Hot Springs Bathhouse no.02

“Jaya I like you! I liked you ever since I laid my eyes on you in the training hall. “

...

I thought I was over my past and had come to terms with my present but it seems I was just overwhelmed with the joy of my rebirth.

I did not die no matter how many times the world powers conspired against me. Even though they could kill my mortal body, they still could not put an end to my soul.

I was delighted I got a second chance and was optimistic about this new life. I thought to myself that I would not repeat the same mistakes I did in my previous life.

But it seems those mistakes are not just mistakes but my nature. Just like how the Scorpion cannot stop stinging even though it is not in its interest as that is its nature.

In my last life, I could decide the lives of millions of people and overthrow a regime with a word. World leaders feared me and trembled in my presence.

That was too much power for an ignorant mortal to hold, like all the tyrants before me I was also corrupted by the power I hold.

People's life and dignity meant nothing to me, if I chose to save one then the others would die.

I could not look at the world with morals or have humanity. I had to be impartial and choose which was the best for the entire humanity.

Finally, the means stopped mattering to me and the results of my choice started to define my means.

All that mattered to me was to keep the majority satisfied and hell with the minority.

I would be lying if I said compassion never bothered me, sometimes tears roll out of my eyes without my knowledge but I never had time to acknowledge or wipe them

Somebody had to make these choices, I never stopped to ask why does it have to be me the one to make these choices.

I guess I just enjoyed the feeling of playing God.

In the final movements of my last life, the horrible mistakes I had committed flashed before my eyes but I did not regret it cause my regret could not change anything it would just demean the sacrifice of those who believed in me and my dream.

I just came to terms with them since I no longer had to shoulder the burden of entire humanity on my shoulder.

But since I got a second chance I thought in this life I would lay back and just enjoy life as a new person.

I tried very hard to change but it seems I was meant to fail from the beginning as I never tried to change myself for real I just acted as if I cared and it turns out I am not a good actor.

From a world leader, I was reduced to an orphan punk. I knew my identity was no longer what it was in my past life but it seems my ego had not received the update.

It was cashing the check which my current identity could not cash. With the identity of street punk, I embodied the ego of a world leader which did not go hand in hand.

My ego expected to be worshipped but my current identity was only good for being looked down on.

As a repercussion, I would get triggered at every small little thing.

Even though I trust Susan now, at our first meeting I was very rude to her even though she was just trying her best to help me.

Again with Martha no she deserves it she called me shorty.

And those students in my class, I almost crushed their windpipes over a little dispute.

Come to think of it I beat those bullies and the delinquents after them not to get revenge for young Wyatt but because I liked the feeling of holding power in my hand once again.

I was no righteous soul, I bullied the weak and feared the strong. That was clear as I let Bright brothers who tried to ambush me walk just because they were stronger than me.

I tried to comfort myself saying I was being smart but the truth was I just bullied the weak and feared the strong.

Right now I am going to do the same,

Even though this las Jaya has been looking down on me ever since the training hall and called me a creep, I had to suppress my ego and act accordingly to my identity.

If it was my last life I would have executed her for disrespecting me and as a show of power. even in this life if it was Martha or someone else I would have shown them their place but right now I had to understand my place if I wanted to survive.

I had to get on Jaya's good side if I wanted to walk out of this place in one piece. One word from her and I would no longer exist in reality and government records.

One would think Jaya is a normal diligent teenager then you would be underestimating what she was capable of, as the lone heiress to Fine Gold Empire she has been taught to be ruthless and calculating.

According to what she was taught disrespecting her meant disrespecting the entire Fine Gold group and what it stood for. so there is no way I was walking out of here unharmed.

She was tolerating me since I had something she wanted desperately. I could milk her using it as leverage but she would not forget the disrespect and disputes I had with her.

Once she got what she wanted my remains will be floating in some unknown city gutters. So I had to, believe me, if there was any other way I would but she is too smart for that this was the only way.

All teenage girls are hopeless romantics.

I had to make Jaya believe that all my actions earlier were to gain her attention and I was nothing but a loser who admired her very much. Hoping that she would not be heartless enough to kill her first admirer just because he tried to gain her attention in a crude way.

