

Second World #Chapter 1771 1771. Battling Azzarilth - Read Second World Chapter 1771 1771. Battling Azzarilth

Chapter 1771 Chapter 1771. Battling Azzarilth

The slashes from Jack's formless flowing sword style were unending. The damage Azzarilth received on the first waves of slashes was negligible. Considering she was a level 98 eternal dragon, this was not surprising. What caused her disbelief was the force accompanying these slashes. Each slash carried an immense force. With so many slashes assailing her all the time, she was unable to do anything.

She wasn't concerned about the damage at the start. But without being able to break free from these slashes, she continued to receive combo damage, which increased over time.

A layer of dark purple aura covered Azzarilth's body. Her chaos armor had gone off cooldown some time ago. She never expected it would be a weak outworlder who forced her to reactivate this skill.

The chaos armor greatly reduced the pressure from Jack's sword art. She opened her jaws and a thundering roar accompanied by a shockwave that rattled the space itself came forth. The powerful shockwave was able to stop the slashes from Jack's sword art from hitting her body, giving her a reprieve from those slashes.

Azzarilth's claws slashed all around her, clashing with Jack's sword art that had been paused by her roar. Her claws then proceeded in Jack's direction.

Her shockwave roar carried a powerful mental attack that should have debilitated Jack. She expected Jack to be unable to react when her claws arrived. But one look at Jack's expression and she realized Jack didn't appear perturbed in the slightest.

Jack's sword swung forward. His tiny sword clashed with Azzarilth's giant claw. The elder dragon was again given the surprise of her life when she felt her claw recoil from the impact. Jack was thrown a few meters back but he wasn't unbalanced. This showed that Azzarilth was still stronger, but the fact that Jack could contest in strength was something that should have been impossible.

Azzarilth didn't stop. Her surprise and disbelief urged her to be even more aggressive. She used Deca Slash. Her claws crisscrossed, leaving void tears as she advanced.

Jack faced that attack using Penta Slash. But considering his skill generated five rapid slashes while Azzarilth's skill produced ten, it was clear who won. Jack solved the shortcoming of his skill by activating the combo of Asura, Phantom Blade, and Dances

of the Braves once his fifth slash was over. The multiple swords opposed Azzarilth's remaining five slashes.

Azzarilth again couldn't believe Jack could survive direct combat against her. In her consternation, her mana sense became dull.

WHAM!

She noticed too late when something fast slammed into her from above.

This something was Eoranth who had just flown through a detour around her chaos minefield. Silvery auras shrouded Eoranth's claws. His Soul-infused Fist was also off-cooldown.

After hitting Azzarilth on her back, Eoranth followed by unleashing his divine soul breath. The powerful breath attack struck Azzarilth point-blank. She was sent plunging from the attack. A large searing scar from the breath attack was seen on Azzarilth's back.

She didn't fall far, because fifteen giant vipers burst out of thin air and caught her. These giant vipers were Jack's Myriad Venomous Vipers. The vipers were much larger than their usual sizes. They were also covered by multicolored auras.

The vipers entangled Azzarilth and bound her tightly, rendering her unable to move. Normally, the chaos armor would have prevented these vipers from touching her body, the multicolor aura on the vipers made them ignore the effect. The vipers bit Azzarilth. The chaos armor protected her from poison status but the bites still caused damage.

Azzarilth cast Ghost Form and escaped from the entanglement. She then stared at Jack in anger. Jack stared right back. Her two eye skills were on cooldown, but she had a feeling that even if she could still use them, they wouldn't affect the outworlder.

Azzarilth made another thundering roar. This one was fueled by extreme rage. The battle had been nothing but playful to her, up until now. The last few exchanges had been totally out of her expectations. Following her roar, a sphere of darkness burst out of her body. Her chaos armor enveloped this orb and turned it into a dark purple flaming sphere.

Like her chaos armor, her Sphere of Svalinn had also come off cooldown. She shot back up at high speed.

Her sudden return was so fast that Eoranth didn't react fast enough. Azzarilth headbutted Eoranth's lower jaw, causing his head to jerk up. She landed a claw attack at Eoranth's body before shooting in Jack's direction. Jack used Wind Dash and was gone before she arrived.

She changed direction to chase after Jack. Jack activated Strength of the Wild which improved his stats and his movement speed. He was already extremely fast in his mana awakening state. With the boost, his speed didn't lose to Azzarilth under the Sphere of Svalinn's effect.

Azzarilth didn't believe she couldn't catch Jack. She continued to dog after Jack. The two changed directions countless times. Their shadows zipped around the sky and were almost imperceptible to the naked eye.

Jack didn't just fly around randomly, though. He zoomed near Eoranth a few times until Eoranth finally caught Jack's intention. Eoranth's soul armor was also off cooldown. He now activated that skill before coming to the path that Jack always passed through.

Azzarilth had been dashing madly to catch Jack. She wasn't aware when Eoranth suddenly came into her path. The two colossal dragons bumped into one another. Eoranth was unable to stop Azzarilth's momentum but his two arms clinched Azzarilth's dark sphere tightly, not letting it go.

The air around Eoranth turned steamy before a huge rune symbol appeared underneath him. Following the appearance of this rune symbol was a bright pillar of light. This pillar engulfed both Eoranth and Azzarilth. This pillar of light was Eoranth's Souls of Heaven and Earth.

Azzarilth might be protected by the Sphere of Svalinn but she still received damage from Eoranth's powerful skill. The most important point was that her chaotic movements had been stopped.

When the light pillar subsided, twenty shadows of Jack appeared around the two dragons. All twenty shadows struck Azzarilth at the same time. Jack's Hundred Shadow Strikes caused the dark purple flame shrouding Azzarilth's Sphere of Svalinn to dim. When the twenty shadows merged back into one Jack, he thrust his sword into the sphere. The thrust was done by performing One-word Thrust while activating Drilling Thrust.

The move created a multicolored energy drill that pierced Azzarilth's dark sphere and created a hole. The air near the created hole shimmered and multicolored Nine Yin Phantom Sword shot out. The energy sword entered through the hole and struck Azzarilth's head.

Chapter 1772 Chapter 1772. Vanishing Black Hole

The nine-yin energy had a great disrupting force. When the mana awakening-enhanced Nine Yin Phantom Sword bore into Azzarilth's skull, she experienced a great headache. At the same time, she couldn't form any coherent thought.

During this time, her control over the Sphere of Svalinn waned. Eoranth was still tightly gripping her sphere so she couldn't move.

