

## O Summoner 111

### Chapter 111 - The Arch Lich Rises

Adrian reappeared in the Paradox Planes and headed straight towards Ascalor's abode as he would berate the old man as he sent him towards a dangerous place. He did not even bother walking there and just flew since he was faster if he flew rather than running. He really wanted to give Ascalor a piece of his mind but when he arrived at the entrance he could feel that there was tension in the air.

He greeted the guards and they greeted him back but there was uneasiness in their expression. Luckily, he was still allowed inside of the compound and was told that the elders were having a meeting. Adrian reached the backyard where the three elders were sitting but with there was an obvious tension in the air.

Adrian was still observing them as it would be rude to interrupt when the three were having a serious conversation. The three finally noticed Adrian's presence and it was Ascalor who stood up first and said, "We would talk about it more after we have more details on what happened as they are not the type to consider. Alright, dismissed."

The Bronx and Koronn then walked out of Ascalor's place with a serious face. Adrian just bowed to them as they left but it was clear that what they discussed was about a heavy topic. Ascalor then said, "So you are back?! Did your trip go well?"

Adrian was prepared to forgive Ascalor of what he did but because of the way he phrased it was unforgivable. Adrian finally told Ascalor in a sarcastic tone, "Oh! It was great. I almost became an experimental subject by a Mad Warlock but other than that everything is just peachy."

Ascalor got the feeling that the young lad in front of him was seething with anger so he decided to change the subject.

"Is that so? Come with me then because I have something to discuss with you." Ascalor said hurriedly as he looked back.

Adrian coughed and then said, "Are you not forgetting something?" He also held his hand out to Ascalor who looked back.

Ascalor was perplexed why Adrian held his hand out but then Adrian spoke, "The reward for my mission. The Epic skillbook for spatial magic."

When Adrian mentioned this Ascalor's face turned red as he did not expect that he was already forgetful. It seems the years have finally taken its toll. Not really, he was just excited to explore more of Adrian's unique physiology. It has been years since a new species was discovered.

Ascalor coughed but he was still red from embarrassment, "I see. The skillbook." Adrian stared blankly at Ascalor and thought, "He really did forget. I guess this is one of the downsides of lifelike NPCs."

Ascalor then regained his elderly aura when he stared at Adrian with his dignity overflowing, "I will teach you something better then so follow me."

Adrian thought that he might have upgraded his reward because of what he did. Luckily for Ascalor, Adrian did not see the "I dodge a bullet face" look that the former had because all Adrian could see was the elder's back.

Ascalor led Adrian to the training ground and surprised the latter because Ascalor transformed into his real self. Adrian was surprised because a vortex in one of Ascalor's wings expanded and the two of them went inside it.

They both appeared on a realm that looked like an asteroid belt or the better way to put it would be they were in outer space. Adrian looked a little bit and saw that he could breathe easily. He looked at Ascalor as he was flabbergasted.

"Our constitutions enable us to survive in any type of dimension." Ascalor said as he could read Adrian's face.

"Does that include underwater?" Adrian asked as he was curious.

"To a certain extent we could for about an hour but not in very deep waters as we are not equipped with lungs that could filter water. That said I will show you on what I will teach you." Ascalor said.

Ascalor then held out his hands in an open position and then he made a slight pulling motion together with closing his hands. The asteroids that were far apart was then pulled towards them as if he used gravity but he did not. Adrian could see that the space that was around them was shrunk. It felt like Ascalor folded space to make the asteroids closer to them.

Ascalor then opened his palm once again and it pushed the space around them. Instead of the asteroids getting put back in place to where they originally were, the asteroids were flung with an invisible force. The asteroids then collided with other asteroids and the result was devastating. The asteroids crashed against each other and burst out into pieces.

"These will be the two skills that I will teach you. Do remember that these two are epic rated skills so do not be ashamed if you do not master them in a short amount time." Ascalor said as he looked at Adrian and showed the dignity of an elder of a race that uses origin magic.

"Okay so what I do I do first?" Adrian said while Ascalor had a smile on his face due to Adrian's determination.

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Inside a temple made from bones and skulls of different creatures, a hooded group of individuals were performing some sort of ritual. There were about fifty of them and about ten of them were players. An NPC that wore a black robe that looked expensive and was decorated with golden trinkets then raised his thin arms.

His hands and arms were so thin that one could already see his bone shape from them. His nails were about two inches long but his fingers wore rings that were made of gold and different expensive stones. When he raised his hands, another group of hooded figures carried giant wriggling bags to a magic circle that was carved on the ground.

"It seems that Grand Master Osmalum will finally attempt the ritual thanks to our great contribution." One of the players whispered to another near him.

The player beside him then spoke, "Still, I did not think that we would be ordered to kidnap women and children. It still irks me a little."

"It is just a game plus we got an epic skill just for completing an easy mission." A player behind them said.

The one who raised his hand was Osmalum. He was the strongest Necromancer in the group while the players were all dark mages who were apprentices to some of the necromancers there.

"Let us begin" Osmalum said in a voice that sounded like a weak old man.

The players were only in the side as they saw the necromancers chanting some sort of spell. The magic circle then glowed white and then the muffled cries of about twenty people could be heard from the giant bags. The movement in the bags became even more erratic until cracking sounds can be heard.

The movement in the giant bags only stopped when there was a red liquid coming out of them. Some of the players who saw this could only look away while some told themselves that it was just a game or like a scene from a horror movie. The white glow on the magic circle became red when the blood came in contact with it.

The temple then shook as if an earthquake hit it but the necromancers continued chanting without a care in the world. A few minutes later, bony spike emerged from the magic circle and swallowed the bloody bags as if was a hungry beast. After the bloody bags disappeared, a foul smell assaulted the noses of the players.

The smell was rotten and it was not pleasant for the nose. The magic circle then glowed black and a bony hand could be seen emerging from the magic circle. The ground where the magic circle lie began starting to crack as a whole skeleton finally emerged. The black empty eye sockets of the skeleton then glowed in a pale blue light as he surveyed its surroundings.

"It is good to see you again, Arch Lich Malus." Osmalum said as he bowed and presented a black robe with gold embroideries to the skeleton in the middle of the magic circle. The other necromancers then brought boxes that were filled with jeweled ornaments like necklaces, rings and bracelets.

"You have done well my followers. It has been too long since I have been sealed. The Asmodians will pay for their sins. Now that I have risen, it is time that we bring back our king." The Arch Lich said as he released his overbearing aura that the players felt suffocated.

"The Asmodians are no more Arch Lich Malus. After the war, they either sacrificed themselves or died. The races that were their descendants are now persecuted thanks to some of the dark gods followers infiltrating into society as influential figures." Osmalum said while he still bowed.

"Is that so? Then this world will be in my grasp, once I again controlled the Undead King after I free him from his seal." The Arch Lich said as it laughed maniacally and casted a wide spell that animated all the skeletons in the temple.

## Chapter 112 - New Skills And An Upcoming Siege

[The Arch Lich Malus has risen once again. The undead scattered will now be more coordinated and will become strengthened. A pillar of the Undead has been revived. All churches has issued a decree to purge the undead and the Arch Lich Malus.]

The world message that was announced to all the inhabitants of the main world were shocked. When the undead expansion first came out, the undeads that were spawned in the field zones were scattered and were easily defeated. The players thought that the event was only made to increase their experience yield due to how easy it was to farm skeletons and zombies.

The major gaming news sites all focused on this world message and immediately called upon speculations. The previous news about the person who acquired a unique class was buried because of the new world message that was given. Although a player with a unique job was a great scoop, it would not compare to a world ending event like that of a monster flood made of undead.

Paladins and Priest class players were all ordered to return to their respective churches aligned with 'good' so that they could be issued a mission to purge the undead. The players who were aligned with churches aligned with 'evil' also issued new missions to their acolytes to help or even make contact to the higher ups of the undead.

Now that an Arch Lich was free, the undead event was now rolling. A bloodbath that would change the world view of Pandemonium was now taking place.

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[You have successfully learned the Origin Magic spell 'Quantum Cascade']

[You have successfully learned the Origin Magic spell 'Quantum Repulsion']

Adrian was so tired after he successfully learned the two spells in six hours. He was now only left with a few hours of activity due to it but it was worth it. The only thing that irks him is that even if he maximized his mana usage and concentration, his intelligence stat did not even rise up.

The only thing he could think of is that is the downside of the Daemos race having twice the skill points as others. The race could have a much longer time needed for a stat bonus to occur. Unlike for example the human race that could easily gain stats by grinding repetitive actions, the daemos would most likely rely on their sub job class for extra stat points.

