

## **Second World #Chapter 1821 1821. Conquering the Challenges - Read Second World Chapter 1821 1821. Conquering the Challenges**

### **Chapter 1821 1821. Conquering the Challenges**

"By the way, aren't you supposed to meet our leaders today?" Gruff asked.

"My royal advisor is handling the details. They are in good hands," Jack replied.

"Some king you are," Gruff responded.

Jack could only smile wryly. He had been criticized with the same words by two different men. But in his defense, he never wished to be a king.

"So, what do you want to do here that is more important than the war meeting with faction leaders?" Gruff asked.

"Come on, man. Don't say it like that," Jack said. "I'm also doing my part, which is getting as strong as I possibly can. I have heard the story about the army's first clash with the devils. With our current power, we won't stand a chance. The devils are too strong, especially Satan. I need to be strong enough to be able to fight them."

"Yeah, I've heard about it too. It was pretty brutal. If not for Goddess Serenity, maybe all seven countries would have lost their armies. To think I will be heading out to face enemies like that. Sigh... Here I am, thinking I can just live out my days in peace."

"You are heading to the front line as well?" Jack asked.

"Of course, all combatants who are active members of the faction are required to go. With the world armies at shamble due to the wars, we league factions can no longer sit around twiddling our thumbs. Every one of us who can fight must fight!"

"That's good to hear, but don't push yourself too far, okay? Leave the dangerous parts to us, outworlders."

"That, I agree," Gruff laughed.

After chatting for a bit longer, the two parted ways. Gruff still had a lot to do. He was one of the senior officers in the faction. Though he wasn't considered strong compared to most of the upper management staff, he was good at management. Hence, Ragorth trusted him to be among the ones in charge of their people in the Themisphere branch.

Jack went to the colosseum room where the challenge stages were. He still saw some players here. These were players most likely still undecided about joining the war

against the underworld forces, or they were here to strengthen themselves like him before the war.

He hoped it was the latter. If it was the former, he didn't have the time nor the heart to persuade them. Even if he could force them to go to the battlefield, it would be meaningless if they weren't willing to fight. They would just run at the first sign of trouble. Hence, he ignored these players.

Jack walked to the wall with the Roman numeral XCV. He touched the wall and disappeared. He came out into a space populated by four level 83 mythical lycans, sixteen level 86 rare elite lycans, and thirty level 90 special elite lycans.

These lycans were stronger and faster than the average werewolves. They also had a face more resembling a human than a wolf. While they still excelled at pack hunting style, they also had the cunningness of men. They cooperated well and exploited a weakness when they found it.

Jack brandished two swords since he couldn't use magic staff. He then used the War God Manifestation from the get-go.

"Let's do this," he said.

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The battle didn't last long. With his current levels, skills, and abilities from his many legendary equipment, the battle was mostly one-sided. Even without Lightning God Blessing, he had more than enough arsenals to overpower those fifty lycans.

Without stopping, Jack barreled through the stages. When he entered stage 99, the fifty opponents he faced were five level 85 mythical armored lycans. Fifteen level 90 rare-elite armored lycans, and thirty level 95 special-elite armored lycans.

These armored lycans were larger than the lycans in previous stages and they all wore armor and carried weapons. The way they coordinated resembled well-trained soldiers. They moved in formation and utilized each other's positions to the fullest.

It took Jack a bit longer but eventually, he conquered this stage. When he came out, he noticed the other players were staring at him. He didn't think it was strange, considering he must be the first player to reach so high a stage.

These players didn't recognize Jack because he no longer wore his king outfit. They were wondering who this expert was. They didn't dare go near to look at his face because they didn't think a player who wore such an eye-catching armor to be anyone ordinary. They were right, this mysterious player was entering stages above stage 95 while they were still struggling around stage 60.

While they were still speculating about this expert's identity, they saw this player walk to the golden mural protruding out from this colosseum-like wall. This part of the wall was the only one that had a protruding part, and it was the only one with mural decoration in gold.

At the center of this protruding wall was a large letter C, also coated in gold. This was the wall to the last challenge stage, stage 100!

While they were still wondering if this mysterious expert would attempt the stage, they saw him extending his hand. His hand touched the wall with the golden mural. He turned into a flash of light and the light disappeared into the wall.

