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Chapter 1811 1811. On the House

Jack closed his eyes. "Hm... I see. I didn't sense it the last time due to the heat of the battle, but this state is burning the mana. The mana is like fuel that gives me immense power, but it is not infinite. Once I burn up the mana from my surroundings, I can only burn my own mana. When that happens, I will drain myself. This means I have to end the mana awakening before that happens. Otherwise, I will experience another blackout."

Jack then took a seat. He closed his eyes again and remained like that for a while. Grace and the others just watched him in silence. Schreber didn't know what to think about the situation. Normally, people came to him to have him help them achieve mental changes. This was the first time he helped someone undergo a physical change.

After a few minutes, Jack opened his eyes and stood up again. He held his two arms apart. The multicolor aura extended from his arms and formed what looked like swords. His two hands then moved with imperceptible speed.

"Huh?" Schreber didn't see anything, but he felt as if a gust had suddenly blown inside his office, except there was no wind. Nothing was flying. The paper on his desk was still nicely stacked.

Schreber might not have seen anything but Grace did. Her mana perception showed her countless slashes flashing all over the room. Each slash was performed accurately. Not a single slash touched an object inside the room. Otherwise, everything in the room would have been cut apart.

Jack's arms stopped moving.

"The final phase of formless flowing sword style?" Grace asked.

"Yes," Jack replied. Schreber had no idea what they were talking about.

After that, the multicolor aura around Jack disappeared.

"You can end the mana awakening at will?" Peniel asked.

"Yes, it's not that difficult. The difficult part is to get into the state," Jack answered. "I've used the time just now to study what was going on inside me. Grace, what did you see when I entered mana awakening?"

Grace explained to Jack what she saw through her mana perception.

"So, that matches my hypothesis. The mana didn't fuse with me out of their own will. I reached out and had my mana blend with them, just like when I infiltrated the Chalice of Blood. From there, they were drawn to me."

Jack closed his eyes again after speaking. He remained that way for a while. When he opened his eyes again, he sighed. "I can't get back into the mana awakening state at will."

"I don't truly understand what is going on, but do you still need my help?" Schreber asked.

"Yes, I have a few questions if you don't mind, doctor," Jack said. "Is there any way to speed up the hypnotherapy session? Does it always have to be that long for me to get into the empty state?"

"Well, every person is different about how susceptible they are to hypnotherapy. Some people might need more than half an hour. Some only need five to ten minutes."

"So, not possible to be any faster than that?" Jack asked.

"I don't know what you are gunning for, Your Majesty. Hypnotherapy is not an exact science. It depends very much on the circumstances. Even with the same subject, the process can be different depending on the subject's state of mind and the surroundings."

"Hm... Is self-hypnosis possible? Can I learn it?"

"Yes, self-hypnosis is possible, and anyone can learn it."

"How long will it take for me to learn?"

"That is another ambiguous question, Your Majesty. I can't truly answer that because it's different for everyone. Learning it requires special talent. Some might take weeks. Some might take years. Some fail to learn even after giving their all."

"I see... That is not the solution I'm looking for," Jack muttered.

"I'm sorry I can't be of more help," Schreber said.

"It's not your fault, doctor. You've already helped me enough and I'm grateful for that. I'm sorry I've taken so much of your time. How many coins do I owe you?" Jack asked.

"That's fine. It's on the house. Now, I can brag about my office being the one Your Majesty visits. It should bring me more customers."

"Are you sure?" Jack asked. "I don't mind paying."

"I insist!" Schreber answered.

"In that case, I thank you."

"If you need any more help, don't hesitate to come again. Though, I prefer if you come to seek my help for a mental problem."

"I hope I never have one. But if I do, you will be the one I come to," Jack said. "Thank you again. I will take my leave now."

"Be well, Your Majesty," Schreber replied.

After Jack and Grace went out the door, Schreber yelled, "Next!"

His receptionist came in and said that there were currently no patients outside.

"Didn't you say there should be three more?" Schreber asked.

"Uh... They left not long after the king entered this office," the receptionist answered.

"Huh...?"

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"Why did you ask about self-hypnosis?" Grace asked after they were out of the building.

"Because it will be impossible if I have to bring the doctor with me everywhere I go," Jack answered. "If I can learn how to do hypnosis myself, I can get myself into the empty state."

"But you still need a long time to get into that state. It's impossible to do it during battle," Peniel said.

"That's right, but I have the Double Clone spell," Jack answered. "I can have my clones fight while my real self goes into hiding after casting invisibility. I can then slowly get myself into an empty state with self-hypnosis."

"I see. That is one solution," Grace agreed.

"But if what the doctor said is true, it takes too long time to learn. I don't have that kind of time. We need to depart soon to Chris' secret location."

"We can ask the doctor to come to the Space-time Chamber and teach you for three days. It equals thirty days inside," Grace suggested.

Jack shook his head. "The doctor said it might take years and there is also no guarantee if I can ever learn it. Honestly, I don't think I have the talent for this sort of thing. I don't want to waste my time. We need something else for a solution."

Chapter 1812 1812. The Peak of Sword's Heart

"So, we have wasted our time seeing that doctor?" Peniel stated.

"Not really," Jack replied. "Now, we know for sure I can activate mana awakening as long as I enter the empty mind state. We just need more instant means of getting me into that state. Say, do you know a sure way for me to learn the Mind-dooming Gaze?"

"Don't be ridiculous. That skill is the same rarity as the Void Displacement Eye. You can only depend on luck to get it. Plus, Mind-dooming Gaze only affects someone ten levels lower than the user. Even if you can find the technique book, where can you find someone ten levels higher than you who can learn that skill and is willing to follow you everywhere?"

"Since it is so, do you know any other skills or spells that produce a similar effect without the level restriction?" Jack asked.

"Hm...", Peniel gave the question some thought. "I can think of one. It is very rare, though. Your chance of getting it is worse than getting the Mind-dooming Gaze or another Void Displacement Eye."

"Sigh... So, it's all down to luck, eh? Well, I can always count on luck. Guess I will just have to leave it to fate for now."

"Are you going to do the faction's challenges?" Grace asked Jack.

"No, it is late already. I will do it after we finish the legacy dungeon. I will go back to rest. What about you?"

"I will go to help out in the Healer Society. I want to get faction points to gain more healing spells," Grace said.

"Okay. Don't stay up too late. We need to be at our best tomorrow for the ancient battleground legacy dungeon. Its cooldown is five days. If we fail to kill the herald tomorrow, we won't be able to enter another time until we return from our trip to Chris' secret location."

"Don't worry. I will only spend a couple of hours there."

"Give Andrea my regards if you meet her," Jack said.

"Will do," Grace replied.

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After returning to the palace, Jack learned that the three players he met earlier had applied to work in the palace. All three started working immediately today. Jack went over to say hi to them before retiring to his royal chamber.