Still Adrian has a smile on his face due to the two skills that he has earned. He had that ugly smile on his face due to his jubilee.

Skill: Quantum Cascade

Tier: Epic

Type: Active Displacement

Effect: Target an area where a cascade event will trigger. All enemies inside the circumference of the cascade event will be pushed towards the center of the event. The user will determine the number of enemies that will be pushed depending on the amount of mana points consumed. 10 mana points to a maximum of 1000 mana points will be consumed per target.

Cooldown: 1 minute

Cast Time: Instant

Mana Cost: 10 - 1000 Mana points

Skill: Quantum Repulsion

Tier: Epic

Type: Active Displacement

Effect: Target an area to immediately expand the space on a radius of twenty meters. All things in the area will be pushed away and will be dealt with 200% magic damage. All units in the area will be pushed regardless if it was an enemy or an ally.

Cooldown: 1 minute and 30 seconds

Cast Time: Instant

Mana Cost: 500 Mana points

Ascalor greatly admired the youngster in front of him because he has talent and was a fast learner as long as he put his mind to it. The only problem with the youngster was that ugly smile of his that shows every time he succeeds in his task. He had to whack this youngster's head so that it would not inflate and go over the moon.

Adrian was basking in his own glory when he got a message from his best friend. He returned to his normal expression and looked towards Ascalor for a second. He saw that Ascalor raised his hand and was about to swing it but only to scratch his head instead. He thanked Ascalor for teaching him patiently and he was a good teacher only for the latter to blush due to the compliment.

Adrian then read the whisper sent to him by Levin Cloud and it said, "There was a world message regarding an Arch Lich reviving. I was given a mission to protect a fortress by the church. Are you free? The undead siege will happen tomorrow at Alabaster Fortress. Go there if you are not doing anything important. We need all the help we can get."

Adrian then replied with, "We. What did he meant by we? I better log out first since I only have a few hours left anyways."

Adrian then told Ascalor that he needed to talk to a friend of his and that he was invited to help defend a fortress from an undead siege. When Ascalor heard the word undead, he furrowed his brows a little before teleporting them back to the Paradox Planes. When they arrived, Ascalor was the first one to tell Adrian to go on his own as he was going to be busy for the moment.

Adrian nodded and went to Jianna's workshop first to restock up on potions. He caught his Scribe Master, Aernas, in Jianna's workshop as they were discussing something important. Adrian thinks it was important because the usual aloof Jianna had a serious face when she and Aernas were talking.

Adrian greeted Aernas and Jianna and was asked on his scribe mastery. Adrian answered that he was still in the beginner phase. Only to be told that he was lazy by Aernas. Adrian restocked on potions and logged out.

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Adrian immediately contacted Marlon to ask about his whisper to him. He dialed his best friend's haloswatch and luckily he got through.

"Dude, what is this about a siege?" Adrian

"Do you not know what is happening right now in Pandemonium? Marlon replied.

"What? Did something big happen?" Adrian asked as he was clueless. He did not receive the world message because he was off world so to speak.

"Wha! Nevermind, I will tell you. Apparently necromancers sacrificed dozens of people to revive this Arch Lich. The video about it is up because some players were there to witness the event. The video is trending right now but the only thing they posted was the ritual and the Arch Lich being released from its seal." Marlon replied.

When Adrian heard what his best friend said, he immediately searched for the video and was shocked because it already had about ten million views despite only being posted thirty minutes ago. The video was about twenty five minutes long and showed the ritual where dozens of body bags were eaten by the bone spike with a skeleton emerging from beneath the magic circle.

The video was cut off after it showed the skeleton getting dressed in regal robes and jewelry. Adrian had goosebumps not because he was afraid but because of the aura that the Arch Lich released. The video was shaky for a moment when the Arch Lich released its aura. For it to affect its own allies only means one thing, the Arch Lich was ruthless and did not even care for its subordinates.

Unfortunately, Adrian could not use his evil eye to inspect the Arch Lich because he was not in-game. There was even a special on PademoNews about the Arch Lich. The panel were famous for their classification skills and they evaluated that the Arch Lich would be level 250 at the very least. Adrian was snapped back into reality by his best friend calling him.

"Hello?! Earth to Adrian. You are dozing off again." Marlon teased.

Adrian shook his head and said, "So what time do I need to go to Alabaster Fortress?"

"You need to log in by 9:00 in the morning. That would be about 7:00 AM in game. It is probably better if you are earlier than that." Marlon replied.

"Wait. Did I hear it right? The undead are attacking at morning. Am I hearing you correctly?" Adrian voiced his doubt.

"That was the mission I got. It would probably only a scouting army. The undead could be brought back to life as long as a lich or death knight is present. It would probably be low level undead due to the nature of the mission given to me by the church. It is good experience for us anyways. Also the top scoring individual and party will get an epic rune stone treasure chest." Marlon stated.

When Adrian heard that a treasure chest was up for grabs, he immediately said yes.

"The level of the undead army will probably be level 75 to 80 so do not expect it to be easy. I am currently level 75 right now hence I got the mission from the church. What is your current level?" Marlon asked.

"Level 68" Adrian said nonchalantly while Marlon had a face full of disbelief.

## Chapter 113 - Siege At Alabaster Fortress I

Adrian woke up early and helped in preparing their breakfast. He excitedly told his mother that he would be playing with his friends today that was why he was stoked. He logged in by 8:30 am so that they could have an hour or so to catch up since his friends were already there.

Adrian's last save point was the Paradox Planes so he immediately went to the area where there were spatial fractures. Luckily enough there was a spatial fracture located near the fortress. Before

Adrian entered the spatial fracture, he used Glamour on himself and polymorph on Kanlaon only this time since there were already summoners who owned wolf like familiars. Even though Sirius is a lot bigger than an ordinary wolf, Adrian could just feign ignorance and tell them he did not notice.

Adrian entered the spatial fracture with his soulbounds and they appeared in a forest near the fortress. Adrian rode Sirius towards the fortress which caught the eyes of several passerby and they started chatting about him.

Mob Player One: Hey! Look at that player over there who is riding a wolf. Can he possibly be from a top guild or maybe a rich kid? His wolf looks cool. Is it a mount? If it is then I want one.

Mob Player Two: In your dreams. I think he is a summoner. Look! He has two more monsters with him that are small.

Mob Player Three: I tried to inspect him but there was viable no information given. His status are full of question marks.

The players who also tried to inspect him had the same reaction and result. They thought that he might be a player with a high level since they are not able to see his status. They did not know that his persona is actually higher than them which is the main reason they could not view his status. There were some but only about two or three persons who were able to view his status due to their unique skills but were not able to pierce the effects of Glamour.

Those handful of individuals were only able to see Adrian's IGN and level. Those individuals also forgot about him since they were higher level than him. It was fortunate enough that they forgot about Adrian because if they did remember him then they might vomit blood when the scoreboard will show up later in the siege.

Adrian was looking for his friends when he got a chat from Levin Cloud.

Levin Cloud: Dude, where are you?

Equinox: I am near the entrance. I am riding on Sirius.

Levin Cloud: We could see you.

Equinox: See me?

Levin Cloud: We are on top of the fortress walls.

Adrian then looked up and saw three people waving their hands at him. They were waving at him while making funny faces at him. Adrian arrived at the fortress gates only to be blocked by the guards. He was then asked for an identification which he actually forgot to get from the adventurers guild. The last time Adrian went inside town was using a portal which is why he was able to move freely because he sneaked inside rather than going inside officially.

Adrian immediately sent a message to Levin Cloud to fetch him from the gate as he could not enter. Thankfully, his three friends already went down the fort wall to go get him. Adrian had an embarrassed look on his face as he felt like a child being escorted by his parents.

"I will take full responsibility for him. I can assure you as a church representative that I can vouch for his identity." Levin Cloud told the guards.

"If the Church of Life representative said so. We are sorry for the inconvenience as we did not know that he was an acquaintance of yours." The gate guards said in a polite tone to Levin Cloud.

What really amazed Adrian though was how the guards addressed his best friend with reverence. The guards were very polite towards him and Adrian also noticed that there were only a limited number of players on top of the fortress wall. He looked at the players on top of the fortress wall and they all had an insignia from the top guilds.

Adrian guessed that these players from the top guilds might be their new recruits and they would use the siege to advance their levels. He could see that the players here were mainly magic classes with only a few melee players which will probably act as their guard if a fight were to break loose near the walls.