Jack pulled his sword back into the starting stance of the One-word Slash. He then slashed forward while using Brave Slash at the same time. A multicolored light appeared instead of Brave Slash's usual golden light. Additionally, the size of the light was ten times longer. Jack was as if holding a gigantic multicolored sword when he swung.

The same as when Jack disabled Arther's Sphere of Aegis, he was using the same move against Azzarilth's Sphere of Svalinn. Except this time, due to his mana awakening, the power he generated was hundreds of times more powerful.

The oversized multicolored sword slammed into the dark sphere and caused tremors to the space around them. The sphere was already weakened from Jack and Eoranth's previous attacks. Added to Azzarilth's disrupted mind due to the Nin Yin Phantom Sword, she was unable to stabilize the chaotic mana sustaining the sphere. The dark sphere shattered with a bang.

The Nine Yin Phantom Sword could only mess up Azzarilth's thoughts for a short second, but it was enough for Jack to destroy her Sphere of Svalinn. She watched her shattered sphere with another expression of disbelief. However, she didn't pause from that shock.

Her tail swung a full circle. She was executing Whirlwind Slash using her tail. Both Jack and Eoranth were smacked by the tail. Azzarilth pressed her assault by firing her divine chaos breath at Jack.

Jack cast Magic Wall. The divine chaos breath slammed into the multicolored magic wall. At first, it didn't seem like the magic wall could last. It shook heavily. Many cracks appeared, but then multiple runic symbols appeared on the surface of the magic wall. This was mana defense. Under the state of mana awakening, Jack could somehow perform this ultimate defense technique. The magic wall that was about to crumble stabilized again.

Azzarilth was furious seeing that. She heaved while her divine chaos breath was still ongoing. Runic symbols appeared in front of her opened jaws. At the same time, her breath attack was as if receiving a dose of fuel. It became denser and thicker.

While Jack used the ultimate defense technique, she was using the opposite. An ultimate offense technique that utilized mana to multiply the power of an attack, making it more powerful than it should be.

Against the boosted chaos divine breath, Jack's magic wall couldn't endure. It was destroyed and the breath attack washed over Jack. Jack activated Gold Scale Armor

before the breath hit. Even though his mana awakening seemed to give him great defense, he wasn't careless.

Twin beams hit Azzarilth's head. The hit caused her head to turn and her breath attack ended. She growled as she turned back and saw the beams come from Eoranth's eye. He was charging at her.

When Azzarilth turned to Eoranth, she caught sight of Broidrireg.

Broidrireg had been casting his mega spell, Wrath of the Elder Dragons. When Jack asked him to prepare that mega spell, he was at first skeptical. He didn't immediately start casting. He was prepared to cast weaker spells to save Jack who engaged Azzarilth directly. Only after he saw Jack didn't lose to Azzarilth that he started casting his mega spell. He was still in disbelief while casting, which caused his casting speed to slow. His casting was now almost completed. It was in the process of forming the sixth rune.

Azzarilth wasn't going to let him. If it was before, she might have. The situation had turned unfavorably due to that outworlder. Taking a risk in this situation would be ill-advised.

She first summoned her spectral blades before casting a spell. At the same time, she formed energy balls in her free hand and threw the chaos balls at the incoming Eoranth.

Eoranth relied on his soul armor and tanked the damage. But before he could engage Azzarilth, the spectral blades came slashing. He was forced to stop his charge.

Azzarilth's spell was completed first. Her spell summoned a chaos lance twice the size of the one she conjured previously. This was the Mega Chaos Lance. This Mega Chaos Lance shot at Broidrireg with high speed.

"Damn it!" Broidrireg cursed. He lamented that a mega spell took too long to cast. Such a spell was indeed not suitable to be used against a capable opponent like Azzarilth.

When he was about to cancel his casting and dodge the mega chaos lance, he heard Jack's voice.

"Keep casting!"

If it was the voice of another person, Broidrireg would have ignored it. He didn't understand why, but he somehow sensed the confidence in Jack's voice and believed it. He continued casting while he watched the mega chaos lance coming closer and closer.

A black hole suddenly appeared in the lance's path. This black hole was very large. It was even larger than the mega chaos lance. Once the lance entered the black hole's

zone, it was halted. It was as if invisible hands held the lance and prevented it from moving away from the black hole.

The black hole then vanished, taking the lance with it. Broidrireg was baffled by the scene. It caused his casting to pause.

Yet, the most shocked was Azzarilth. She didn't understand how her mega chaos lance was negated. In her shock, she wasn't aware of Eoranth who had knocked aside all her spectral blades and came to her side. This time, it was Azzarilth who was slammed by Eoranth's tail. The impact sent her reeling.

While she lost her balance, a black hole suddenly appear in front of her. From that black hole, her mega chaos lance shot forth and impaled her right in her chest.

Chapter 1773 Chapter 1773. Life-trading Curse

The black hole was produced by Jack's Void Displacement Eye. Under normal circumstances, he wouldn't be able to use this skill to teleport an attack. Much less something as large as the mega chaos lance, but his mana awakening let him alter his skills to seemingly infinite possibilities.

The mega chaos lance was now stuck in Azzarilth's chest. She couldn't believe that she would be struck by her own spell. Despite her element being chaos, she still received massive damage from the lance since there was no resistance for the chaos element.

The mega chaos lance also caused disorder in her mind and negated her natural recovery ability. She used her two hands to exert pressure on the lance in her chest, crushing it into particles. While she was doing that, Broidrireg completed his mega spell.

Five oriental dragons bathed in golden lights burst out of his completed spell formation. They flew toward Azzarilth without delay. Azzarilth was still disoriented and unsettled. She didn't react in time when the five dragons came at her from different sides.

"Raahhh...!!!" She growled as runic symbols appeared around her. She was using the ultimate mana defense technique to stop the five dragons from touching her.

Jack lunged forward. He was about to attack Azzarilth to interrupt her focus, but he suddenly stopped midway. He stopped because he sensed something was wrong with him. He then heard a loud thump. He felt as if his heart was exploding. Before he knew what was happening, everything went black.

"Jack...!" Broidrireg saw the irregularities with Jack. Jack had suddenly stopped and the multicolored aura cloaking his body was gone. He then fell.

Broidrireg rushed down and caught Jack before he fell too far.

"Jack!" Broidrireg called again. Jack was lying still on his palm. Jack didn't respond. He was unconscious.

While Broidrireg saved Jack from falling, Eoranth pressed his assault on Azzarilth. He formed soul bombs in his hand and threw them at Azzarilth. These soul bombs increased the pressure applied to her mana defense. Azzarilth couldn't do anything in retaliation since she was using all her focus to prevent the golden dragons from reaching her.