There was a large foyer in his royal chamber. This foyer used to serve as a room where the king treated his private guests. Jack had this foyer cleared out of all the furniture and turned it into a training room. He was now training in this room.

He was training his formless flowing sword style. During the first time when he was in the mana awakening state, he successfully performed the final phase of his sword art. However, after waking up from his slumber, he learned he couldn't do it again. Without mana awakening, his sword art was back to its third phase.

He had tried repeatedly while trying to grasp the feeling when he was using the final phase of his sword art under mana awakening, but he never succeeded.

Earlier today when he was in Schreiber's office, he executed formless flowing sword style. He did that to capture the essence of his sword art's final phase. To understand its mechanics. Now, while the sensations were still fresh, he tried replicating it.

However, he couldn't repeat what he had done earlier. He was frustrated by this failure. It was as if an insurmountable wall he couldn't scale separated him from the final phase of his sword art.

As he continued to train, he heard knocking on his door. He opened it and found Domon was there.

"I heard the sound of your training," Domon said. "You should get some rest. Aren't we going to defeat the herald inside the ancient battleground tomorrow? If we fail to do it because you are too tired, we will not have another chance for quite some time."

Jack smiled wryly. Wasn't this the advice he gave Grace earlier?

"You are right, gramps. I will rest now... Hey, gramps!"

"Hm...?" Domon was about to leave when Jack called.

"The final phase of the formless flowing sword style, what's the secret? Don't give me those 'you should learn it by yourself' crap."

"I don't know," Domon answered.

"Didn't I just tell you not to give me that crap?"

"I'm serious. I don't know because I myself haven't mastered the final phase. In fact, no one has ever mastered it."

"Huh? Are you kidding me? If no one has ever mastered it, how does one know it exists in the first place?"

"It was envisioned by the creator of the sword art. The grandmaster who created this sword art visualized this technique until the fourth phase, but he could only actualize the third phase. The fourth and final phase remained forever in his mind. It is never brought forth to reality. For this reason, the fourth phase is considered a myth among sword practitioners. Like you said, if no one has ever used it, how can it be considered real?"

For Jack, it was real because he had performed it. Except he could only do it while under the mana awakening state.

Domon continued, "For your information, the creator of the Formless Flowing Sword Style is the creator of another technique with the final phase also considered a myth. A technique which you've learned."

"Oh? What technique is that?" Jack asked.

"The Sword's Heart," Domon answered. "The sword's heart is a sword technique where its peak mastery is never attained, even by its creator. Like the formless flowing sword style, its peak state only existed in the creator's mind."

"Some creator that grandmaster was, inventing a bunch of imaginary arts."

"The most gifted creators are largely like that," Domon said with a shrug. "Some martial experts theorized that the creator of the Formless Flowing Sword Style created the Sword's Heart to help him attain the sword art's final phase. Unfortunately, the creator also couldn't master the sword's heart to its peak mastery. Hence, the theory was never realized."

"The sword's heart?" Jack came to a realization. "I see..."

"Hm? What do you see?" Domon asked.

"Never mind, I think I understand now. I'm going to rest. You should rest too," Jack said.

"Of course, I'm returning to my room now. See you tomorrow then," Domon said.

"See you," Jack returned and closed his door.

He didn't continue his training. He knew now that it was futile. The secret of the formless flowing sword style was indeed the sword's heart. During the mana awakening state, he achieved a state of clearness and focus unlike any he had ever experienced.

The sword's heart was a state of mind. During mana awakening, this focus propelled his sword's heart to its peak condition. That's how he was able to execute the final phase of his formless flowing sword style and even controlled it to such precision that his lightning-fast slashes didn't hit a single thing inside Schreiber's office.

Chapter 1813 1813. Cutting Through Directly

The next day, the ten people who previously entered the ancient battleground legacy dungeon together gathered again. These ten were Jack, Jeanny, John, Paytown, Grace, Leavemealone, Domon, Jet, Fierce Flame, and Giant Steve. After having a brief discussion, the ten entered the legacy dungeon.

At this stage, all their levels were above or the same as the Herald of Greed who was a level 80 eternal grade. Grace was level 84. Fierce Flame was level 83. Paytown, Jet, Giant Steve, and John were level 82. Domon was level 81. Jeanny and Leavemealone were level 80.

Their expertise had also increased since the last time they visited this ancient battleground. This time, they didn't stay behind during the first phase like before. They charged out with Jack, killing as many of Greed's black soldiers as possible.

Jack no longer had the skills from Divine God Blessing, but his current prowess and other skills still allowed him to kill as many of the black soldiers as the last time, if not more.

Since he had Reset, he didn't save the newly gained Sphere of Tiamat. The orb of purple flames appeared around his body when the skill activated. Any melee enemies who tried to attack him had their attacks blocked by the sphere.

When Azzarilth used the Sphere of Svalinn, she still received damage from attacks even if the damage was greatly reduced. This meant the Sphere of Svalinn only absorbed a portion of the damage. This was the same even after Azzarilth fused her chaos armor with her Sphere of Svalinn.

As for Jack's Sphere of Tiamat, it was a modified version granted by the seed of chaos. The chaos element was not only inherent, but the sphere also absorbed all damage directed at Jack. This meant Jack was invulnerable for as long as the sphere existed.

He also felt himself become stronger and faster. He zoomed forward. He caused damage to the enemies simply by bumping into them. The sphere dealt chaos damage to all enemies it touched.

Following around the sphere were flashes of sword lights. Jack was executing his sword art while moving. He also used Soul Asura, Dances of the Braves, and Phantom Blade. The multiple swords danced around him blindingly fast yet none of them clashed with each other. Every slash was executed with expert precision.

Even though Jack couldn't use the final phase of the formless flowing sword style, his sword art still improved. The sensations he had gotten from using the final phase during his mana awakening state let him achieve this small breakthrough. However, his real breakthrough after re-experiencing the sensation was his sword's heart. He was at the advanced stage already. This technique gave him better control and precision over his swords.

With the Sphere of Tiamat and sword art combo, Jack was as if a circular saw with many blades going through a pile of meat, cutting through everything he passed.

Therras and Spark were running along with him. Jack didn't use the Elevate Beast yet, just in case he needed to use it twice when fighting the Herald.

Jeanny and the others didn't use their big skills. They were saving those since they didn't have Reset like Jack, but they were not in trouble even without using those big skills. They stayed close to one another and worked with John at the center. He instructed them in a formation and they coordinated with his normal summons. This allowed them to survive without any trouble even by relying only on standard attacks and weak skills.

After leaving a sea of dead bodies, the time for the second phase finally arrived. This time, they didn't go through the secret path following the golden knights. Ever since they advanced when the battle started, they had been working their way to where the Herald and the supply carts were. They cut through the enemy army directly to their command base.