Ever since Adrian's horns grew, Saena no longer perched on top of his head which annoyed the little magpie. Peridot who saw the magpie though immediately reached out to it and embraced it as it was plump like a stuffed toy. Kanlaon was clinging to Adrian's shoulder like a lizard so that was what the other players perceive it as.

Kabrakan though told his doubt if the two little soulbounds could help in the fight as they were small. Adrian only chuckled and told him to not doubt Kanlaon as he might swat him the next time he said that. Adrian also told them that Saena is a healer type summon so do not expect a damage output from it because even its basic attacks heal.

The three then planned on what they would do for the rest of the time as that was what the other teams in the fortress were doing. Adrian placed Kanlaon next to Sirius who was sitting on the floor with a relaxed expression. Adrian added Kabrakan and Peridot to his friends list and added to the party. Adrian also told them that he has a double experience booster but it would be gone in about eight hours.

When he told that his three friends all looked at him with slight jealousy as double experience multipliers did not fall from trees. He only shrugged and told them it was a reward for an achievement of his albeit painful. Time passed as they made their necessary arrangements and the battle plans they would do depending on the situation.

Time flew fast and the start of the siege was about to begin. The rowdy bunch at the front of the fortress also calmed down as tension filled the air. There was clear silence and only the rustling of trees in the forest could be heard. Even Adrian was a bit nervous because no player could predict what might happen in a siege.

The worst case scenario would be they would be overrun by the undead and the fortress collapsing. Every player prayed that there would only be low level undead present as they feared that a Lich or death knight would be difficult to handle. The siege countdown finally ended but the undead did not show up immediately which made the players wonder if there was an error.

A few seconds later, the scouts finally saw dark clouds rolling in towards the fortress with a deathly aura accompanying it. Even the players doubted that the siege was easy to conquer because undead fighting in broad daylight was suicide or free experience. But now the players were hoping for a way to make the shining sun show itself again as undead in dark areas have double boosts on their stats.



The players then saw two undead marching towards the fortress which made them wonder if that was actually real as it was absurd to think that only two undead could bring forth darkness. The first undead was wearing black plated armor with a spear made of black metal while the second one was wearing a magician's robe and holding a black crystal ball. The players could infer that the warrior type undead was a death knight while the mage type undead was a lich.

The lich then rubbed his crystal ball and a black mist started to appear. It was only knee high but the players on the ground could see that it was not simple as it seems.

[You are affected by the dark magic skill 'Dark Mist'. Your healing will be reduced by 50%. Undead that spawn in the area will have a 25% chance to revive. If you die while the Dark Mist is activated, you will become an undead.]

The lich then touched his black crystal ball and a magic circle spread out with the lich in the center. A few seconds later, Skeletons and zombies started spawning from the ground. The bell on the fortress was rung which means that the battle will now officially start as the undead were looming near. The archers on the walls were then surprised as they saw ten skeleton mages and ten skeleton knights beside the lich and death knight respectively.

They immediately told their superiors about the new undead that the lich and death knight spawned. The archers once again looked towards the direction of the lich and death knight only to feel fear because the lich was once again summoning another batch of undead. Ghoulish screams could be heard after the lich finished chanting.

"Report this to the commander immediately. Wraiths have been summoned!" the archer at the observation post told his subordinate.

## Chapter 114 - Siege At Alabaster Fortress II

The first wave of monsters started to move towards the fortress. The first wave were skeletons and zombies of varying classes and constitutions. The wave of undead marched towards the fortress in a slow manner but not to the players waiting for the wave to come closer.

The NPC archers stationed at the wall already pulled their bows and waited for the first wave to reach the fifty meter mark. The arrows were lit with fire since undead are weak to fire and holy attribute attacks. The undead who were marching at a slow pace suddenly went frantic when their eyes fell upon the living.

The slow walking undead suddenly increased their pace. They ran towards the melee players who will engage them. The archers on the walls fired their arrows in panic as the command given to them was abrupt. The flaming arrows flew towards some of the undead yet they still charged without a care in world.

The mages both below the fortress and on the walls started chanting their spells. Even Peridot from Adrian's party started to do that as she whipped out a white crystal that radiated a warm light. Peridot chanted a few seconds before shouting the name of the spell.

"Sacred Burst" Peridot shouted with her voice echoing on the battlefield.

A miniature white sun with eight golden rings materialized above the fortress. It was like if the sun was white and had saturn's ring. The golden rings then spun until all the rings formed one giant halo on the white sun. A magical burst of light spewed upon then undead marching towards the fortress.

The players on top of the walls all looked at Peridot who casted the spell were in disbelief. The thoughts on their heads were, "Where did that hidden expert come from?"

Meanwhile, even the three boys in the party were flabbergasted as they did not expect such a spell from Peridot. Her spell decimated the first wave by about half and even prevented the undead from respawning. She decimated about more or less five thousand undead with the help of others since those who died were already low on health due to long range attacks.

Adrian suddenly asked, "Can you do that again?"

Peridot answered, "Nope." While acting cutesy.

Levin Cloud then answered why she could no longer do that anymore. "She used a special stone to do that probably a legendary stone with holy attribute." He said while still focused on the undead still charging towards the fortress.

Adrian only answered with, "That's too bad. We would get the top score if ever she could spam that."

Adrian then looked at the leaderboard and saw that Peridot had about 5,192 points. There were also some who had points about a thousand or so depending on the contribution. Levin Cloud immediately casted Gaea's Blessing on the field in front of them.

The players on the field started getting healed while the undead started weakening and the Dark Mist disappearing. His spell healing and damage were the same but the area it could now cover increased vastly due to an increase in mastery. Levin Cloud's contribution points were rising fast by the second. It seems that support players could get points by healing and applying buffs to others. Some of the priest caught on and also used their wide area heals but they were not as grand as that of a Child of Gaea.

The members of top guild who saw this made a mental note to talk to Levin Cloud after this siege as a healer like him will be very valuable in raids. They just hoped that he was not part of any guild yet of if he was part of one, they hoped their guild is friendly with his guild.

The lich who observed had its eye sockets flare up as if it was mad. The lich then once again used another spell and the Dark Mist that disappeared was on the field once again. The flowers that bloomed due to Levin Cloud's spell all wilted and died when the mist once again enveloped the area.

So far the defense was going well as none of the players died yet. That could be said as the case as the defense was only for an hour as of yet and the players still had consumables. Also, the players had not even broken through the blockade of undead and attack the lich that continues to summon the lesser undead.

The people at the top of the walls and even the player below then realized that the ghosts or wraiths were not attacking. They wondered what happened to them and thought that they may have been obliterated by the holy attribute attack earlier on. The players on top of the walls did not even notice that the little lizard that was chilling with the wolf was no longer there.

The lich then started another spell and a black magic circle extended once again with it in the center. A few seconds later, howls and roars could be heard from the forest. Emerging from the

forest, numerous undead creatures started walking towards the fortress. The undead creatures were wolves, bears, and other animal like undead.

The undead creatures immediately pounced towards the players like a stampede. The players also met them head on but it was a bad decision as the lich empowered the undead creatures even further. The players on close quarters with the undead were now experiencing poison status conditions and bleeding status conditions due to the sharp bones of the undead creatures.

The players in the front was now weakening due to the status conditions. The support class players now had lesser time to heal their teammates due to applying purification on them. The defense was now a step more difficult than the first wave. To add much more difficulty, the skeleton mages that were near the lich were also chanting spells to buff the undead.

[The undead have been affected by Miasma. The undead will have their overall stats increased by 50%. Being near an undead will now affect you with the poisoned status condition where you will lose 1% health every ten seconds.]

A loud bang was then heard from the walls and a comet like skill shot was aimed towards the lich but the death knight parried the attack. The bullet that came from a magitech gun that a gnome player fired was then sent back to her. The gnome player did not panic as the warrior near her blocked the attack with his shield.

"It seems the only way to deal with the lich is to separate it from the death knight." The gnome girl said to her party members.

The others at the walls also listened in to what she said and also agreed to what she said. Adrian was also attentive to what she did and saw that not only was the shot parried but the lich used a deceleration spell. The lich slowed the bullet down just enough so that the death knight could send it back to the sniper. He also judge that the returned shot was twice as powerful as the warrior was immediately healed by their priest party member.

The players down below were also not faring well as they were slowly getting pushed back to the fortress. Adrian then decided to use his new skills to give a breather to the front line.

"Quantum Cascade" Adrian silently muttered as he looked at the epicenter that he wants the undead to be pulled into.