"You, repulsive pup! I will crush you for this!!" She hissed at Eoranth.

"I will have my revenge today. Die, you vile traitor!" Eoranth roared. He threw another soul bomb with all his might. This bomb finally shattered the runes that acted as Azzarilth's shield. The five golden dragons rushed in then.

Each of the five golden dragons bit Azzarilth at different parts of her body. She roared as the golden dragons turned into energies that latched onto her. Her whole body was covered by a golden layer.

"Graahhh...!!!" She tried fighting the power eroding her body, but she was already weak after getting hit by the mega chaos lance. She didn't have enough strength to stop the golden energies from completely covering her entire body.

Damage numbers continued popping up on her head, both from the golden energies eroding her body and also from the residual energy of the mega chaos lance. She found herself to become extremely stiff. She couldn't move.

"Rrgghh...!!!" She was unwilling to give up. She continued to try exerting force. She was unable to. She turned to her brood. She had been calling them for some time but they had not arrived. She saw then that they were hindered by the enemy force.

The battle in the capital was mostly over by now. The Liguritutum soldiers were either fleeing or surrendering. The outworlders supporting Liguritutum were either fleeing or dead. The beholders fled after the eldritch beholder's clone was defeated. All that was left was her brood.

While she was watching her brood, she sensed an incoming attack but couldn't do anything about it. Eoranth's claw slammed into her face.

"Die!" Eoranth roared while hitting Azzarilth again and again. "This is for my father! This is for all the dragons that perished in the ancient war because of what you did! You will die, today...!!!"

Azzarilth snarled at Eoranth as he continued to send her punishments. Her snarl slowly turned into a mad laugh.

"Hahahaha... Hahaha... HAHAHA...!!!"

"You mad dragon! Laugh all you want. You will still die today!" Eoranth yelled without slowing his strikes.

"Hahaha! Yes, I will, but I will take you with me, dear nephew!!" Azzarilth spoke back.

Her eyes flared crimson and a spell formation appeared before her face. It was unlike any other spell formation. The runes that formed that spell formation were much more intricate and complex than any. Eoranth was surprised by the appearance of that spell formation. Azzarilth should have been unable to do anything when she was restrained by Broidrireg's mega spell. He moved away while using his two arms and wings to shield himself from whatever spell Azzarilth was casting.

Broidrireg noticed what Azzarilth was doing. "No!!!" He shouted. He hurriedly dashed toward them.

But it was too late, Azzarilth had completed her spell. She continued to laugh madly, "Hahahahaha...!!!"

Her completed spell formation didn't disappear and turned into an effect like other spells. Instead, the runes inside the spell formation multiplied and expanded. They were as if alive. These interconnecting runic symbols flew toward Eoranth.

When Eoranth was still confused by the abnormality of Azzarilth's spell, he found someone appearing in front of him.

"Broidrireg!" He shouted.

Broidrireg came between Eoranth and Azzarilth's spell just before the spell arrived. That spell hit his body instead. The runic symbols touched his body. They seared into his body and became burning tattoos.

"Well, this is a surprise," Azzarilth said with a chuckle. "But this is better. It seems we will meet our brother together. Hehe... I will go first. Don't make us wait too long, brother."

Her HP bar still had around thirty percent left. It would still be some time before Broidrireg's mega spell drained her huge HP reserve, but her HP suddenly dropped rapidly to zero.

The golden light cloaking her body vanished once she died. Her body plunged down followed by several loots.

"What... What happened...?" Eoranth asked. They won but somehow, he didn't feel like it was a clean victory. He turned to Broidrireg. The burning tattoos were still spreading around his body.

Broidrireg sighed. "What she used just now was the Life-trading Curse," He explained. "It is a spell that uses one's own life to cast. It is a last resort spell that aims to take down an opponent at the cost of the caster's life."

Chapter 1774 1774. Ten Days

"What do you mean...?" Eoranth asked.

Broidrireg sighed again at Eoranth's question.

Jeanny and the others came to them. After Azzarilth fell, the obsidian dragons just scattered. Arlcard and the others chased the ones with only a few HP left. These obsidian dragons could become a menace to the adventurers roaming the wilderness. It would be best if they could cull their number.

Paytowin, who came with Jeanny, flew down to chase Azzarilth's still-plunging body. He was after the loots. It would be such a pity if other players took those loots.

Grace, who was looking for Jack, found him lying still on Broidrireg's palm. She flew over with worry. "What happened to Jack?" She asked.

Broidrireg shook his head. "I don't know. Whatever gave him his power seemed to also drain him once the effect was over."

Grace cast a spell that removed negative afflictions. When her spell didn't show any effect, Peniel used Fast Heal. It was also without result. Jack's HP was full. He just wouldn't wake up.

"How long will he be like this?" Grace asked.

Broidrireg shook his head again. He said, "Please rest assured. I don't think he is in any danger. My guess is his body simply goes into a shock due to the unnatural power he exhibited."

"He might be okay, but you are not!" Eoranth exclaimed. "Tell me! What is this life-trading curse?"

Upon Eoranth's words, Grace and the others noticed the burning tattoos on Broidrireg's body. Even now, they were slowly encroaching on his body.

"There is no need for you to worry about this," Broidrireg answered.

"I can't do that! That spell is supposed to hit me. Why did you put yourself in its path? Tell me what it does!" Eoranth demanded.

Broidrireg shook his head. He preferred to spare Eoranth the knowledge, but he supposed Eoranth would find out soon anyway. Eoranth might blame himself when that happened. Since it was so, Broidrireg decided to just come clean.

"The life-trading curse consumes all the caster's life force. The spell will then erode the target's life force using the life force from the caster. In other words, the spell consumes my age."

Eoranth frowned upon hearing it.

"Can we use a spell to lift the curse?" Grace asked.

"It is a curse in name only," Peniel helped to explain. "The spell is more like an attack. It hits and carries out its effect, which is reducing his age. Even if you have something that can dispel the curse, the damage was already done. The consumed age will not return."

As if to emphasize Peniel's explanation, the burning tattoos finished encompassing Broidrireg's body. It then vanished, as if nothing had ever happened to the elder dragon. However, those with acute mana sense, especially Grace who had mana perception, could detect the changes of the mana flowing within Broidrireg. His mana was much thinner than before.

"... How long do you have?" Eoranth asked.

Broidrireg studied his body. He then answered, "Ten days... Give or take."

Those who heard couldn't help but feel down.

"What if we use the resurrection spell?" Jeanny asked.