By the time the golden knights emerged from the secret path, they punched through the enemy army's back line and reached the area with the supply carts opposite from where the golden knights emerged from. Even though they did that in the open, the army didn't chase after them. The black soldiers just continued charging forward to defeat the pass. Most of the enemy army's movements were scripted, hence the black soldiers acted as if they didn't see Jack's team cutting through them and attacking their command base.

The Herald of Greed and his bodyguards also didn't act any differently. The herald remained seated while his bodyguards engaged the golden knights. No one came to Jack's team that was approaching the supply carts from the opposite direction.

The last time, a few enemies were guarding the supply carts. This gave them minor disruptions during their effort to destroy the supply carts. Currently, these few guards were also slowly making their way to the golden knights, they completely ignored Jack's team who came from the opposite side. Jack and the others were truly free to deal with the supply carts this time.

With that luxury, they went on to destroy the supply carts. The arrangement was the same as last time. The five with Hope's Sanctification only destroyed a certain number before they helped those without to destroy more supply carts.

After some time, they saw the Herald standing up. Jack signaled the others to gather. They advanced together until they saw the Herald starting to cast a spell. Jack used his Elemental God Barrier then, followed by them uniting their Hope's Sanctification onto John. John fired Hope's Light at the unsuspecting Herald of Greed.

After firing Hope's Light, Jack cast superior acceleration, for himself, Jeanny, and three other random targets. Jeanny used the increased speed to use her rune technique, Divine Dragon Spear, while Jack used it to cast the mega spell bestowed by Broidrireg, Wrath of the Ancient Dragons.

When the Hell Inferno was over, Jack's mega spell and Jeanny's rune technique were completed. Jack's spell conjured seven gigantic eastern dragons with seven different colors based on their elements. Each of the dragons possessed one of the elements. Light, dark, fire, ice, wind, earth, and lightning. Together with Jeanny's golden dragons, the multicolor dragons rushed toward the ball of light that engulfed the herald.

Chapter 1814 1814. Conquering the Ancient Battleground

When Hope's Light started to dissipate, Jack and Jeanny were ready to control their dragons to change direction following the herald. The dragons from their rune technique and mega spell had their own targeting system. They would home in on the enemy even if they were not controlled. But by exerting control, Jack and Jeanny could add feints and redirect the dragons to where they predicted the Herald might move. Thus, increasing the chance for the dragons to catch the target.

Jack was also ready to use his Void Displacement Eye to hold or move the herald into the dragons' pathway.

Unexpectedly, when Hope's Light imploded and the Herald was seen again, the Herald just stood there with an expression of agony.

"Did he fail to use his chaos armor in time?" Grace asked.

"No, he had used it," Paytowin said. He was in Brave Techno Suit. The visor of that suit, added with the enhanced perception of his Brave Ancestry bloodline, allowed him to see faint purple embers around the Herald's body. That was the residue of the chaos armor.

"It seems we have gotten much stronger than expected," John said.

When Hope's Light was first used on the Demon Lord during the siege of Balgadur, the Demon Lord was stripped of all its defensive spells and incapacitated. The same thing happened here. During the previous time they fought the Herald of Greed, the Herald's chaos armor resisted Hope's Light's incapacitating effect. It was different this time because all five players who had Hope's Sanctification had improved their stats significantly, especially Jack. The power contained within their current Hope's Light couldn't be compared to the previous.

Aside from incapacitating the herald, the current Hope's Light also reduced the Herald's HP to almost half. The damage it inflicted was more than two times compared to the last time.

Without the ability to move, the Herald could only watch as the eight dragons came to him. Jeanny's golden dragon arrived first. It entered the Herald's body and transformed into energy spears that ravaged the Herald from within.

As multiple golden spears thrust in and out from the herald's body without end, the seven dragons from Jack's mega spell landed on the herald. Four dragons bit the herald's four limbs. The remaining three bit the herald's head, neck, and torso. They then turned into their elements and blanketed the herald's body. The herald was covered by blinding light, searing flame, freezing ice, solid rock, raging wind, intense lightning, and oppressive darkness.

All these elements were like chains locking the herald's body. Even if the effect of Hope's Light wore off, the herald would still be unable to move. All the while, the elements were eating at the Herald's HP. Damage numbers continued to pop up endlessly.

Damage and incapacitation were not the only effects of Jack's Wrath of the Ancient Dragons. The mega spell also brought the hit target incalculable mental torment. The torment was so unbearable that the herald let out an inhuman howl.

The turn of events was so unexpected that everyone stopped in their tracks and just watched the happening without moving. Here they were, expecting a tough fight like the last time. Only after John's yell woke them up did they start acting.

"What the hell are you people goofing around for? Hit him...!!!"

Everyone sent their attacks. With the herald unable to move or fight back, they landed a hit without trouble. Everyone was sure to pass the 100,000 scores.

Since the herald was hit by the Wrath of the Ancient Dragons so soon after it was cast, he was incapacitated for almost the full duration of the mega spell. That was ten minutes. To be a free-punching bag for ten minutes long, even the large HP pool of an eternal-grade being wouldn't be enough.

Therras and Spark also joined in on the bullying, and so did Jet's pets. The place became so cramped that some were forced to only use ranged attacks. Everyone refrained from using AOE skills to not harm allies, but everyone tried their best to score as much damage as possible. They came with the mindset that it didn't matter who got the highest score as long as the Herald was defeated. Now, everyone was competing to land the most damage.

In less than five minutes, the Herald's HP reduced to twenty percent.

While they were dispensing punishment, Jack noticed Leavemealone's white tiger emperor's body burst into flames. The damage he inflicted increased then.

'Is that Fire God Suit? Shouldn't he already lose that divine skill?' Jack asked Peniel in his mind. Peniel was as clueless as him.

Since Peniel couldn't answer him, Jack asked the person directly, "Hey, Haon! What skill is that? Why does it look so much like the Fire God Suit?"

"It's not a skill," Leavemalone answered.

"Huh? Not a skill? What do you mean?" Jack asked.

"Boys, can we please focus on the task at hand?" Jeanny reproached. "You can chitchat later."

Leavemealone responded by using the Nine Yin Abyssal Finger. The dark cold energy from the ancient art was coated with blistering hot flames. The flame-enhanced ancient art pierced the Herald's shoulder and created a gaping hole. The Herald's HP dropped to below ten percent then.

"Everybody, move away! I'm going to finish this!!" Jack exclaimed. He transformed into supreme dragon form.

He also used Elevate Beast and Demonize Pet on Terras. The fight had been so easy that he didn't use them earlier.

Jack used his weapon's skill, God Annihilating Sword. He combined the attack with Soul Breath. Terras fired its earth core bomb, while Spark used its final mode and transformed into a homing bomb.

"F*ck!"

Everyone scattered when the four explosive attacks came. All four landed on the herald with perfect timing and caused combo multiplier damage.

When the explosion subsided, the Herald lay motionless on the ground. His HP was zero.