Adrian used a thousand of his mana to pull the undead that were near the fortress as a main target. A few seconds later a swirling vortex appeared but was hidden by the dark mist. An undead that looked like a sabertooth was about to pounce on a player but was suddenly pulled away. The players were dumbfounded on what happened but the lich that was in the field looked as if it looked at Adrian's location.

Adrian was happy that his planned work but was sad because the skill did not actually deal damage. Although, the undead did get damaged as they were pulled together in a cluster so suddenly. Still, the damage was not much and did not make a difference as the undead that were clumped together started advancing once again.

Adrian who was focusing on the undead advancing towards the fortress did not spot that a black projectile was flying towards him. Kabrakan immediately reacted and blocked the incoming

projectile and even used a skill that increased his defense by 100% for five seconds. Kabrakan who received the attack winced in pain as it was extremely heavy even for him.

The black projectile was actually a dark metal spear. When Adrian shifted his eyesight towards the death knight, he could see that it had a posture as if it threw something. That event right there scared all of the players and NPC on top the wall because they did not expect that a death knight was capable of doing that. Kabrakan also lost a quarter of his health and he even increased his defense by 100%.

"This would not be easy!" Adrian stated as the atmosphere on the wall became heavy.

### Chapter 115 - Siege At Alabaster Fortress III

Adrian's heart beat became fast as he was almost sniped from his position. The most worrying fact was that how did they know to target him. Adrian first thought of it as a fluke or coincidence but he also kept his guard up. The black metal spear suddenly disappeared in a puff of black smoke and somehow ended up back at the death knight's hands.

"Has no one tried to inspect the lich yet?" Adrian asked his three friends.

"They did but apparently it all showed question marks. Some assassin player managed to get close but was immediately executed by the death knight. They did managed to cast Inspect but came back with disappointing information. The max level required for this raid is level 90 to qualify for the epic treasure chest. If we judge by that standard, it is probably level 120 since you could not inspect creatures 30 level higher than you." Peridot said as she had her little brother watch streamers in their raid especially scout type streamers.

"You actually can identify them but you must have a higher tier inspection skill or you fit a different criteria which I will tell you guys later after the siege defense. If I could somehow get closer, I might be able to see the stats on the higher tier undead." Adrian told them in a soft voice.

"You can!?" Peridot suddenly shouted which got the attention of the players on the wall but only for a few seconds as they returned their attention on the siege.

"Oh wait! I actually have a way." Adrian muttered as he immediately used his skill Summon Psyche Armament: Bow.

The bow materialized and his gloves disappeared from his hands. The players who witnessed this thought it was not out of the ordinary as there was a job class advancement of the summoner class that could wield other weapons. Adrian immediately used the first skill of the bow armament 'Shooting Star'.

His arrow flew like an actual meteor and headed towards the lich as it was still summoning undead. The players below the fortress were beginning to get immense pressure due to the immense wave of undead. They had less breathing space to take breaks and their stamina bar was draining continuously. Although, their experience bar was rising visibly.

The Shooting Star that Adrian fired off continued its path to the lich and decimated the undead in its path due to the piercing effect. The skill was about to hit the lich but a black spherical shield was immediate conjured by the lich and blocked the skill. The ranger type players who saw this frowned as they thought they could do the same if the skill managed to hit the lich.

The only way that the players thought to win was to decimate the undead in the field and make their way towards the death knight and lich. The melee players on top of the wall decided to join the fight below and left their ranger teammate at the wall for a good vantage point. Also, give them a rundown of the situation as ranger class players have far better eyesight.

"I think we also need to head down as my spells only have limited range." Levin Cloud said while Peridot and Kabrakan nodded their heads.

"Wait! I have an idea and I think I can decimate the lesser undead if it works. Wish me luck and stay here for the moment." Adrian said as he pretended to go down the wall.

"At least tell us the plan!" Levin Cloud shouted.

"Welp! There he goes testing crazy ideas that could get him killed again." Peridot said as this was not the first time Adrian did crazy things in a game.

"He usually gets a crazy idea that is either really bad or is really broken but he would die and not get the reward. He would then sulk for a few days before trying another one." Kabrakan said with a helpless expression.

"If he dies, he will revive anyways." Levin Cloud whispered to them and the two were shocked by what they learned.

"Do you mean he has the same skill as yours?" Peridot whispered back and Levin Cloud only nodded.

Kabrakan and Peridot eyes shined with greed while looking at the way Adrian went down from the fortress wall.

"Why do I feel chilly all of a sudden?" Adrian mumbled.

Adrian used Soul Form Transformation on himself and blinked to the field. He casted Quantum Cascade again and set the epicenter a bit farther away. Some undead tried attacking Adrian but those undead just passed right through him as they were not ghost type undead.

"It was a good thing that I sent Kanlaon to take care of the ten wraiths that were summoned. Now, I got this idea thanks to what happened in the Distorted Labyrinth." Adrian thought as he blinked to the epicenter of the cascade event.

"Vortex" Adrian muttered as a black and white speck was created from his palm. Adrian snapped his fingers and a black hole suddenly manifested ten meters in the air. The black hole sucked all the undead in the vicinity but there were some undead that were far from the black hole.

"Okay! Now Rewind." Adrian chanted as he cast the skill on himself and had a grin on his face that made him look like a smiling clown due to how wide his grin is.

"I can't believe it works! Hehehehe! It's a good thing that the Vortex Skill only goes on cooldown after the black hole manifests. Even my mana was reverted." Adrian said as he blinked once again ten meters in front of his location.

"Vortex" Adrian once again chanted and a black and white speck of light once again appeared in his palm. The black and white speck once again rose up in the air. Adrian snapped his fingers once again and another black hole appeared.

Due to Adrian being about forty meters near the lich and death knight, he saw the skeleton mages and skeleton riders resisting the pulling force of the black hole. The lich looked at Adrian with anger since the light in its eyes sockets were flickering while its vision was focused on the latter.

Adrian's three friends on the fortress wall could hear their notifications continuously piling up as they receive experience. When they saw the two vortices on the battlefield, Kabrakan and Peridot had a shocked face while Levin Cloud had a helpless expression on his face.

"That must be his plan." Levin Cloud muttered while he shook his head as even he did not expect that.

Adrian had a bright smile on his face as he managed to perfectly execute his on the spot plan. He turned his attention to the lich and death knight that were still resisting the pulling force. The lich suddenly pointed its bony index finger at Adrian and spoke in a spine chilling tone.

"Finger of Undeath" the lich said as a black ray of lightning was fired from its bony index finger and was shot towards Adrian.

Adrian tried to avoid but the black lightning seemed to have a homing mechanism. Adrian even unfurled his wings and took flight but the black lightning was following him like a snake seeking vengeance. It did not take long for the black lightning to strike him. The players only saw the lich casting the spell but did not strike anything which is why they thought a player must have used a skill to block it.

[You have been dealt with 3,348 magic damage. The damage has been doubled due to you being in Soul Form. You have received 6,696 magic damage.]

[You have died.]

[Your party member Equinox has died.]

"Told you that he would die again." Kabrakan stated as if it was already set in stone.

"At least his plan worked." Peridot said with a dry laugh.

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Meanwhile at Atlas Headquarters...

The staff that was dedicated on watching Adrian every so often is watching Adrian's spectacle on the siege defense with popcorn on his hands.

"Oh! He is so creative to even think of using it like that. Did that skill have a secret interaction like that?" the staff stated as he was not able to see what Adrian did in the Distorted Labyrinth.

"SO YOU ARE ENJOYING THIS?!" a voice from behind suddenly asked.

"Yeah! Could you see? I really like players who gets creative with their skills." The staff said but he suddenly had a realization who that voice belongs to.

"Continue what you were saying. I am here all day to listen to you anyway." The voice stated as it had a hint of anger in it.

"Director! Did you do something with your hair? You look great. Popcorn?" the staff said as he turned his chair slowly at the Director Development.

"I am very thankful that you have volunteered for our weekend community service. Everyone let us all applaud John on his bottomless generosity in keeping the community clean." The director announced.

The director smiled then whispered on John's ear and said, "Be sure to send that clip to the planning team for assessment as I deem it a bit too broken."

The director then left for his board meeting while John slumped on his chair.

Chapter 116 - Siege Defense Hard Mode

[You have been dealt with 3,348 magic damage. The damage has been doubled due to you being in Soul Form. You have received 6,696 magic damage.]

[You have died.]

[You have chosen to be revived. You will revive in three seconds.]

[Due to the corrupted mana that hit you, you can only revive with half health.]