"It's no use. I will die of old age. Even if I can be resurrected, I will simply die again soon. There is no need for you all to be concerned about this. I have lived a very long life. I am at peace with my passing."

"That is bull!" Eoranth exclaimed. "You should have just let the spell hit me. I still have a very long age. Even if Azzarilth's life force erodes mine, it will only take a thousand years off my age. I will still have plenty of thousands to spare. Why do you have to shield me?!"

"I will never allow that to happen if I can help it," Broidrireg said with a soothing voice. "I promised your father that I will look after you. Different from my old bones, you still have your life ahead of you. If Azzarilth's curse hit, his life force will not only rob you of your age but also your potential."

Eoranth turned away. He didn't want to listen.

Broidrireg sighed. He continued speaking to Eoranth, "The reason you couldn't win against her is not because of your strength. You have the same levels as her. The stats between the two of you are not that much different. The reason she was much more powerful was because of the number of skills and spells she possessed. As you age, you will be granted skills and spells from your bloodline. It will also be easier for you to learn new skills and spells. Losing such a large portion of your age is the same as taking away your path to greatness. I will never allow that!"

Eoranth couldn't bring himself to look at Broidrireg.

"I've always longed to get my revenge. But if I knew it would be at the expense of your life, I wouldn't have wanted it," Eoranth muttered. There was a great sadness in his voice.

"That is why you should never let yourself be drowned by such a thing. Vengeance will always come at a cost," Broidrireg said. "Let us not dwell in my condition. As I said, I'm at peace with what happened to me. The battle has ended, but we still need to reorganize our force and restore the stability of this country. I believe Jack will agree to that."

Broidrireg handed Jack to Grace. "Take him to Dritzuut palace to rest. It might be some time before he wakes up. When he does, tell him to come find me at Thereath."

"You will return to Thereath now?" Jeanny asked.

"I still have a few hours before I am forcefully returned there. I wish to spend the time with my family while I wait."

Broidrireg was looking away while speaking. Jeanny turned in the direction of his gaze and saw a yellow dragon a great distance away heading toward them. The yellow dragon was Tiemezzys.

"Come with me, Eoranth. I still have something I wish to speak with you," Broidrireg said as he flew over to meet Tiemezzys.

Eoranth followed in silence.

Jeanny and the others watched the two dragons fly away. Grace looked at Jack who was still unconscious. She wondered how Jack would feel when he woke up and learned of Broidrireg's condition.

Chapter 1775 1775. The Aftermath of the War

The Allied forces reorganized themselves once the last of the obsidian dragons fled. They built camps outside of Dritzuut as. The commanders reviewed their losses while the soldiers buried the bodies of their fallen.

Inside Dritzuut, there were many civilian casualties. Master never bothered to evacuate the citizens and simply let them hide inside their houses during the battle. Many of these houses were demolished due to the bombardments from the Allied forces' siege weapons and ships.

The Allied forces were now reestablishing order inside the capital under the hateful gazes of the surviving citizens. In their eyes, the Allied forces were the culprit who attacked their city and killed many of their fellow citizens.

With Jack still unconscious, John took over the leadership. He didn't bother explaining this invasion to the Liguritutum's citizens. It was indeed their weapons that killed those citizens, regardless of whether their past ruler could have avoided those casualties if he had shown a modicum of care.

John let them curse him behind his back. He knew whatever he said to them would only be considered as excuses. Persuasion and indoctrination could be done later once things cooled down. For now, he organized soldiers to keep watch around the streets to discourage these disgruntled citizens from causing trouble.

Liguritutum's lower-ranked soldiers who surrendered automatically switched to their side. John didn't worry about these soldiers' loyalties. They were influenced by the world system to obey the one who possessed the throne. John sent these Liguritutum soldiers to reinforce the Themisphere soldiers who patrolled the streets. Seeing the soldiers of their own race should appease the angry ethereal citizens.

John was able to access Liguritutum's monarch system because he was Themisphere's royal advisor, and this country was considered Themisphere's vassal state. However, he was unable to appoint the puppet sovereign for Liguritutum. Only Jack had the privilege to do that. This meant before Jack woke up, John had to manage Liguritutum's monarch system directly.

The first thing he managed was the officers. He gave those former Liguritutum officers the chance to swear fealty. Those who did, were given positions but only until the mid-ranked posts. For the higher posts, John asked Wilted to give him the names of the natives from her rebel force. John then entered those names into the monarch system, giving them the power to oversee the surrendered officers.

He restored Morphic to High Marshall, which was his old post. The high marshal who supported Master, Oberon, had been killed during the siege battle.

Former officers who refused to swear fealty were put into jail. He knew Jack would have let these officers go but he preferred to keep these people in confinement for now. This newly captured country was still very unstable. He didn't want those officers to run around the country and scheme.

There was still the matter of World Maker. They might have won the war and conquered the country, but Master and his guild were still at large. This was not yet over. He sent a garrison of soldiers to scout the region where World Maker's guild headquarters was located. Once they finished reorganizing here, he would have the Allied force march there.

John didn't know if Master was there or if he had let go of his guild headquarters the same way as he let go of Liguritutum. John feared it was the latter. If he was in Master's shoes, he would have gone into hiding to fuse with the divine treasures. If that was the case, they could only depend on luck to find Master before he was done fusing.

No matter the case, they would still have to go to World Maker's headquarters. Even if the headquarters was deserted, John hoped they could find some clues of Master's whereabouts.

If everything proceeded smoothly, the Allied forces should be able to depart in one or two days.

John spent some more time working on the monarch system to manage Liguritutum's settlements, particularly the capital. He prioritized improving its security. There were some kingdom coins available for spending. Unlike in Hydrurond, Master didn't drain the kingdom coffer.

Because Themisphere was now the hegemonic state, there was an option to apply tribute. This tribute was deducted directly from the kingdom's monthly income. The maximum amount of tribute that could be set was fifty percent. If he set that maximum amount, he was sure he would get reprimanded by Jack once Jack learned of it. Additionally, applying such a heavy tribute would cause dissatisfaction among the officers. Their loyalties would tend to lower, and their desire to free the country from being a vassal state would grow.

After some thought, he decided on thirty percent. He would still be scolded by Jack for this, but he never minded a scolding. He was pretty certain Jack would let go of Liguritutum as a vassal state and transfer its sovereignty to an ethereal native or an ethereal player once Jack found a suitable candidate. Until then, he wanted to milk some of this country's resources first. He didn't go directly to the maximum fifty percent because he didn't want a rebellion to happen so soon after they just subdued this country.