A voice notification sounded in everyone's mind, "Congratulations on conquering the ancient battleground."

Chapter 1815 1815. God of Courage's Divine Armor

The scene before them transformed. Lines appeared all around them, separating everything they saw into grids. The grids then turned one by one into voids. As the last

grid finally turned, they found themselves inside the score-exchanging space they were familiar with.

"Man, I've never expected the Herald to be so easy to kill. I guess we have become too strong, eh? Hahaha!" Paytowin laughed.

"Too strong your ass! It is easy because of two factors," John rebuked. "Hope's Light and Jack's Wrath of the Ancient Dragons. These two skills incapacitated the Herald and turned it into nothing but our punching bag. A spellcaster who can't cast any spells is no different than a martial artist who can't move."

Jack nodded. "Or a boxer without hands," he added.

"Or a runner who has lost his legs," Paytowin said.

"Or a cook without cooking utensils and ingredients," Jet joined in.

"Or a millionaire without cash or an ATM card to withdraw his money," Jack continued.

"But does that millionaire have a handphone? Because he can do transactions as long as he can connect to the internet," Paytowin said to Jack.

"Please... Stop," Jeanny said to them.

"If you fools are done talking nonsense, how about come and check the scores?" John said. He had left them while they were talking and went to check the scoreboard.

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Storm Wind, scores: 258,290

Jeanny, scores: 181,820

Paytowin, scores: 170,211

Unequaled Grace, scores: 165,099

John, scores: 162,625

Leavemealone, scores: 148,543

Fierce Flame, scores: 135,580

Domon Fei, scores: 129,924

Jet Hung, scores: 128,291

Giant Steve, scores: 121,190

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"Two hundred and fifty-eight thousand? That God of Courage's set armor is as good as yours," Paytwin exclaimed.

"Haha!" Jack laughed.

The scores gave Jack 77,400,000 exp points and 25,000 mana cores. The exp points might looked big but at Jack's level, he required a huge sum of exp points to level up. This was especially so for Jack who had three classes.

After the exp points were divided among his three classes, they were still enough to push one of his classes to level up. His Beast Monarch was now level 87.

The others also increased in levels. Jeanny, Paytwin, John, and Leavemealone increased two levels. Their levels became level 82, 84, 84, and 82, respectively. The others increased by one level. Grace, Fierce Flame, Domon, Jet, and Giant Steve were level 85, 84, 82, 83, and 83, respectively.

Jeanny no longer possessed the Book of Creation, so she was not so desperate for mana cores. However, many guild facilities still needed the mana cores, so everyone except Jack still donated mana cores to her. Jeanny kept a large portion of the mana cores and gave Jack 25,000 mana cores. With the other 25,000 Jack got, he could summon the archdemon lord again.

After they were done distributing the mana cores, John requested Jack to show the breakdown of his scores. John was interested to know how Jack got a score so high.

Jack clicked on his score to show everyone the breakdown. The supply carts awarded 60,000 scores. Landing an attack on the Herald was 30,000 scores. Killing the black soldiers after the three-hour mark netted him 15,536 scores. The total damage inflicted on the Herald gave him 82,754 scores. He got 20,000 scores for surviving the ancient battleground, and landing the kill strike on the Herald provided him 50,000 scores.

"Bloody hell!" John cursed after reading the breakdown. "Even if you didn't land the kill strike on the herald, you will still get the legendary set armor. If you let either Jeanny, Paytwin, Grace, or me land the killing strike, we can have two people who get the legendary set armor!"

"Oh...", Jack realized he had indeed acted a bit greedy by using the combo finishing move to ensure he got the most scores.

"It's okay, Jack," Grace consoled.

"No, it's not okay! You are fine because you already have legendary set armor. We are not as lucky as you," John said to Grace.

"John, control your temper!" Jeanny reprimanded.

"Come on, man. Don't need to be so fuming about it," Paytowin said.

"Ceh! Why it's me that got scolded?" John complained.

"It's my fault. I do know I'm in the wrong. I apologize. I promise I will help everyone get the legendary set armor the next time we enter this legacy dungeon," Jack said.

John sighed. "Never mind, it's your mega spell that allows us to slay the Herald so easily. Go and collect your prize."

"Yeah, I want to see what legendary set armor looks like," Paytowin said with anticipation.

"Are you blind?" John said to Paytowin while pointing at Grace.

"Uh... I mean, what a legendary set armor from a divine faction looks like," Paytowin said, but then he remembered Grace got her set armor from the God of Greed. "Ah, never mind," he said while lowering his head.

Jack was already accessing the exchange list. He scrolled directly to where the most expensive item was. That was, of course, the God of Courage's Divine Armor Set that cost 200,000 scores. There were four types of armor. Heavy armor, medium armor, light armor, and cloth armor. All of them had the same name.

Jack carefully chose the medium armor type. He didn't want to make a mistake due to the same name. It would be a tragedy if he mistakenly chose the wrong armor type. Even if he could also wear the light armor and cloth armor due to his three different classes, he still preferred the medium armor for his Brave Swordsman.

After making his selection, the exchange list flared brightly. Jack had to shield his eyes and step back due to the brightness. The others were doing the same.

The brightness endured until they coalesced and condensed into a distinctive shape. The shape of a man. But as the light continued to compress, they knew the light was not forming a man. It was shaping into full body armor.

The armor took form. The light that fashioned it seeped into the armor. The light became part of the armor. The armor was constantly shining, giving the people who witnessed it a sense of courage and determination.

Chapter 1816 1816. Divine Armor's Stats

"Hoho, sweet lord. What an impressive piece of—Ouch...!"

Jet tried to touch the floating shining armor but felt a stinging pain when his hands came near the armor.

"Come on, man. Do you think the system let you steal someone else's selection like that?" Jack asked.

"Then why doesn't the armor just transfer directly into your inventory like the other stuff we chose in our previous run? Displaying it like this is simply bragging about it," Jet grumbled.

"Of course, it is to brag about. This is the pinnacle prize from this ancient battleground, dude," Jack said. He came forward and moved his hand to the armor. Unlike Jet, the armor didn't reject his hand.

When his finger touched the armor, the armor shrunk into a speck of light and entered Jack's body. Jack checked his inventory and saw the legendary armor set was inside.

"Hey, check this out," They heard John's voice. They turned and saw John was checking the exchange list while they were admiring the God of Courage's Divine Armor. They came to him to see what he wanted to show.

They looked at the screen where his finger was pointing.

Before Jack made his selection, there were four God of Courage's Divine Armor sets. After Jack made his selection, the medium armor-typed of the God of Courage's Divine Armor disappeared from the list. Only three armor types remained. In its place, a different armor set appeared, Divine Armor of Valor set equipment.

This divine armor of valor was the same as the one they exchanged for 150,000 scores. Except this one was a bundle. With 200,000 scores, the scorer could get all seven pieces at once. However, they all knew the divine armor of valor was inferior to the God of Courage's Divine Armor.