[The skill Finger of Undeath has corrupted your life force. You also gain the weakened status upon your revival.]

"Tch. This must be the racial characteristic thing that Ascalor mentioned to me a while ago." Adrian scoffed.

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A while ago when Adrian was being taught the two epic skills.....

"Ahh! This is impossible! I can't even pull one asteroid to myself!" Adrian grumbled.

"It seems you have only fired spells at their behest and not even maximized your true potential as a Daemos." Ascalor teased.

"What do you mean by maximize the true potential of a Daemos?" Adrian was hurt by the words Ascalor said but it also intrigued him greatly.

"Tell me, what is magic?" Ascalor asked.

"Magic is a way to manipulate the energy around you as a way to create a particular phenomenon. It could either become a ball of fire or just a breeze depending on the amount of magical power used." Adrian answered with a bit of confidence.

"That is a textbook answer. It seems that your knowledge when you were human is still engraved in your mind." Ascalor stated which greatly surprised Adrian.

"How did you know?" Adrian asked.

"Did you really think that the elders did not know? Even the gods cannot freely alter the memories of those of Arch Demons especially if they are nearing the Noblesse stage." Ascalor said while one of his eyes was closed.

Adrian was silent due to what Ascalor said but then the latter started speaking to ease the former's worry.

"Do not fret because you are one of us now and you must start thinking like one." Ascalor said while smiling.

Adrian felt a warm feeling inside as he felt that he was being consoled by someone like a grandfather. Ascalor suddenly got a feeling in his spine and then said, "I feel like I am being either looked down upon or looked up to."

"So what is this about maximizing my potential?" Adrian said while his eyes glowed as he had renewed his passion.

"Think of origin magic as clay and we the Daemos are like potters. We can mold the magic freely as long as our skill level befits it." Ascalor said while he held his head up high as he was proud to be a Daemos.

"So how do you do it?" Adrian said as Ascalor was being vague again.

A vain popped in Ascalor's head but he quickly calmed down as he remembered that it was this brat's trait to not understand idioms.

"You just need to use your mana to grasp the origin magic that you are forming and then you will be able to freely manipulate it the way you want. You could even make an area spell affect an individual specifically if you use it right. It has something to do with the racial characteristics of an individual of course. For example, a vampire could make use of blood as weapons as long as they shape it right. The same is applicable for origin magic for the Daemos." Ascalor explained.

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A pillar of light then descended and Adrian was revived but with only half his health due to the special characteristics of the lich's mana. The lich formed an evil grin as it has seen Adrian's true form as when he revived the Glamour wore off. The lich and the death knight felt immense anger well up as the undead fear no living being.

The death knight charged towards Adrian with fierce hunger as if it wanted Adrian to shred him to pieces. Adrian tried to run away but it seems that his weakened status was a detriment in avoiding the strike.

[Your stats have dropped by 20% for five minutes.]

Adrian had already accepted his fate of getting killed when he heard a voice coming right behind him. He felt that the voice felt familiar but he was too busy focusing his attention on the death knight approaching him.

"Sanctuary" a voice shouted.

Adrian was suddenly marked with a sigil of a cross and a few holy glyphs. The area with a radius of three meters around him glowed in a golden light but Adrian was unable to move.

[You have been marked by Sanctuary. You cannot move due to you being marked.]



[You are unable to take damage and immune to status conditions while under the effects of Sanctuary.]

Skill: Sanctuary

Tier: Epic

Type: Area Protection

Effect: Set an area around a target to be bound by holy sigils and glyphs. If the user is a living being, it will be bound to its location and will not get any damage from any type of resource. The target becomes invulnerable. All friendly units that enter the location will be safe from damage but they are still affected by immobilizing status conditions like stuns and roots.

Duration: 5 seconds

Cooldown: 3 hours

Cast Time: Instant

Mana Cost: 1,000 Mana points

Levin Cloud reached Adrian's location due to riding on Sirius but his lower half did not feel comfortable due to not being used to ride creatures. He does not even have a mount because even the simplest one cost quite a lot. He was about to buy a mount with the money he got but the Pendulum he got from the Unique Job Class quest line was eating at his pockets.

Weapon: Yewdrassil Pendulum

Tier: Rare

Type: Priest Class Growth type (Character Bound)

Effects:

-Healing Spells will be reduced in cooldown by 50%.

-Protection spells will last twice as long.

-Damaging spells will have random lesser debuffs applied to them.

-Damage Modifier: 100

Description: A pendulum forged using the metal of a dying star. The ornament in the middle is the bud of the tree of life and death, Yewdrassil. It is said the bud will bloom once it reached its highest upgradeable form.

Due to the effect of the pendulum, Sanctuary managed to last twice as long. The death knight who was about to pierce Adrian with his spear was not able to even scratch Adrian's body. The death knight tried again but try as it might he could not kill the demon.

Levin Cloud immediately used some healing spells and purification to heal Adrian back to full health while clearing him from the weakened status. The death knight who saw this switched its attack towards Levin Cloud as it found the priest a pest.

Levin Cloud's face became frightened as he suddenly tapped on Sirius to flee. Sirius obliged as even he feels threat coming from the death knight charging towards them. The two fled and led the death towards the players. The players who were already extremely fatigued due to some undead not being caught by the black hole still attacking them.

There was obvious fear in the normal players but for those belonging to the top guild, they felt joyful.

"Finally, I could go and rampage!" an orc player carrying two axes shouted excitedly.

"You wish muscle head. The death knight is ours." A female dragonkin teased.

A human mage suddenly whispered to the female dragonkin, "We could owe that cute Elf Priest if we save him big sister."

"You are right. I will not delay this then and help the poor fellow. The added loot from the death knight is just a bonus" the female dragonkin said as she charged with her katana.

Adrian who saw this could not shake his head because he was in stasis but inwardly frowned. You will not be able to take him on with just a few of you. At least twenty people need to take that thing and only if those people are very strong.

Monster: Zigra

Tier: Death Knight

Race: Undead

Level: 100

HP: 5,000,000 / 5,000,000

MP: 1,000,000 / 1,000,000

Description: Once an ordinary skeleton warrior acquire enough power and achievements, they would be eligible to take the test to become a death knight. Once a death knight, they would emit an aura that would terrify lower persona individuals. It can command lesser undead to do its bidding.

Adrian shifted his sight towards the lich and saw another difficult wall to vault over or even break.

Monster: Wekka

Tier: Lich

Race: Undead

Level: 100

HP: 1,000,000 / 1,000,000

MP: 4,270,657 / 5,000,000

Description: Once an ordinary skeleton mage acquire enough power and achievements, they would be eligible to take the test to become a lich. A lich would have immense magical properties in its spells and would acquire a unique mana to make the living turn into undead. It can create lesser undead with its spells but would need to sustain them using its mana.

"We are going to need a lot more fire power to kill those two. They even strengthen each other." Adrian said.

## Chapter 117 - The Death Knight And The Lich

The players that are part of the top guild and other players who were still able to fight started charging towards the death knight. When Sirius and Levin Cloud were about to reach the wave of players charging recklessly, Sirius immediately threw Levin Cloud into the air and bit him by the scruff of his clothes. Sirius immediately dived into the portal and reappeared below a bit farther in the back.

Some were unaware how that happened but those with sharp eyes managed to see that the wolf suddenly vanished and reappeared like it was a ghost. One of those was the Gnome gunslinger on top of the wall because she was looking at the important parts of the battlefield. Thankfully, Sirius and Levin Cloud provided a distraction from the eyes of the observers and Adrian blinked away to a nearby group of trees after the effects of the Sanctuary vanished.

The vortices finally subsided and it spit out the undead that were not killed due to being pulled inside a bit late or them just having higher health. Adrian thought that the lich would target him or attempt to follow after him but it did not. The lich kept looking at the death knight who charged and casted support buffs on it to make its defenses almost impenetrable.

Adrian casted his Glamour skill once again on himself and observed the two undead. Adrian was then surprised because the two undead had some sort of connection to each other. A system prompt then appeared.

[You have seen a hidden piece of information regarding the two undead.]

[Zigra and Wekka are tied together with a Destiny Chain.]

[If they are not defeated at a time frame of at most 10 seconds, the other will be able to revive to half health.]

"Things just got even harder than I thought it would be." Adrian said as he blinked towards the fortress wall.

"Whooh! That was an adrenaline rush!" Levin Cloud said while still being carried by Sirius in the scruff of his clothes.

"Yeah right. It would have been perfect if you had a cool pose." Kabrakan teased while he chuckles.