After finishing managing the monarch system, John spent some time holding a meeting with the high-ranking officers he just appointed. The meeting discussed the urgent issues regarding troop management, the capital's security, and the rebel settlements.

Because the previous sovereign, Master, wasn't killed when the throne was destroyed, not all settlements yielded to the new sovereign. This was similar to what happened when Master took Hydrurond from Queen Frorryntiar. John told the officers in the meeting to send a delegate to each of those settlements, with a warning that if they didn't submit, the army would come. If that happened, the governors in charge of the settlements would be stripped of their positions and jailed. But if they surrendered, they would be allowed to retain their position.

John hoped those settlements would just surrender from the warning because he couldn't send their armies so soon. They had to deal with World Maker first. Once that was over, only then could they deal with the rebellious settlements.

After the meeting, John visited his mother. Linda was held inside Dritzuut palace. Instead of a jail, she was placed inside one of the royal guestrooms. A runic rope was still binding her, so she couldn't do anything.

When she saw John enter her room, she said, "Is this how a son treats his mother?"

"I place you in one of the best rooms. What more do you expect?" John answered. He then took out the Mind Breaker. "Say, mom. Care to tell me where Master is hiding with the divine treasures?"

Chapter 1776 Chapter 1776. Brother

Linda just stared at John in silence.

"Okay, then," John said. He lifted the Mind Breaker to put it on her head.

"Wait! No need to use that thing! He is at World Throne," Linda exclaimed.

"Hm...", John looked at the Mind Breaker. He wasn't expecting such a reaction from his mother.

"What is he doing there?" John asked. "He should already know that we will be coming for him. He couldn't be hoping to face our armies with only his puny guild army now, could he?"

"I don't know. I didn't plan for us to lose this war," Linda answered. "With the arrival of Azzarilth's brood, we should still be able to turn the battle around in our favor."

"But Master decided to bail once he got the divine treasures," John uttered.

"..." Linda was silent at that statement.

"He bailed on you, didn't he?" John said. "He should have known you were captured once he lost contact with you, but he didn't care. That is the lord you are serving. He doesn't care about his underling. You are only precious to him if you are useful. Once your service is no longer needed, you are no longer important. That is the person you give your loyalty to. Tell me, mother. Is it worth it?"

"Gloat all you want. The winner will always have the right."

"You are not wrong. Let me ask you again. What does Master plan at World Throne?"

"I've told you that I don't know!" Linda exclaimed. "He simply said that if anything goes sideways, he still has a countermeasure at the guild headquarters. When I asked him what kind of countermeasure, he didn't tell me. He doesn't truly trust anyone, even me."

"... Okay, I believe you. Let me ask you a different question. What happens to Goddess of Joy's divine heritage Master stole from the Council of Charites?"

"He crafted another Godkiller using that divine heritage," Linda answered.

"Godkiller?" John massaged his chin. "I expected him to use it for an unknown secret, but I guess I was wrong. What does he need a Godkiller for? The Gods have all gone into seclusion after that incident with Hope. Also, he could only kill one God using that. Does he prepare the Godkiller to defend against Fear? Fear must have held a grudge against him. I mean, Fear got trashed by Hope because of him."

"Maybe. I don't know. He never told me what that Godkiller is for. He just said it is for a contingency. Against which God, he didn't say. As I said, he never truly trusts me."

"I see," John remarked. He brought the Mind Breaker to Linda's head.

"Hold on! I've already told you everything I know!" Linda exclaimed as she flinched away.

"I believe you, but I also know you are hiding something. Otherwise, you won't be so scared of this," John said. He summoned his dirt golems to hold Linda and stop her from struggling.

"You can't do this to me!" Linda yelled.

"I can't? Watch me," John said and put the Mind Breaker on her head.

Once he did, the legendary artifact did its magic. She quieted down at once. She just stared forward with a blank look.

"Hehe. I don't think I will ever get tired of using this artifact," John chuckled. "All right. First question. Are you telling the truth of all the things we spoke about just now?"

"Yes," Linda answered flatly without changing her expression.

"You might not know what Master is planning at World Throne, but do you have any idea or suspicion on how he plans to defend himself there?"

"No, I have no idea. I believed the defense at Dritzut is our last chance to win this war."

"Hm...", John thought about asking for the details of World Throne's defenses. The number of guild soldiers, traps, and defensive structures at the headquarters. Linda might not know Master's secret plan but she should be aware of those details. However, the mind breaker's duration was only one minute. Getting all the details might need several sessions of interrogation. Before asking for those details, he was interested in knowing about another matter.

"Why are you afraid when I want to use this mind breaker on you? What secret are you hiding?" John asked.

"I'm afraid that you will find out the real reason I joined Master's side."

Linda's answer caused John to lift his brows in surprise.

"What is your real reason for joining Master?" John asked.

"I joined Master to save your brother," Linda answered.

This answer caused his brows to lift higher.

"I don't have a brother," John said.

"You do. You just don't know about him. I was pregnant when I left your father, your sister, and you. I didn't know at the time. I just found out after I left."

"I must say that was some poetic justice. You left so you could be freed from familial responsibilities, only to find that you had another one in your belly. I am surprised you didn't abort that poor child."

"I almost did, but I ended up giving birth to him and brought him up all by myself."

"Lucky him then. What is his name?" John asked.

"Jonn," Linda answered.

"I must applaud your creativity in choosing a name," John remarked. "What does he have to do with Master?"

"Jonn was gone one day. Master showed up and told me that he had Jonn. If I am to see Jonn again, I must help him."

"So, he targeted you?" John asked.

"He knew of my expertise as the military advisor to the government. He wanted to make use of it," Linda answered.

"You should have told me this. I could have helped you rescue him."

"To rescue him, we need to know where he is first. During my service to Master, I search for him in secret. I've searched every hideout the World Maker and its allies had, but I can't find him."

"Maybe because he doesn't have him. When the world turned, everyone was sent to a random tutorial space. He could have turned up somewhere. You should have made use of the Missing Outworlders Coordination Center. That organization is very good at finding missing people."

"I have. They also can't find any clue of Jonn's whereabouts."

"Hm... Then perhaps..." John stopped speaking because the mind breaker ran out of duration.

"What did I tell you?" Linda asked after she regained consciousness.

Chapter 1777 Chapter 1777. War Report

"Nothing much. Just that I apparently have a brother," John answered.

Linda frowned. She said, "Don't tell this to anyone. Master warned me that if anyone else knows about Jonn, I will never see him again."

"Not my problem. Considering you ditched me and Diana. I don't see why I should protect your favorite child," John said.