"Does this mean each armor type of the God of Courage's Divine Armor can only be gotten by one person?" Paytowin asked.

"That's correct," Peniel said. "This is because the God of Courage's Divine Armor is a heritage set equipment."

"Heritage? Like my regal outfit," Jack said.

"Yes. There is only one in the whole world," Peniel said.

"This means you won't have a chance to get it anymore," Jet said to Domon.

"I don't mind," Domon returned. He never truly cared about equipment, anyway.

"I won't lose to you, lass. The light armor type is mine!" Jet exclaimed at Fierce Flame.

"Don't call me lass," Fierce Flame returned.

"Dude, what happens to chivalry, and isn't it proper for the old to concede to the young?" Jack asked Jet.

"No chivalry nor conceding when it comes to prizes," Jet stated.

"I will also not lose to you!" Paytowin proclaimed to Leavemealone.

"We will see," Leavemealone returned.

"Come on, kids. No need to fight. It's just equipment," John said.

"You are calm because no one is competing with you!" Paytowin exclaimed. John and Grace were the only ones in this group who used the cloth armor type and Grace already had legendary set equipment.

"How can you say that? My time sage class can use the cloth armor type as well," Jack said.

"What the...! One legendary set armor is not enough for you? Do you have to hoard everything?!" John yelled.

"Who just now said no need to fight...?" Paytowin muttered.

"Jack boy! You are only allowed to get one. No more!" Jet exclaimed. Jack also had the Beast Monarch class, so he could compete with them for the light armor type as well.

"People! If you are going to quarrel. Move aside! I want to exchange my scores," Jeanny scolded them. That quieted them up. They moved aside and let her to the screen.

Jack still had some scores left, but he could wait to exchange them later. He could not wait to equip the God of Courage's Divine Armor. He did so. His kingly outfit was replaced by the dazzling golden armor that emit brilliant yet soothing light. Since it was heritage equipment, its level adjusted to follow Jack's level.

*

Head piece

God of Courage's Helmet, level: 87 (legendary set medium armor: God of Courage's Divine Armor)

Physical Defense: 1106

Magical Defense: 964

Indestructible

Wisdom +50

Reflex +45

Light Resistance +50

Automatically cleanse all mental status ailments. Cooldown: 5 minutes

War God's Stare (Active skill): Emit rays of light from the eyes, dealing 300% light damage. The hit target is paralyzed for 2 seconds. After the paralyze duration ends, the target is afflicted by fear for 2 minutes. Range: 50 meters. Cooldown: 1 hour.

*

Chest piece

God of Courage's Cuirass, level: 87 (legendary set medium armor: God of Courage's Divine Armor)

Physical Defense: 1242

Magical Defense: 1076

Indestructible

Dexterity +50

Endurance +45

Dark Resistance +50

When HP falls below 50%, Defenses and natural recovery are doubled for 5 minutes. Cooldown: 30 minutes

War God's Light (Active skill): Discharge a beam that deals 500% light damage and causes Blind. Range: 300 meters. Cooldown: 30 minutes

*

Shoulder piece

God of Courage's Spaulders, level: 87 (legendary set medium armor: God of Courage's Divine Armor)

Physical Defense: 1071

Magical Defense: 924

Indestructible

Strength +50

Intelligence +45

Lightning Resistance +50

Automatically cleanse all physical status ailments. Cooldown: 5 minutes

War God's Wings (Active skill): Form wings made of light. Gained flight. Anything touched by the wings received 100% light damage.

*

Arms piece

God of Courage's Full Arm Guards, level: 87 (legendary set medium armor: God of Courage's Divine Armor)

Physical Defense: 1096

Magical Defense: 950

Indestructible

Strength +50

Dexterity +45

Fire Resistance +50

When hitting the same enemy, an incremental 10% critical hit chance is added. The critical hit chance is refreshed when a critical hit occurs or fails to hit the same target for 1 minute.

War God's Shield (Active skill): Form a shield of light that blocks damage. The power of the shield is affected by the endurance stat. If the shield is destroyed, will require 1 hour before it can be reformed.

*

Belt piece

God of Courage's Girdle, level: 87 (legendary set medium armor: God of Courage's Divine Armor)

Physical Defense: 927

Magical Defense: 840

Indestructible

Wisdom +50

Endurance +45

Ice Resistance +50

Automatically negate the instant-kill effect. Cooldown: 1 hour

War God's Suit (Active skill): Form a suit of light that reduces 30% physical damage & 50% magical or elemental damage. Duration: 5 minutes. Cooldown: 1 hour

*

Pants piece

20:28

God of Courage's Full Leg Guards, level: 87 (legendary set medium armor: God of Courage's Divine Armor)

Physical Defense: 1173

Magical Defense: 1015

Indestructible

Strength +50

Reflex +45

Earth Resistance +50

When receiving a fatal blow, HP automatically recovers to 50%. Cooldown: 3 hours

War God's Recovery (Active skill): Fully heals HP. Max HP is increased by 50% for 10 minutes. Cooldown: 1 hour

*

Boots piece

God of Courage's Long Boots, level: 87 (legendary set medium armor: God of Courage's Divine Armor)

Physical Defense: 1014

Magical Defense: 868

Indestructible

Endurance +45

Wind Resistance +50

Automatically increase movement speed by 100% for 10 seconds after executing a skill. Cooldown: 1 minute

War God's Stride (Active skill): Dash in a direction with 1000% movement speed. Can phase through normal obstacles. Maximum range: 100 meters. Cooldown: 10 minutes

Chapter 1817 1817. Borrowed Flames

Jack checked his total defense after wearing the God of Courage's Divine Armor. His physical defense had shot up to 9491 while his magical defense was 8402.

"The defense values are almost twice the unique equipment," Jack remarked.

"That is not yet considering when you embedded the Orb of Taranis and Orb of Amun. They would go up even higher once you did," Peniel said.

The two armor orbs were still embedded in Jack's regal outfit. He had to go to the blacksmith workshop to etch his God of Courage's Divine Armor before he could transfer the armor orbs.

"Each piece of this armor has both a response skill and an active skill," Jack said. He decided to test some of the active skills. He tried using one of the two armor skills that didn't have cooldown or duration, which meant he could use them any time he wanted.

A pair of golden wings appeared on his back. The wings were slimmer than the wings conjured by a wings tool, but they were longer. Jack shot into the air and flew around in a circle. With this War God's wings, he no longer needed his wings tool. But since he could produce four clones, two clones could now use the different wings from his equipment.

"The speed almost rivals my speed in supreme dragon form," Jack said.

"Its advantage is not only its flying speed," Peniel said. "Anyone you pass through and is hit by your wings will suffer damage."

Jack looked at the wings. They didn't flap much. They were more like the wings of a plane. "They do look sharp," Jack remarked.