"I think you looked cool." Peridot said which she immediately realized and made her blush.

"Ehem! I think we have bigger problems than I think." Adrian said as he managed just reach the fortress wall due to casting Assault Charge.

"What do you mean bigger problems?" Levin Cloud interjected but he still blushed a little due to Peridot's comment.

Adrian then showed them the details on the two high tier undead. Even they thought it was impossible with the size of the people in the fortress. The two undead were named and have a special link that enables them to revive if the other is not defeated quickly.

"We need the help of the top guild if we are to defend this fortress. Also, the mission stated that we must not kill the undead but protect the fortress." Adrian smiled.

"What do you mean?" Kabrakan asked.

"We only need to protect the fortress from the undead. It was not mentioned that we need to obliterate them. Making them retreat should be doable." Adrian muttered.

The three who was told about this also agree quite a bit with what their friend told them. It was one thing to get them on board but the people on this fortress in another thing. Each player here was participating for their own gain and not because they wholeheartedly wanted to defend this fortress.

"Don't you have like a game breaking item that could one shot them or something?" Levin Cloud asked.

"What do you think I am?" Adrian said in retort.

"Broken! A broken character." Levin Cloud said confidently.

Adrian looked at the other two but they only nodded. He gave up and said, "I already used my most useful spells and they have long cooldowns. I may be a bit overpowered if compared to regular or casual players but if you compare me to them."

Adrian then looked towards the members of the top guilds who were putting up a good fight against the death knight.

"I might be a bit weaker than them. If you compare us in game mechanics, they would be slightly better. Most of the monsters I fought rarely have good AI because most of them are monsters. The enemies that have higher AI if you remember, I did not face alone or faced them head-on. If you know what I mean. I might be lucky with some items but luck could only take you a few steps ahead." Adrian said as even he knows about his weaknesses as a VRMMO player.

Levin Cloud then remembered that Argent who they faced was not really them who faced her but the twin gods. In the end, Adrian was just one person. Even the peak rankers have parties to hunt with them in very difficult dungeons. There may be some exceptions but Adrian is not one of them. At least not yet as he is still immature as what Ascalor pointed out.

"Guys!" Peridot then took their attention.

"Is there something wrong?" Levin Cloud asked.

"My little brother has informed me that some fortresses have already fallen." Peridot said in a serious tone.

"So soon?! It is only been about five hours since the siege began." Kabrakan said in surprise.

"It seems there were players who were affiliated with the enemy which is why the fortresses fell." Peridot said.

"So it was an inside job?" Levin Cloud asked.

"Not only that, it seems larger fortresses have stronger undead than small size fortresses like this one. Some players even grumbled in the players as they lost their hometowns." Peridot said as she became alert.

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Meanwhile the players who were assaulting the death knight could only frown.

[You have dealt 1,348 physical damage to the death knight.]

When the orc player who wielded axes saw this, he could only frown. He asked his teammates to see if they were having the same problem and to his dismay they were. He ordered his teammates to regroup and think of a better strategy. His team left the fight and the pressure on the other players became immense.

The death knight was easily slaughtering low health players. It could even toss its spear to the players in the backline if their spells hit him. The long range players could see their fellow players get skewered alive every time it tossed its spear. Fear started accumulating in the hearts of the players that they would not be able to succeed as the lich was healing the death knight somehow.

The tank players could only grit their teeth and see their health visibly draining with each strike they take from the death knight. When some players saw members of top guilds fall back, some also fell back as if those people think it is difficult then why should they waste their skills.

There were also some players who went straight for the lich instead of the death knight. They wanted to damage the lich but the shield protecting it could not be pierced so easily. Only a few piercing skills went through but their damage was diminished due to another shield that the lich will conjure if it would take a piercing skill.

"One way we could win is that we make the undead flee. By undead, I meant the lich and death knight since they are the cornerstone of the invasion. The lich would probably flee it loses all its mana. Do you guys have a skill that could deplete an opponent's mana?" Adrian stated.

"I do not have anything." Levin Cloud said.

"I am a tank so don't expect that from me." Kabrakan said.

The three then looked at Peridot hoping for her to have one but she said, "Even I do not have one."

"I have one." An alluring female voice came from behind them.

The woman was sporting a sexy black witch outfit. She has purple hair that reached her knees. She was very pretty since her dark green eyes matches her whole outfit. She introduced herself as Cersei and that she was part of the guild Evergreen as seen from the flower emblem on her clothes.

"It seems someone has been eavesdropping on people's conversation." Peridot said while crossing her arms as the boys in her party was somewhat mesmerized by Cersei's appearance.

Adrian snapped out of his enchantment and suddenly asked, "I am sure it would not be for free of course?"

"Of course. I just want you and that cute elf over there to visit our guild that is all it takes." Cersei said while flashing an alluring smile.

Peridot face became dark when she heard the reply. But even she wants to not fail on this defense because their party is currently the leading in terms of score. The mission would fail if the fortress falls which is why some of the player were salty in the forums. The players who failed got nothing.

"So is that yes?" Cersei once again asked.

The three friends looked at each other and nodded. It was Adrian who said yes to Cersei's suggestion. To which the lady happily smiled.

## Chapter 118 - Pushing Back

When Adrian's party was huddled up, an onlooker was eavesdropping. That onlooker was none other than Cersei. She wanted to use this chance to introduce herself to the elf priest since she has a great deal of interest in his skills. Her guild, Evergreen, is also one of the most renowned and most generous to its members. She was sure that he could be scouted or at least have a friendly relationship with the guild.

Her class was witch and it is only available for female players. The counterpart for the witch would be a warlock as it is only given to males. Although the class is well-known, it is quite difficult to achieve due to one reason. Witches and Warlocks must have a covenant with devil gods or demi-gods.

They could manage to summon one to form a covenant but there are times or rather most of the time, the devil gods or demi-gods do not answer. Luckily for her, Cersei managed to summon one on her first try. She thought that demons were also devils but it seems in the game they were different as explained by the devil god she managed to get a covenant with.

The side effect of being a witch though is that both parties must have an amicable relationship with each other. For Cersei to get that easily, she agreed to wear the sexy witch costume she is now wearing. She might have been shy at first but now she embodies her feminine allure. Another perk is that the devil god she had a covenant with could see what she sees.

In other words, the veil that the skill Glamour gave Adrian was not effective on a devil god's eyes. Another interesting characteristic of a devil is that they could not lie. They could manipulate the truth to certain extents to deceive people but they could never lie.

"Cersei! Be careful of that summoner boy. Even better is get on his good side. It would benefit you." A voice whispered on Cersei's ear as she was walking towards Adrian's party.

"What do you mean Vepar? Cersei asked in a bewildered tone.

"Heh! That is all you will get from me today. He would be beneficial as a friend rather than a foe." Vepar said amusingly as he likes to tease his contractor.

Cerseidid not want to push any farther because if even Vepar has his lips sealed then that summoner is not normal. She then overheard their situation about driving away the lich instead of killing it. She also overheard that they need someone who has a skill that depletes mana.

"Oh my! The perfect opportunity just arrived. The heavens might be helping me." Cersei inwardly exclaimed.

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"Are you sure that we could not kill those two undead?" Cersei asked as even she wants the drops that the two high tier undead will give. It might even be epic items or better yet a legendary one.

"Well, I think you should be the judged then. I will send you the details of the two undead that are present in this fort." Adrian exclaimed as even he does not know if they could successfully kill the two named undead.

Cersei was then surprised about the information because the undead had names. She bit her lips as even she knows that the team they have is not enough to take on Named Monsters that are higher leveled than them. She wracked her brain but she thinks it would take immense sacrifice just to kill one.

"It's like they are a low level world boss!" Cersei exclaimed and the rest agreed. She then said, "I think we have a better chance at driving them away. I also heard from the other fortresses that you get nothing if you fail to defend the fortress."

"We need to confuse the lich and cut off his support to the death knight. The problem is that the death knight could divert its attention to us." Adrian said.

"What do you have in mind then?" Cersei said as she signaled her guild members to join in on the conversation.

"Simple. We just need to tell them the information about the undead. We will just need to keep silent about the Destiny Chain." Adrian said while he smiled ear to ear.

When Cersei heard that suggestion she was shocked because she thought they were innocent or angelic children. Still, the idea was a feasible one because the people at this fortress would swarm at that death knight if they were to know. The prospect of killing Named Monsters was too high of a temptation to ignore.

"I will get to it then" Cersei said as she whispered something to a person that looked like a scout.