Even though Jaya is the heiress to the Fine Gold Group she still is a teenage girl with no experience in love. I could only try this,

“Jaya I like you! I liked you ever since I laid my eyes on you in the training hall. “

Chapter 49: My Goddess

Date 21 Mar 2321

Time 16:05

Location Sky Blossom City, Fine Gold Resort, Hot Springs Bathhouse no.02

“Jaya I like you, I have liked you ever since I had laid my eyes on you in the training hall.”

“Say whattt?” Jaya was slow to react... she did not know how to react or how to respond to this. Her arrogant eyes were now confused and filled with uncertainty.

I closed in on Jaya, not fast enough to spook her and not slow enough for her to react.

Getting close to her, I gazed into her eyes with my pure and sincere eyes. As I said,

“Girl you are the most beautiful woman I have ever seen, not just your beauty but also your free-spirited and confident will. you’re the most confident and independent girl I have ever met.

I don’t know why but in your presence I am not myself. I just want to keep looking into your deep serene eyes and listen to your mesmerising voice.

I could spend eternity looking into your eyes and listening to your voice just like that...”

With every word, I slowly got closer to her. Jaya’s face was flushed, looking at how flustered she was I guess this was her first love confession.

I could tell that Jaya was petrified and her brain must have gone haywire with all these new emotions and feelings she was feeling right now.

This must be the first time the opposite sex has ever told her that she looks beautiful. Jaya knows she is beautiful and is confident in her beauty.

But Jaya is not like other girls who gets hit on or molested with perverted gazes on the day to day basis. Jaya has not yet met anyone who was crazy enough to hit on the lone heiress of the Fine Gold Empire, not until me of course.

But still, Jaya was not your average teenage girl pretty soon she collected herself together regaining her composed and calm front. And she backed away seeing me stand too close to her.

To not spook her I gave up on closing in on her. At first I planned to close in on her and in her muddled state, I would hug and take her first kiss. Coercing her into accepting my confession.

But now that she regained her composure and calmness I had to be more careful. I don't know how she will react.

In my last life, my previous plan always worked. Bltchs would always act conservative and pure but when I cornered them they showed their true form. Of course in my previous life my identity was enough to make the bltchs wet.

But now I don't know, I can only hope my charm was enough to hook in this innocent Virgin.

"Really? Then what about earlier, you said I was not your type and I should not waste my time on you." With grim eyes, Jaya looked at me and questioned.

"T-that I was just trying to gain your interest by being different. A fine woman like you should have many suitors.

There is no way you would be interested in a poor boy like me let alone remember me.

So, I said what I said earlier to let you my goddess remember me.

I know my place, so I would be happy with just my goddess remembering me, a poor boy who fell for you." I eloquently made up lies to support my behaviour earlier.

"You are saying it was all an act to increase my interest in you. Then why stop now?" Jaya did not fall for my lies and sweet words.

"I could see that my actions were doing more harm than good and did not want my goddess to remember me as a hater. Also, I would not forgive myself if I did not confess my feelings for you.

So I decided to stop with the charades and be frank with you. And face the consequences head-on. I sincerely apologise for my behaviour earlier, please forgive me.

I know I can't measure up to you my goddess, so I don't ask you to reciprocate my feelings but to acknowledge them and my existence.

all I ask is to allow me to admire you from afar. Will that be possible my goddess.” I said, bowing my head. Since I can not implement my first plan I decided to Act like a harmless loser.

“Whatever! Did you know your stunt almost got you killed? You do whatever you want, I do not care as all long as it does not affect me otherwise don’t blame me for being heartless.

Now let’s talk about my origin card creation, don’t worry about your fees as long as I am satisfied I will pay you handsomely.” Taking pity on me, satisfying her ego Jaya let go of her grudge against me thinking ‘ why was I even worked up about this loser.’

“Thank you, thank you. anything for my goddess. Please do not worry about my fees, How can I collect fees from my goddess.” I act humble and happy to be of the services of goddess Jaya, thinking ‘like I would do anything for free.’

“No! I will pay you 100 million as fees if you successfully create my origin card. Don’t worry about ingredients the company will provide them for free.” Said Jaya arrogantly.