"I'm sorry. Please! I beg you. I left because I couldn't stand all the pressures of having to be a perfect mom. Not a single day that I don't think of you and your sister!"

"Yeah, right," John said sarcastically.

"I'm telling the truth... Please, you can't let your brother come to harm," Linda pleaded John while sobbing.

John couldn't believe the woman before him was his mother. He didn't remember ever seeing his mother cry, even when she was still living with them.

"I'm just joking. I'm not an inconsiderate person who let my brother die," John said.

"You are not...?"

"Well, I am, but I'm serious about not letting Jonn die. I'm curious about what kind of a boy he is to gain your affection where I've failed. I will help you save him. But if you can't find his whereabouts even after being so close to Master all this time, I think it is safe to assume that he does not have him."

"Then where is Jonn?" Linda asked.

John shrugged. "I am the royal advisor of a main country. I'm sure I can mobilize the country's resources to search for one person. That is, of course, considering we put an end to Master and World Maker first. Otherwise, I can't put those resources for private needs."

"You will do that for me?" Linda asked.

"Not for you. For Jonn. I think he deserves better. I can't imagine he had a comfortable life with you as a mother," John said.

"Mock me all you want. But if you can save him, I will be forever in your debt," Linda said.

John sighed. "Well, then I want you to help me defeat World Maker first. I know you are telling the truth about not knowing Master's plan, but you should know the details of his headquarters' defenses. Lay them all out, please. Remember, I can use the Mind Breaker on you again. I will find out sooner or later. I prefer sooner with your cooperation."

Linda nodded. John gave him some papers to write down all those details.

*

Later that night before John retired to a prepared chamber inside Dritzuut palace, he finally received the report of the war's outcome.

They didn't lose too many soldiers during the siege because of their superiority. Only after Azzarilth's brood arrived that they were having difficulty. Out of Themisphere's 1,300,000 soldiers, a million remained. Palgrost's 300,000 soldiers were reduced to 100,000. Hydrurond's 100,000 troops were almost wiped out. Only several thousand remained. Aurebor's troops were still 400,000-strong. As for Verremor, they had around 200,000 soldiers left in the field.

The one who had the most troops in the Allied forces was the Sangrod Empire. They were still 1,200,000 troops-strong.

In total, the Allied forces numbered 2,900,000 troops.

As for the players on their side, a bit over one million survived the battle. Most of these survivors didn't stay with the Allied forces. After Liguritutum was conquered, the war was officially over. These players could go back to their respective countries and cash in their war contribution points. Some of these players chose to do that later, they went around Liguritutum hunting the obsidian dragons and the beholders that scattered after the war. Those monsters were good sources for exp points and loot.

A small portion of players stayed with the Allied forces. These players were mostly members of guilds with the same objective as the Allied forces. They wanted to stomp out the World Maker and erase this threat once and for all.

From the enemy's side, all the zombie troops were destroyed. Since Master fled the battlefield, he didn't resurrect any fallen soldier to form another zombie army.

None of the Liguritutum soldiers followed Master since he left the battlefield without announcing his departure. He wouldn't have any Liguritutum soldiers defending his guild headquarters. Out of Liguritutum soldiers who survived, 200,000 surrendered and were now under Themisphere's command. The rest of the surviving soldiers fled and scattered. These soldiers most likely became outlaws in the wilderness, providing the adventuring players with another source of exp points and loot.

After studying the information, John was sure they should be able to crush World Throne without any difficulty. No matter what defensive mechanism World Maker's headquarters possessed, they wouldn't be able to defend against the Allied armies. Their guild army didn't surpass 100,000 when they summoned it during the siege battle, and they had lost a substantial number during the battle. Even if they could miraculously replenish their number in such a short time, they would still be far from enough to halt the Allied forces' advance.

He believed his mother was telling the truth about Master making his last stand at the World Throne, but Master could have lied to her. She did say that Master didn't completely trust her. Probably this was misinformation Master told his subordinates in case he lost the war in Dritzuut, to buy him time so the Allied forces wasted their time at World Throne.

John believed this would be the case. All the information pointed out that it was futile to remain at World Throne knowing the forces that would be heading over there. Only a fool would hide there, and Master was no fool. Nevertheless, they still needed to invade World Throne because that was the only place most likely to have the clues regarding Master's hiding place.

With that thought, John went to sleep.

The reorganization of the armies was completed the next day. They could depart then, but John decided to wait another day. Partly because there were still many issues to discuss with the native officers he elected the previous day. The other reason was because Jack still hadn't woken up.

He preferred to have Jack present when they marched to World Throne. But if Jack still didn't wake up by tomorrow, he would wait no longer.

Chapter 1778 Chapter 1778. Send Off

At noon the second day after the Allied forces defeated the Liguritudum army, John was on the mobile fortress overlooking the combined armies. They were ready to depart. He just had a meeting inside this mobile fortress with the country leaders and guild leaders to coordinate their march. These leaders went back to their respective groups to carry out the arrangements.

John saw Grace fly over.

"He is not yet awake?" John asked after Grace landed.

Grace shook her head. "I will be staying here with him," she said.

"I expected as much," John said. "A message would have sufficed. There is no need for you to fly over here."

"She is here to send us off, you insensitive man," Jeanny said to John. To Grace, she said, "Take care of him, and don't worry about us."

"Yeah! Six countries against one guild. This will be like crushing a bug!" Paytowin exclaimed.

Grace chuckled. "Don't get too cocky," she said.

"For all we know, the headquarters could be empty," Four Winds said.

"That's right," John agreed. "But we still have to destroy their base of power. Once we do that, we will spread our forces out to search for Master's whereabouts. We have three months to do that before Master fused with all the divine treasures."

"I doubt everyone will be on board with this," Four Winds said. He was referring to the forces from the other countries.

"Yeah, the agreement is for us to defeat Liguritutum and crush the World Maker. If Master goes into hiding, I doubt other countries will spare their resources to join this hunt. I will say that includes you," John said while looking at Four Winds.

"You are correct," Four Winds nodded. "I'm just a temporary grand chief. After we destroy World Throne, I need to go back to Verremor and go through the grand election tourney before securing the position. Once I am the official grand chief, I can use Verremor's resources to help with the search."

"I understand. I guess it will only be Themisphere's force who do the searching first," John said.

"Don't forget about the guilds! If it is about searching, I daresay we players are better executors!" Manager Steelhand declared. He, Scarface, and several other prominent guild members remained here in case John made any last-minute adjustment to their march.