It did not take even a few minutes before the news spread like wildfire. There was renewed vigor on the eyes of the players on the field. At first, the players eyed each other to see what the others would do. Suddenly, a wave of players charged towards the death knight with intense energy.

"Wow! It was really effective." Levin Cloud exclaimed.

"Let us be on our way then. We only spread the details about the death knight so the lich would have lesser attention." Cersei stated.

Adrian's party with the Evergreen Guild members then went to the lich's location which was a few meters away from the death knight. It was still continuing to summon undead to aid the death knight as its barrier was yet to be broken. The players attacking the death knight was continuously being flooded with undead monsters that continue to respawn.

It was utterly chaotic as the players looked like hungry wolves that wants to end the death knight's life. If they could achieve the last hit then they would surely get an item. The death knight would then be surrounded by players every so often but its damage output and insane defense only hindered the players.

When Adrian and the others arrived at the lich location, they could see a group of players that tried attacking it but would get deleted by the spells fired by the lich. Adrian once again summoned his

bow Psyche Armament and fired piercing arrows towards the lich. When the arrows passed by the lich's barrier, the lich could only actively use a defensive spell to block the piercing arrow.

Levin Cloud then used his field healing spell, Gaea's Blessing, to pressure the lich. The lich's health was getting decreased due to its barrier incapable of fully negating holy damage. The lich was getting bombarded with holy spells by both teams priest. Cersei on the other hand started chanting and Adrian could see blue light going towards her.

The mana of the lich was visibly draining every second Cersei was channeling her spell. Adrian who was observing this situation was smiling as the lich's mana had only 60% remaining. It kept blocking the group's assault on it with barriers. It also stopped spawning undead due to it not being able to chant anymore.

The tanks of both group would also block spells fired by the lich. Thankfully, the lich could not fire its Finger of Undeath. Adrian thought that it might be a high cooldown spell due to the immense damage he received. There were other players who were not acquainted with them who joined in the assault as they gave up on killing the death knight.

Although the lich was only damaged by the Priests spells, its health was successfully reduced to 85%. That was the time when the players raiding the lich could see that they may be able to kill the lich. But it was too close for comfort. The death knight who was slaughtering players left and right broke to the players surrounding it and catapulted itself towards the lich.

Someone from the Evergreen guild shouted that the death knight was approaching them. Adrian could only frown as the mana of the lich was still 40% and it had no signs of retreating. Adrian immediately activated the third skill of the bow Psyche Armament. He fired three piercing shots towards the death knight who was not 65% in health.

[You have dealt 5,245 damage to the death knight Zigra.]

[You have dealt 4,688 damage to the death knight Zigra.]

[You have dealt 5,347 damage to the death knight Zigra.]

Even when Adrian dealt piercing damage, the damage only amounted to four digits but Adrian thought it was fine. He managed to derail the death knight's charge by a little. He immediately enlarged his gauntlets and charged towards the death knight with Sirius.

"Kanlaon fire your breath on the death knight when I strike at it." Adrian commanded via the soul link.

Adrian will make it seem that the dragon breath was a skill effect triggering so that he would avoid suspicion later on. Adrian charged forward and clashed with the death knight but he was thrown back by an immense force. Still, Kanlaon spewed its breath towards the death knight and he managed to stop its charge.

Adrian immediately cast Soul Form Transformation on Kanlaon to give the illusion that it was an item effect.

"So that was the item effect. It looked awesome!" Adrian said for the others around him to hear. Levin Cloud though could only chuckle as he knows what his best friend just did.

Chapter 119 - Mana Overexertion



The players who were chasing after the death knight were shocked and paused for a brief period when they saw a ten meter long eastern red dragon appear. It was so eye catching that the players streaming was so thankful because their chats became fired up. The only one who was not surprised as much was Adrian and Levin Cloud.

"That guy really needs to put his acting skills to work" was the thought on Levin Clouds head because of Adrian's poor acting skills. He was worried the others might not believe it but then he heard another comment.

"That was so cool! Can you do it again?" Kabrakan said with admiration.

Levin Cloud could only face slap himself because his cousin was a straight forward person and very gullible. Even with Adrian's poor acting skills, his cousin believed it and with that the people around started murmuring that it was a cool item effect. Even Adrian did not believe that others would believe his claim that much. Adrian was very thankful that someone like Kabrakan was present in his party.

"I have to give him something to express my gratitude." Adrian said while he clenched his right fist and closed his eyes for a brief second.

The death knight who took a full dragon breath in the face was starting to recover from the surprise attack. Although, undead could not feel pain that does not mean they could not be damaged. The death knight's armor had visible scratches and deformed parts due to all the hits it tanked.

The lich's robe started having tatters due to sneaky piercing attacks that it was not able to defend against. The two undead have yet to drop their health below 50% but their equipment was getting ruined. The lich was also steadily losing its mana and it is steadily dropping to 50%.

The lich's glowing eyes lowed brighter but it was only for a second as no one noticed due to the effects of some spells. The undead that was charging towards the fortress was now redirecting and charging towards the players that encircled the lich. Some of the faster undead was able to reach the players. The pressure on the lich lessened and it started firing spells proactively as it could now handle the attacks aimed at it.

The death knight was not able to move close to the lich due to it being surrounded by players again. Although it was surrounded, it fiercely took step by step towards the lich while swatting the players charging towards it like flies. Cersei who was both siphoning the mana of the lich felt that a huge amount of mana disappeared from the lich's mana pool.

She wanted to speak but she must not break her concentration or else she would need to restart the spell again. Luckily, Adrian noticed it as he was observing the lich and the death knight to handle unexpected threats. The lich then raised its right bony hand up and brought it down while pointing an area.

"Meteor" the lich said in a spine chilling tone.

Seconds later, a giant ball of fire was descending upon the battlefield and the target were the players attacking the death knight. The players who saw the meteor falling down felt immense fear that some even fled from the battle but they were surrounded by a wall of players. Those at the middle were unable to escape as the players behind them started panicking and they tripped each other.

The moral of the players started falling apart as the meteor was falling from the sky reaches them by the second. Adrian started to think what to do but he could only think of slowing it down using magic spells but they could not afford it right now. If they use their spells at the meteor they might be able to slow it down but that would give the lich enough time to cast another high damaging spell.

"I could try that." Adrian thought as he might have away to at least divert the meteor away.

"Spells like meteor are dangerous even to friendly units. Once spells of mass destruction is fired, even allies in the vicinity will die unless they could protect them." Adrian's eyes then flashed with the sudden realization.

"It is going to use a protective spell for the death knight!" Adrian mumbled.

After Adrian thought of that, the lich began chanting and a black sphere started to envelope the death knight but it seemed invisible to the onlookers. Adrian was only able to see it due to his evil eyes. Adrian decided to use his new skill on the incoming meteor to test if it could deflect it a little or lessen the impact force.

Adrian immediately cast Quantum Repulsion on the meteor but the reaction he got was overwhelming.

"It is too heavy!" Adrian muttered.

Adrian then remembered his discussion with Ascalor about remolding skills.

"Elder Ascalor!" Adrian said to grab his attention.

"What brat?!" Ascalor replied.

"The spell used more mana than it should have been." Adrian stated.

"Oh! That would be the reaction if you try things that are way past the strength your body could handle. A great action should also have a great reaction. Does it not?" Ascalor stated.

"Seriously! How powerful is the Meteor spell anyway?!" Adrian shouted.

"It is assumed to be a legendary skill!" Levin Cloud answered.

"I was being sarcastic!" Adrian shouted back.

"Why?" Levin Cloud asked.

Adrian then vomited blood from his mouth. Adrian's mana was depleted severely and half his health was gone just like that. It seems that a legendary skill is leagues apart from an epic skill. Adrian knelt down and immediately drank a potion. Not only did he get damaged, he also got the Mana Overexertion status effect.

Mana Overexertion is a status where you overuse your mana and you will not be able to regenerate mana for a few seconds to minutes. The duration would depend on how severe the Mana Overexertion. Unlucky for Adrian, he cannot regenerate mana for ten minutes. He also could not

drink MP potions as it would only deal him damage because of the status. Mana Overexertion could not be purified either so Adrian would have to deal physical damage for ten minutes.

The meteor heading towards the death knight did however slowed down a bit. Its intended path also tilted a slight bit but nevertheless it still hit the area of the death knight. The shockwave from the meteor blew those who were unprepared a couple of meters. There were also numerous players that died.

The others survived with barely having any health or unscathed due to a damage nullifying skill. The latter were mainly from bigger guilds that know where these skills are obtained. Only a quarter of the total players in the fortress managed to survive.