Too bad no enemy is in this space so he couldn't test the wings' offensive ability. He landed back and checked the next skill with no cooldown or duration. A shield of golden light materialized next to his left hand.

"War God's shield," Jack uttered. The conjured shield was slightly bigger than the magic shield and looked much sturdier.

"Hey, George. Hit me with something!" Jack called.

"Huh?" Paytowin was waiting for his turn to use the exchange list.

"If you want someone to hit you, I will gladly do it," Leavemealone uttered. He dashed in Jack's direction after finished speaking. His body burst into flames as he charged.

"Whoa! That skill again!" Jack exclaimed as he put his golden shield forward.

Leavemealone's flames gathered into his fist. They formed the shape of a tiger's head as his fist was brought forward.

"Tiger punch," Jack uttered when he saw the incoming fist. He had a brief thought of pumping mana manipulation into the golden shield. With his mana affinity and expertise in mana manipulation, it was easy to do so even when the War God's Shield was a new skill he used for the first time, but he decided to leave it as it was. He wanted to see how strong this shield was.

Leavemealone's tiger punch arrived. His flaming fist slammed hard into the golden shield, producing a loud clanking sound. The pressure from his converged flames

caused it to burst into a fiery explosion. The shockwave from the explosion made him recoil. He had to step back three times before the force was exhausted.

Jack was still standing at his original place.

Nobody thought the result was surprising. Jack's stats were way higher than Leavemealone. It was not weird for him to not budge from Leavemealone's attack.

Jack and Leavemealone were silent, though. They understood the most about what happened during the exchange. It was true that if Jack wanted to, Leavemealone wouldn't be able to force him to move. However, when the fist collided with his shield, he didn't exert any force. He was relaxed. The shield somehow acted like a rubber. It absorbed the impact and then sent it back to the attacker. Leavemealone was the one who received the pushback force instead.

The skill description didn't say that it reflected damage. Leavemealone also didn't receive any damage. What the golden shield reflected was the force of the attack. This meant this shield should be able to negate all knockback effects.

Not only that. The shield was also very durable. Way more durable than the magic shield. Jack could sense Leavemealone's punch. Although Leavemealone didn't use a skill, he was going all out using his martial art. It was not an attack that could be blocked nonchalantly as Jack did just now.

"That is a nice shield," Leavemealone praised. He also knew how special the shield was.

"Thanks," Jack said. "Your flame suit skill is also good. I can feel the dense mana from the flames. It doesn't lose to your previous Flame God Suit."

"How many times do I have to tell you? It's not a skill," Leavemealone uttered.

"It's not?" Jack asked. 'It couldn't be a martial art, right?' Jack thought. Even Long's Nine Yang art didn't produce flames that intense.

"It's that bird's flame," Leavemealone answered.

"Bird?" Jack was confused.

"That firebird you and the dragon sealed inside me."

"Suzaki?"

"Right. That's the name. She never truly bothered telling me when I asked."

"You can use her flames?" Jack asked.

"More like borrowing," Leavemealone answered. "It's an exchange for letting her a small window to the outside world. She can see what I see. For that, she pays me with her flames whenever I need it. Her flames can enhance all my power. It increases my damage and also cushions the enemy's attacks."

"Wow! So, it's like a skill without any cooldown or duration, like my shield. Except yours is way cooler. Now, aren't you glad you had us seal her inside you, don't you say?"

"Well, the power boost is all right, but she is one grumpy bird. She kept on nagging in the first few hours after she was sealed. I had to keep on mentally beating her to shut her up. She was slightly calmer now that I let her see the outside world."

"So, she can see me now?" Jack asked.

"Yeah. She said f*ck you," Leavemealone replied.

"Really?"

"She didn't exactly spell it out like that, but the meaning is the same. She knows you are Broidrireg's bestie. She hates you for being the friend of the one who sealed her."

"Well, f*ck her back then. Who asked her to be an a*shole and collaborated with Master?" Jack returned.

"Haon! It's your turn. Everyone has taken their share," Domon called.

"Coming," Leavemealone headed to the exchange screen.

"You think he will be okay?" Jack asked Peniel after Leavemealone left.

"About what?" Peniel asked.

"What if Suzaki becomes stronger if Haon keeps using her flames? Can it happen like that?"

"How do I know?" Peniel said. "Suzaki is the first being to be sealed inside an outworlder. Who knows what kind of effects there might be?"

Chapter 1818 1818. Testing the Divine Armor's Abilities

Jack decided to not be concerned about Leavemealone and Suzaki. He returned his attention to his new armor set. Every set equipment had set effects. He was now opening his equipment page to check the set effects.

*

Set bonus of God of Courage's Divine Armor:

Two equipment: +500 to physical and magical defense.

Four equipment: +5000 HP, +500 stamina, and +15% to all attributes.

Six equipment: War God's Army (Active skill). Summon 1,000 golden warriors that rush through the battlefield, attacking all enemies. Duration: 2 hours. Cooldown: 3 days

Full set equipment: War God Manifestation (Active Skill). Become a War God. Duration: 30 minutes. Cooldown: 1 day.

*

Jack whistled after reading the description. The War God's Army practically meant he always brought a battalion of soldiers with him. He didn't need to worry about getting ganged up on with this skill around.

"The skill description on this equipment is rather stingy, eh?" Jack complained. "It doesn't explain what levels and grades these golden warriors have."

"They varied in levels and grades," Peniel explained. "The highest few will be the same level as you. The remaining will range between your level to ten levels below you. As for their grades, they ranged from mythical to special elite."

"No eternal, eh?" Jack asked.

"You get one thousand warriors. What more do you expect?" Peniel said with annoyance.

"Hehe, I'm not complaining," Jack said. "What about this War God Manifestation? From its even stingier description, this is a buff skill. How strong will I become after using the skill?"

"I say maybe almost equal to Lightning God Incarnation," Peniel answered.

"Really? That skill is the pinnacle skill of a divine treasure. This skill can rival it?" Jack asked in surprise.

Peniel gave Jack a demeaning expression and said, "This is the pinnacle heritage equipment from a divine faction. You won't find any better set equipment elsewhere. Do you think it is so surprising that it rivals a divine treasure?"

"Hm... I see," Jack muttered.

Jack was itchy to use the War God Manifestation to see how powerful it was. He was still thinking about using it when Domon called him.

"Afei! Do you still want to exchange your scores? We want to leave if you are done," Domon called.

Jack ran to the exchange screen. "What did everyone get?" He asked.

"I get a legendary helmet," Jeanny answered.

"Legendary gun," Paytown answered.

"Most of my equipment is already legendary-grade. I picked a legendary necklace," Grace said.

Hearing that, Jack remembered his equipment was also almost all legendary-grade. He only had one ring that was still a unique grade. Unfortunately, his remaining scores were not enough to get a legendary accessory.