"Don't worry. Of course, I won't forget to use all of you to the fullest," John announced.

"Do you have to go bootlicking?" Scarface chided Steelhand.

"Ugh...", Steelhand felt like hiding his head in the sand.

"I will also stay behind," Domon said to everyone.

"Master?" Leavemealone asked.

"You go with them," Domon told Leavemealone. "I know you have a score to settle with those who kidnapped you. I want to be here looking after my grandson."

Looking after Jack was one reason, but the other reason was again because their forces were way more than the enemy's. He had no interest in fighting a battle where his side seemed like the bully.

Leavemealone nodded. He did have a score to settle with Master. One of them was taking back his Fire God Blessing.

"What about you?" Domon turned to Wong.

"I will go with this army," Wong answered. "I also have a score to settle with Master. He has lied to me. He used both me and Long. I won't let him go."

"If you are talking about a score to settle, I think I am the most qualified," Spring Crown said.

After the Allied forces conquered Dritzaut, they swept through the capital and the palace to search for enemies, in case some were still hiding. When they went through the jails, they found Spring Crown, who was still in the process of being tortured by a couple of players.

Master hired the two players to torture Spring Crown, to make Spring Crown regret double-crossing him. Those two were psychos who enjoyed torturing people in the past world. The two had been so absorbed in their job that they weren't aware that the capital was under attack until Jeanny and the soldiers barged through the door.

Spring Crown was released. He took no time to kill his two torturers once he was freed of the runic rope binding him.

Jeanny ordered the soldiers to go to the rebirth plaza to capture the two torturers. She didn't like the idea of letting two known psychos roam this world. Luckily, those two were registered in this capital so they appeared there after being killed.

Under Jeanny's instruction, the two torturers were brought outside the capital wall before being killed again. After half an hour, the two reappeared at the rebirth plaza. They were back to level 1. After that, they were thrown into the jail.

Spring Crown thanked Jeanny with a wide smile for saving him. Seeing his cheery face, Jeanny said, "If only looking at your face, I won't believe you were just through torture."

"Lady, this is my angry face," Spring Crown replied, maintaining his smile.

He had the same smile now as he thought about going after Master with this huge army. "Wait till I lay my hands on that bastard," he said, before turning to Wong. "Never thought we would work together again."

Wong grunted at the comment. He never liked Spring Crown from the start.

To Domon, Spring Crown said, "I thought we would finally have the chance to fight together. You sure you don't want to come?"

Domon chuckled. "I will leave the excitement to you, young people." He then turned to Wong with a lifted fist. "Let's spar again when you return."

"Heh," Wong tapped Domon's fist with his own.

"Good luck," Grace said to everyone. She did a fist bump with Paytowin before coming to Domon.

"Let me give you a lift," She said to Domon. Domon didn't have wings tool so he couldn't fly.

"Uh... I think I will just walk," Domon said. Being carried by Grace in front of everyone would be rather embarrassing.

Paytowin understood Domon's reason. He summoned Brave King.

"Master Domon, my techno golem can carry you on his back. He will send you back to the palace," Paytowin offered.

"Won't you need it?" Domon asked.

"Don't worry. It is linked to me. It will automatically return to me if it is too far, but it should be able to bring you to the palace before we march too far."

"Okay then," Domon said. The palace was indeed rather far if he had to return by walking.

Brave King squatted to let Domon piggyback it.

"Goodbye," Grace said as she spread her wings. She then flew away accompanied by Brave King and Domon.

Chapter 1779 Chapter 1779. Quiet

After the two left, John signaled the Allied forces to depart. Without Jack's runestone of marching, it should take these armies around five days to arrive at World Throne.

He also sent a message to Water Lily, who was now the commander of the Allied navies. They only lost a few ships during the battle against the frogman pirates, so their armada was still imposing. These ships now sailed out of the lake into the large river that branched to all over the country.

Similar to Heavenly Citadel, World Throne's territory also had a lake. This lake also connected to the river, so the Allied navies could sail their ships there.

John believed the Allied forces were more than enough to handle whatever defensive measures Master prepared at World Throne. That was considering if Master was truly there. However, he still thought it was better to bring the navies, just in case. They were too close to victory to be careless.

*

Grace looked back at the departing armies.

"You know, you can go with them if you want. I can look after Jack by myself," Domon said as she and Brave King flew side-by-side.

"No, I want to make sure Jack is okay," Grace said.

"My grandson is lucky to have you," Domon said, which caused Grace's cheeks to redden.

"I heard you taught Jack and Red Death when they were little. What were they like then?" Grace asked.

"You mean Cleo? Do you want to know what they were like, or how close they were?" Domon teased, which caused the redness on Grace's cheeks to turn up another notch.

Domon chuckled. "Don't worry about them. Cleo has more interest in martial arts than my grandson. Her seeming interest in Jack is simply because she wants to defeat him."

"Really?" Grace then remembered Jet once told her about Domon's relationship with Murong. She guessed she shouldn't put much trust in Domon's judgment about someone's feelings.

"Cleo is a good girl, even if she is too serious sometimes. But to be frank, I prefer if Jack is with you than her."

"I... I will go ahead," Grace said and increased her flight speed. She was afraid Domon would notice her face, which she believed should have become too red.

*

After Domon landed on Dritzuut palace's roof, Brave King turned back into a small metallic ball and vanished. Domon just shrugged at the scene. He went down with Grace to the royal chamber where Jack was resting.

The door to the chamber was guarded by two level 80 rare elite native soldiers. They saluted Grace and Domon when the two arrived and opened the door for them. They passed a foyer after going through the door before coming to the bedchamber. When they did, they were surprised to find someone they didn't know sitting beside the still-sleeping Jack.

"Hello," Peniel greeted Grace and Domon.

"Who... Who is she?" Grace asked Peniel, indicating the girl who sat beside Jack. She remembered telling the guards outside not to let anyone enter except for a few selected people from their guild.

"She is... Do you remember the guild member who helped Jack when he was trapped inside evil Janus' secret dimension?"

Grace was using her Inspect when she asked Peniel the question.

"Quiet...?"

The girl sitting by the bed turned when her name was called. She looked like a young girl in her twenties. She had an average face but her skin was very smooth and clean. She had short green hair and a pair of blue eyes.

Quiet rose and gave Grace and Domon a polite nod for a greeting.

"I thought you didn't join this war campaign? Why are you here?" Grace asked.

"I apologize for coming here uninvited," Quiet answered. "I was in a nearby area due to my quest. I came after the battle ended to see if there was anything I could help with. That was when I received the news that one of our guild leaders is in comatose. I came here to see if I could help him using my spells. Unfortunately, I can't."