Cersei was able to still siphon mana due to the two tanks and support blocking for her using their skills. They knew that they would have an even lesser chance to succeed if she fails or stops with her task. Adrian activated Soul Form Transformation on himself while he ordered Sirius to hide in his shadow. Saena was perched on Peridots head and was protected by her making a half dome rock formation with them the others in it.

The most drastic news however the death knight was charging towards Cersei's group. Peridot canceled her skill and Kabrakan saw the death knight charging so he charged against it. The lich had about 30% mana remaining due to the spells it cast. The death knight must also arrived at the same conclusion that Adrian had. A spell caster without mana is basically a punching bag.

Kabrakan went head to head against the death knight with all of his fortifications but even he thought it was heavy. He was only pushed back unlike Adrian who was thrown away by the force. Adrian also joined the team that assaulted the death knight as he would not be able to pierce the lich's defenses.

"Heavy Slam" the orc axe wielder shouted.

His twin axes glowed in a red aura as he slammed it towards the death knight. The death knight blocked the attack with its spear but it left him open from other attacks. The others started targeting the areas unprotected by the death knight while it was still blocking the orc player's attack.

"Seven minutes left" Adrian thought to himself.

Adrian needed seven minutes to be able to restore mana. It was this time that he felt helpless as his physical damage is not that great compared to pure physical damage players. Adrian waited for the minutes to pass but it felt like an eternity. He then got a whisper from Cersei unexpectedly. It seems she strained her concentration just to send it.

"The lich's mana is not dropping below 20%" the message from Cersei stated.

When Adrian read the message, he could only curse. The lich however had a smiling expression but it was hard to determine due to his features being all bone. Adrian then thought of the most obvious answer why it was not decreasing.

"The lich's phylactery is maintaining its mana at the 20% mark."

Chapter 120 - Fortress Defense Success?

What was a phylactery? A phylactery is also known as a life vessel in other media but in essence it is a trinket that holds the soul and mana of a lich. It is sometimes in shapes of a cube or in accessories depending on the lich's decision.

Another inconvenience for the players to overcome. Adrian was at his wits end on how to conquer another hurdle. Thankfully, a bit of good news is that his hits are weakening the death knight due to the Netheros Bane. The weakened status of the death knight helped the players overcome the level gap.

"Five more minutes!" Adrian said to himself.

Adrian really wanted to use his skills but the status ailment on him was not making it happen. The good thing is that the top guild members increased their ferocity. The Lich was only able to shoot mana orbs due to the amount of attacks it is shielding itself.

The lich health was now decreasing every minute due to the barrage of attacks it is getting. The death knight was also in the same situation as it was now being dealt with heavy attacks to keep it pinned down. The death knight's behavior changed as it no longer killed those in front of it. The death knight was doing its utmost to reach the lich. It even started crawling bit by bit even when it's pinned down.

"Two minutes left" Adrian thought to himself.

It was not long until the lich had 50% of its life remaining while the death knight still had 60% of its health. The death knight was tanking all the hits it is taking with its enormous defense while the lich was only using barriers since it has shabby defenses. The damage on the lich sometimes gets five digits if lucky but it was all due to its low health pool compared to the death knight.

The reason that the top guild players becoming fiercer is that they received a tip from their higher ups in other fortresses. The higher ups told them that the longer the battles draws out then the less likely chance for them to succeed. This was definitely true for larger fortresses as there was greater numbers of death knights and liches.

The error that some did is that they diligently farmed the minions summon because of the points but that also led to their ruin. The liches created more powerful undead every hour or so. It did not take long for the greedy players to get flooded. If Adrian did not proactively thinned the horde then the same would have happened to Alabaster Fortress.

Majority of the small scale fortresses like the Alabaster Fortress was already destroyed. The developers planned for this as it would immediately tell the world of the threat that the undead poses. Of course not all of the small fortresses were destroyed because there are some talented players protecting them.

Adrian and the players attacking the death knight are purposely knocking it back as they sensed its unusual behavior. The players are not curious enough of what might happen if the two undead become close. The players are getting their momentum up to speed but something drastic happened.

When the death knight's health dropped to the 50% mark, the death knight released a great shockwave that blew all the players in the vicinity by a few meters. It took a few seconds before the players regained their footing but it was enough for the death knight. The death knight lunged itself towards the lich.

The tankers that are responsible for the lich diverted their attention to the charging death knight. The tankers all blocked its path but they were all blown away by the force. The death knight used a charging skill and all those that blocked its way were knocked back a few feet.

When the lich and death knight were in close proximity of each other, both their auras flared up. The presence of the two undead became stronger that the players near them felt like suffocating. Adrian though was looking at the debuff timer as only a few seconds were left. System notifications popped up for every player fighting the two undead.

[The Death Knight Zigra and the Lich Wekka has activated one of the effects of their Destiny Chain.]

[The stats of the Death Knight Zigra and the Lich Wekka will temporarily be doubled for one hour.]

When the two undead became strong, the first person they set their sights on was Adrian. It seems the two undead did not forget that there was a demon in their midst. The Lich once again pointed his finger towards Adrian and started chanting. Adrian on the other hand was already drinking a mana potion to restore his mana quickly.

Adrian then realized that the lich was doing its "Finger of Undeath" movement again. Adrian could no longer tolerate getting hit by that as it would surely kill him. The others tried to stop the lich from casting but the death knight stood on their way like a mountain. In just one swing, the death knight could knockback the melee players charging towards the lich.

"Seriously! I guess there is only one choice left." Adrian muttered.

Adrian's face became serious and he uttered the words, "Netheros Domain".

The dark mist that was enveloping the field was shrouded by a mist that had gray, white and black smoke. The players who saw this thought it was just a new version of the lich's skill but one player thought different. Due to her companion whispering words to her ear, she managed to know who created the mist.

"Watch closely Cersei. The boy will show you the meaning of absolute might!" Vepar said sneakily.

Unlike the Dark Mist of the lich, Netheros Domain covered even the sky above them. The players suddenly got a foreboding feeling that they should not be there. Cersei who was observing Adrian thought she saw horns and wings on Adrian for a moment. She thought it was an illusion but it was due to Vepar sharing his view for a split second to her.

The death knight and lich looked like they were shaking. The players who saw this did not believe this as undead do not know fear. The players thought it was just a property of the mist and thought it was an illusion. In the end, truth was stranger than fiction. Adrian had a notification that was different from the first time he used this skill.

[Those who defile the rules of the dead cannot muster their might in the realm of Absolute Death.]

The lich and death knight shivered inside the domain. The double stat boost that they used was not helping in their predicament. For the first time in their unholy life, the death knight and lich could feel fear. The two undead are probably the first to experience what it means to feel fear. Not just normal fear but absolute fear. Their very existence was against being inside the domain.

The lich then held its necklace that has a blue skull attached to it with shaking bony hands. The lich then crushed the skull and an enormous amount of mana burst that even the players could feel it without a special skill. The burst of mana was accompanied by a flash of blue light. The players thought that the lich was preparing its final skill to wipe them all out.

The flash of light subsided. When the players looked at the place where the two undead were, they were shocked. The two undead vanished from their location. The players checked their system logs but there was no notification that the two were killed. The most shocking was the announcement that showed up after a few seconds.

[The Death Knight Zigra and the Lich Wekka has retreated.]

[The defense of Alabaster fortress has been successful.]

[The players who participated in this event will gain bonus rewards in accordance to their contribution.]

Adrian then looked at his system notification.

[You have successfully repelled the undead attacking Alabaster Fortress.]

[Your current individual rank is First.]

[You have received 200% experience points. Due to your experience multiplier it is increased to 1200% experience points.]

[You have received the Fortress Protector title.]

[You can trade your contribution points for items and other things at the Alabaster Fortress Exchange Booths.]

[You have leveled up]

[Sirius has leveled up.]

[Kanlaon has leveled up.]

[Saena has leveled up.]

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Adrian decided to ignore the notification because it was all level up notifications. The one notification he was excited about was the quest to protect the fortress.

[The quest Protect Alabaster Fortress has been completed. Please head towards the Church of Life building located near the fortress to get your reward.]

[The Blessing of the Universe buff has subsided. You no longer have two times experience boost.]

"It was a good thing that my best friend has influence in the church. They give better rewards than the fortress chief guard." Adrian thought.

Adrian then regrouped with his party members. He told them that he got good experience and a nice title. The other player though are still dumbfounded about the situation. The thoughts on their minds was, "It's over already? But what about the two high ranking undead?!"