"I got myself legendary gloves," John said.

As for the rest, they all picked legendary weapons. Not the best ones, which cost 170,000 scores, but the second rates which cost 120,000 scores. Leavemealone chose legendary fist weapons, Fierce Flame chose a legendary longbow, Domon got a legendary glaive, Jet took legendary claw weapons, and Giant Steve decided on a legendary tower shield.

"What are you going to pick for the rest of your scores?" Jeanny asked.

"Hm... I'm not sure," Jack said while browsing the selections. He only had 58,290 scores left. He didn't need anything that could be afforded with those scores. "Does the guild need anything?" He asked Jeanny back instead.

"Take the Power Core of Courage," Jeanny said. "Aside from being used by technocraft players, we can also use it to strengthen the Brave Golem."

"Okay," Jack said. He exchanged the item and gave it to Jeanny.

They all exited the legacy dungeon after.

"What do you all plan after this?" Jack asked. "How about entering the hard mode of Ice Throne Legacy Dungeon?"

"Isn't that dungeon too easy already?" Giant Steve asked.

"You just want to test your armor skills, don't you?" John said to Jack, to which Jack responded with an awkward laugh.

"We can always use the materials dropped by the boss," Jeanny said.

"Well, I got nothing to do anyway," Jet said.

So, the ten ended up raiding another legacy dungeon. Inside the Ice Throne Legacy Dungeon, Jack used his skills freely. He always had the War God's Wings and War God's Shield active. The golden shield hovered next to his wrist. He didn't have to wield it, so he could use the shield while dual-wielding his weapons.

When he used War God's stare, twin rays of golden light shot out from his eyes. The Ice Ray Bird hit by the rays was paralyzed and lost its flying ability. It fell to the ground then.

"Bloody f*ck! It's heat vision...!" Paytowin exclaimed after seeing that.

The War God's light discharged a very wide golden beam. It also traveled very far. It didn't diminish after hitting an enemy, it proceeded forward and continued hitting the monsters behind. Jack at first thought the damage value of this skill was nothing impressive. But after seeing the skill, he understood he could hit many enemies with a good positioning. Furthermore, it also caused the Blind status effect.

War God's Suit and War God's Recovery were pretty clear-cut. They functioned as their descriptions said.

War God's Stride let Jack pass through most things, even monsters, but he couldn't pass through barriers formed by skills. He figured this skill should also be blocked by a rune diagram's barrier.

He learned another thing about his divine armor after battling some opponents. The natural light his armor was always emitting didn't bother his friends. But when the monsters approached him, they seemed to have trouble looking directly at him. He understood then that the light from his armor seemed to become glaringly bright if it was the enemies who looked at it.

This passive effect was similar to Grace's legendary-grade armor that always radiated healing light to nearby allies.

Because they were too over-leveled for this legacy dungeon, it took them just a short time to get to the boss area. Jack even felt it was too short because he hadn't gotten the chance to test everything yet.

Looking at the boss, he was thinking if he should use the War God's Army or the War God Manifestation.

He decided on the War God Manifestation.

Chapter 1819 1819. War God Manifestation

Jack requested everyone to stay behind so the ice demon king didn't get killed too fast. Everyone complied, including Leavemealone who agreed after Domon asked him to.

Jack approached the Ice Demon King from the air using the War God's wings. Even normally, he would have no problem vanquishing this boss. The Ice Demon King was just a level 75 mythical demon. The ice demon king just stared at Jack from the ground. It couldn't fly.

"Let's see this set equipment's most powerful skill," Jack uttered before he activated the War God Manifestation.

As he did, a bright light erupted from him. The light was so bright everyone had to look away.

The light dimmed soon and Jack could be seen again. His entire body was covered in golden light. Behind him was an aureole. The large golden ring just floated on his back. Circulating this ring were what seemed like glowing orbs that constantly emit golden mists. There were ten such glowing orbs.

Jack was holding two swords in his hands. The golden light also enveloped his swords. The lights extended out and made the swords appear three times longer than they were. He was as if holding swords that were constantly powered by Brave Slash.

"Ho... I do feel much stronger," Jack muttered.

"The glowing orbs behind you are not just for decoration, you know," Peniel informed.

"I know. I was aware of them once I transformed," Jack said. "Let's see how I do in real combat."

With those words, he zipped to the ice demon king. The ice demon king was startled that the enemy suddenly appeared before it.

"That was a standard movement," Paytowin who was watching from afar said. He still had his Brave Techno Suit on him. "Not as fast as when he was in the mana awakening state, but still way faster than normal."

Jack stood there as the ice demon king recovered from the surprise and started attacking him with its claws and sharp skeletal wings. Jack just let it.

"Hm...", Jack was estimating his defense from the damage numbers he suffered. The ice demon king was too weak for him now. He was level 87 and wore legendary-grade

equipment. Even under normal situations, the ice demon king wouldn't cause him much damage. However, he could still estimate this War God Manifestation improved his defense by at least twice.

He made a normal swing. The ice demon king was sent flying by the swing. It was just a normal slash but the ice demon king suffered damage that took out almost 50,000 of its HP.

"It is almost like a Brave Slash," Jack remarked.

Jack chased after the ice demon king and performed One-word Slash. He wasn't targeting the ice demon king's body but its skeletal wings. A golden line produced by his slash sliced through those skeletal wings and the wings were cut.

Only with two attacks, the ice demon king felt like it was cornered already. It used its ultimate attack, the Ice Spears Rain. At the same time, it fired its thick ice beam from its torso. The beam and ice spears swallowed Jack up.

When the attacks ended, Jack was visible again. He was unharmed. Before him was the Wing God's Shield which had blocked the ice beam. The golden shield had an extra golden layer extending from its edges, enlarging its size by two times.

Above him was a huge golden tower shield, acting like an umbrella. This tower shield had blocked the Ice Spears Rain. While Paytown and the others were wondering where that giant tower shield came from, it dissolved and split into ten small orbs. The orbs returned to the aureole behind Jack.

"Let's test these golden orbs further," Jack uttered.

The ten golden orbs again detached from the golden ring and they transformed into ten longswords. He was as if using the Dances of the Braves, except the longswords produced by these golden orbs were larger. He also sensed they were more powerful. Also, they didn't have a duration. He could use these golden orbs for as long as the War God Manifestation lasted.

The swords produced by the golden orbs could fly a distance away from Jack, different from Dances of the Braves which only struck enemies at melee range. Jack stayed back with folded arms while the ten golden longswords fought the ice demon king.

"This armor can also be worn by Weapon Master, right? I bet if Weapon Master used these golden orbs to produce different melee weapons, they would get a damage bonus from the class," Jack said.

"You are right," Peniel confirmed.

The golden orbs could be fashioned into any melee weapons Jack wanted. They could also combine into a larger weapon like when he created the giant tower shield. The more golden orbs were combined, the larger and more powerful the weapon became.