"That's nice of you, miss," Domon said. "But Grace and Peniel here are among our top healers. Even they couldn't wake my grandson, so there is no need to feel bad about it. We appreciate your effort."

"I understand. It's just that I know a thing or two about curses. I thought our leader might have been under a curse, so I came."

"Is he under a curse?" Grace asked.

Quiet shook her head. She said, "He is simply resting. He might have done something that caused his body extreme exhaustion, but I'm certain he is not in any danger. He will wake up eventually."

"Do you know when that will happen?"

Quiet again shook her head. "Unfortunately, no."

"As long as he is not in danger, then it's okay," Domon said. "I say let him rest. He had been too busy all this time."

"Well, since there is nothing I can do, please allow me to excuse myself," Quiet said.

"Forgive me, but we haven't thanked you for saving Jack when he was trapped in the Order of Magi," Grace said.

Quiet smiled at the gesture. "There is no need to. It is only right for a guild member to help her fellow members."

"But how did you know he was trapped in there?" Grace asked.

"I have a friend who is a member of that faction. He secretly found out about Jack and informed me about it. Since everyone had gone to the convention, I tried finding help from outside the guild. I'm glad that everything works out in the end."

"That is very kind of you, miss. I represent my grandson to thank you for what you've done," Domon said and made a polite bow.

"As I said, there is no need to. I was simply doing what was my responsibility. Now, if you will excuse me," Quiet said and walked toward the exit.

Once Quiet was out of the door, Domon said, "She is no normal person."

Chapter 1780 Chapter 1780. Preparation Against the Allied Forces

"Oh? What do you mean? I think she is nice," Peniel said. "I feel comfortable around her."

"I can't sense any mana from her," Domon said.

"Really? Well, my mana sense is not as developed as you, outworlders, so I can't tell," Peniel said.

"It's not only mana sense, even my mana perception can't see her mana. It is as if a veil is surrounding her," Grace added. "I think I know who she is."

"Who she is? Isn't she one of our guild members?" Domon asked.

"She is more than our guild member. I know only one person who can block my mana perception like she did. I originally wanted to bring Jack to him if

Jack still doesn't wake up, but if Quiet can't do anything to wake Jack up, he can't as well."

"Well, I don't really get what you are saying. But as long as Jack isn't in danger, then I say we just let him rest," Domon said.

Grace nodded. She took the seat next to Jack's bed.

"I hope he doesn't take too long to wake up," she said. "If he wakes up after Broidrireg passes, I don't think he will forgive himself."

"Hm... Let's hope it doesn't come to that," Domon agreed. "I don't know that dragon well enough, but I know he is close to Jack. Yes, he will feel truly bad if he doesn't get to say his farewell."

*

Inside World Throne, Master walked out from the portal of his guild's legacy dungeon. Motherboard was there waiting for him.

"How is it, my lord?" Motherboard asked.

Master answered by turning into a lightning being. Motherboard had to retreat a few steps from the pressure.

"Congratulations, my lord, for upgrading the Lightning God Blessing to its peak state," Motherboard commended.

Master had fused with Lightning God Sphere the second he returned to World Throne after leaving the battle in Dritzuut. He had been using their guild's multiple legacy dungeons to feed the Lightning God Blessing with the exp points it required for leveling up. As for the magic crystals, divine gems, and divine crystals required for the upgrade, he had accumulated plenty of them.

"Three more, and I will gain everything!" Master declared. Once he fused with the remaining divine treasures, he would gain power equivalent to a God. If everything went as planned, that would be three months from now.

Master felt very satisfied after fully upgrading the Lightning God Blessing. He was admiring himself which was still in lightning form. When he noticed that Motherboard was having trouble approaching due to the lightning sparks he generated, he deactivated the Lightning God Incarnation and reverted to himself.

Logically, Master should have fused with the Book of Creation first. That divine treasure gave him the ability to multiply rare items using mana cores, a resource that he had plenty of. But he picked the Lightning God Sphere as the first divine treasure to fuse simply out of sentiment.

With the Lightning God Blessing inside him, it was the same as a statement that he had permanently taken the strongest power of his nemesis. In his mind, he always convinced himself that no one was his worthy opponent. But subconsciously, he knew that the biggest threat to his goal was Jack. By making Jack's divine power his, this was a statement of his victory.

"How is the Allied forces' movement?" Master asked Motherboard who could now approach.

"Reporting, my lord. They left Dritz uut four days ago. From our scouts' estimation, they should arrive here in one day," Motherboard reported.

"I see... I guess it's time," Master muttered.

"It's time... Is it the time for us to leave this place, my lord?" Motherboard asked.

Master turned to her. He could see the worry in her expression. A force that would overwhelm their tiny headquarters would arrive tomorrow. How could she not worry? The only way out that she could think of was to leave and go into hiding. They could return once Master finished fusing with the rest of the divine treasures and became a God.

Master grinned when he saw her like that. He asked, "Do you think we should flee?"

"I... Do you have a different plan, my lord?" She asked in return. She didn't want to take the chance of giving a wrong answer.

Master's grin became wider. "I will just show you," he said. "But before that, call Mistress and Sizhad. Have them gather a squad of our able combatants. We will need to fight some natives."

Motherboard didn't truly understand but she was used to carrying out Master's instructions without asking questions. She went away and gathered the people.

*

Around two hours later, the gathered squad waited at the main square of the headquarters. Aside from Motherboard, Mistress, and Sizhad, there were Ronald, the last heavenly enforcer, GraphicZ, Soundeffect, Lead Designer, Axelmax, Serviceman, Giddo, White Death, and several other experts from World Maker, World Ruler, State of Galhana, and Death Associates. They numbered forty people. Everyone was wondering what Master was planning with this small team.

Master flew over after receiving a message from Motherboard that the squad had been assembled.

"Where are we going?" Mistress asked.

"Are we finally preparing for the enemies that were on their way here?" Sizhad asked.

It was his underlings who scouted the Allied forces' advance. He had been asking Master what should they do to prepare for the enemy's arrival. As someone with military experience, he was not used to just sitting around and doing nothing when he knew the enemies were coming. Yet, Master just asked him to continue monitoring the enemy's movements and to simply inform him when the enemies were close.

This seemingly idle approach displeased Sizhad, but he was already in this too deep. He just hoped his gamble paid off and Master did have something to turn this around.

Master grinned at the question.

"We are preparing, all right," Master said. "We will give those fools who think they can defeat me a very big surprise. We are going to give them hell!"