The ice demon king couldn't last long against the golden swords' onslaught. Jack was controlling them using his sword art which added combo damage. It was down to almost ten percent HP in a short time.

"Let's finish this!" Jack exclaimed.

He summoned his runestone of luck and the ten golden swords combined into one giant sword. The giant sword slashed downward using the One-word Slash. The huge golden sword sliced through the ice demon king in the middle. Its HP zeroed and its bodies split into two. It soon turned to ash and dropped loots.

"Done having your fun?" Jet asked as they all walked over.

Jack had deactivated the God War Manifestation and was studying the loots. Not much interested him from the loots except for the Thousand-Year Wine. Two bottles of Thousand-Year Wine dropped. He took one of the wines and gave everything else to Jeanny to organize.

Some exp pills were also in the loot, but Jack knew his levels were already much higher than everyone else. It would be too selfish if he took these pills.

The others asked if Jack was sure. Jack defeated the ice demon king by himself, after all. Jack replied if they fought the ice demon king, they would also win. He was grateful enough that they let him fight the boss alone.

After the confirmation, Jeanny went and divided the loot among them. Items nobody needed were donated to the guild, like the Heart of Ice among the loot. That item could be used to power up their Ice Cannon Tanks.

Chapter 1820 1820. Guild Level 7

It was three days before Jack's human age increased. After drinking the Thousand-Year Wine, his age added fifteen days and became 23 months. At this age, his Limitless Potential increased to rank 15. This rank gave him HP +5000, Stamina/MP +420, and all attributes except luck +15.

After coming out of the Ice Throne Legacy Dungeon, John asked Jack, "What is your plan for tomorrow? I will be holding a meeting with the league faction leaders regarding their mobilization."

"Uh... Do I have to be there?" Jack asked.

"Not really," John answered.

Jack heaved a sigh of relief. He said, "Good then. I want to use tomorrow to do the league faction challenges before we depart the day after tomorrow."

"Some king you are, but I have expected this," John said. "Okay, I will just send those leaders your regards. Grace, you are joining the meeting since your man isn't."

"Oh, all right," Grace replied. She wasn't given the chance to say no.

It was rather late already, so Jack spent the rest of the day in the guild headquarters. He first visited the guild hall. Tip was there.

"How is it? Have we decided on our fourth guild guardian?" Jack asked.

Their guild level had increased to level 7 after gaining lots of reputation points from participating in the war. At level 7, their member limit increased to 50,000 members. Many players applied when they heard there were vacancies in Everlasting Heavenly Legends.

Some players from other guilds even quit their guilds to have the chance of applying. A player could not be in a guild if they wished to apply to a new guild. They had to quit their current guild first. They took the risk of offending their former guilds just for a chance to join Everlasting Heavenly Legends. This showed how prestigious Everlasting Heavenly Legends had become.

Many new facilities and facility upgrades were available after the level-up. Their headquarters was enlarged to provide the space to support the new facilities. Their headquarters could be considered a town already.

At level 7, they could recruit another guild guardian. A fourth guardian, which would also be their last. A guild couldn't have more than four guild guardians. As for Guild Hero, three heroes were the limit.

"I don't think we can get another guild guardian with everyone so busy," Tip said. "Unless we want to settle with a middling quality of guild guardian, we don't have the manpower to capture a strong monster."

"Yeah. The others and I will depart two days from now. We won't be able to help," Jack said.

"I know. Many of our veteran members are still at the front line, preparing the defenses before the main underworld forces cross Liguritutum's border one month from now. The ones available here are mostly recruits. I need to send these recruits on guild tasks to get the resources to grow our guild army, so almost no one is available to handle the guild guardian."

"I understand. There is no need to push it. We will leave it to luck," Jack said.

"Talking about luck, one of our members acquired a special quest that might award us a guild hero token. I've formed a team with Warpath as the leader to tackle that quest."

"Guild hero? But our guild hero slots are full already," Jack said.

"That's true, but you have to admit Uruk is rather lacking at this stage. He might not even survive if we summon the guild army when we clash with the underworld forces."

Uruk was a rare elite. Although he was still considered above average, it was true that his survival chance wasn't that high. It was even more so since leaders would be targeted first in a battle. Taking out a guild hero would strip the passive bonuses it had on the guild army.

"Uruk is our first guild hero. It will be a shame to let him go, but I guess we can't afford to be sentimental. Let me know when Warpath gets the hero token. Hopefully, we will already return by then."

"Yes. Considering your luck stat, we will not let anyone use that token other than you," Tip said.

After chatting with Tip, Jack went to the guild's blacksmith workshop. After the level-up, the workshop had become much larger. It had more worktables to accommodate more players.

Jack went into the workshop and saw that most of the worktables were occupied despite the workshop being enlarged. He saw two natives whom he knew. Kirsi and Guila. After doing some quests for Guila, Jeanny extended an invitation for her to join the guild. She responded by giving the guild a difficult quest. The guild completed the quest and she formally joined the guild.

Furthermore, the same quest also improved his blacksmith ability. She could now craft armor for medium-sized pets. Hence, every Everlasting Heavenly Legends member with pets could now craft pet armor for free, provided they supplied the needed materials.

After joining the guild, Guila was reunited with Whitebeard. The two old friends were very happy they could be together again.

Jack greeted the two blacksmith natives. Learning that Jack came here to use a worktable, one of them lent the one they used to him.

Jack didn't refuse. He only needed the worktable for a short time. He used the worktable to etch his God of Courage's Divine Armor set. After he was done, he embedded the Orb of Taranis onto his chest armor, and the Orb of Amun onto his boots. Their defense

values increased then. The passive abilities from the orbs were also available to him again.

With the addition of the two orbs, his total defense rose to 9918 for his physical defense and 8770 for his magical defense.

After saying farewell to Kirsi and Guila, Jack left and went to the Space-time Chamber. He trained his martial arts and rested inside. He repeated the cycle until it was morning the next day. He then teleported to Thereath and went to the League of Champions building.

When he entered the building, he noticed the place was rather hectic. Normally, there were more players than natives. This time, many native members of the faction were seen.

Jack saw Gruff. He went and greeted him.

Gruff at first didn't recognize Jack since Jack no longer wore his regal outfit. With the imposing and shining God of Courage's Divine Armor, Gruff thought Jack was a big-shot adventurer from somewhere. He was rather surprised to find out it was Jack.

"That is a remarkable set armor you are wearing," Gruff praised. "Please don't tell me they are legendary grades...?"

Jack gave Gruff an awkward laugh.

"Sigh... I truly admit defeat against you outworlders," Gruff said. "But at a time like this when the underworld force invades, I am grateful that your kind appeared in this world. I don't think we will be able to fight them with only us natives."

Jack was again laughing awkwardly. What if he told Gruff it was an outworlder who was responsible for opening the gate for the invasion of the underworld forces?