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Inside the stage, Jack came out into a different space than the previous ones. In previous stages, his surroundings were always void. This time, there were things. He was standing in a large plaza, not unlike the Colosseum room outside. Around him were the circular walls. The difference was he could see the blue sky above.

As he was observing his surroundings, he sensed something appearing not far behind him. He turned and saw another armored lycan. This one was slimmer than the ones in previous stages. It had golden furs with a tint of red. Its eyes were two green orbs that stared sharply at Jack. It wore medium armor. In its two hands were a saber and an axe.

Jack looked around. Just one? No other enemies?

He used his Inspect on this single lycan.

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Primordial Lycan (Eternal monster, Humanoid), level: 90

HP: 4,900,000

Strength: 5,104

Physical Defense: 7,350

Magical Defense: 5,460

\*

Jack smiled. "All right, then."

## **Chapter 1822 1822. Fighting an Eternal Opponent**

Jack had been planning to find out how well he would fare against an eternal-grade opponent. He could be said to already possess the best equipment. His bloodline was also fully maxed. Even if the opponent was three levels higher, he had three classes. Furthermore, his classes were at least first-class special classes. In theory, he should have no problem fighting an eternal-grade opponent one-on-one.

Although this Primordial Lycan had the same level and grade as some of the country guardians, he doubted it was as strong as them. Even among beings of the same level and grade, a huge gap of power could exist. Like what was witnessed between Eoranth and Azzarilth. He couldn't compare this Primordial Lycan to the country guardians, but he also couldn't underestimate it. It was still an eternal grade, after all.

Jack brandished his two swords. He couldn't summon Therras in this challenge stage, but he could summon Spark. However, he decided not to. He wanted to see how well he fared first.

The Primordial Lycan just stood there watching Jack. Jack was still wondering if he should be the one who made the opening move when the Primordial Lycan disappeared from its spot.

'It's very fast!' Jack exclaimed in his mind as he activated Dragon Eye.

The Primordial Lycan was already on his left. Its saber was on its way to Jack's waist. Even with his boosted perception, the saber was still moving at a decent speed. Jack only had the time to tilt his arm a bit while activating War God's Shield.

The saber connected with the golden shield. The power from the impact sent Jack lurching, but the Primordial Lycan was also knocked back due to the recoil effect from the War God's Shield. If not for the shield, Jack would have been sent flying.

The shield managed to stop the Primordial Lycan from doing a combo after its sudden attack. This gave Jack a breather. He immediately used Strength of Hope. It was indeed too careless to fight an eternal-grade opponent without any buff.

His stats skyrocketed after using the divine skill. He lunged back and gave the Primordial Lycan a slash. The Lycan didn't expect Jack's sudden increase in speed so it didn't have the time to dodge. It could only parry using the axe in its left hand.

The impact sent the Primordial Lycan skidding back more than ten meters. The Lycan looked at Jack with a surprised expression.

"Hehe," Jack grinned.

Crimson tattoos spread around the Primordial Lycan's furs. It was the telltale sign of the enhanced berserk. It then charged forward. Jack did the same. Their weapons caused a

loud clanging sound when they crashed into one another. Both sides weren't willing to back away. The two exchanged countless slashes from close range.

The two were only using standard attacks, but their slashing speed was almost imperceptible to the naked eye. After incalculable clashes, the Primordial Lycan was forced to take a step back. After Jack used the Strength of Hope, his strength and speed increased significantly. Even after the Primordial Lycan used enhanced berserk, it still lost.

The Primordial Lycan growled. Its golden fur turned red. At the same time, a fiery red aura swirled around its body.

Jack thought the visual effect was similar to the Wrath of the Beast used by those with the King of Beast bloodline, except Jack sensed this one was more powerful.

The Primordial Lycan roared as it swung its saber. Jack was still fast enough to parry the blow, but he staggered from the impact. The Primordial Lycan was now stronger after the buff.

"I'm not done yet!" Jack exclaimed and used Life Elevating Art. The Life Elevating Art was superb in recovery, but it also increased Jack's stats.

Jack was back to clashing with the Primordial Lycan. His strength and speed after the Life Elevating Art were equal to the Primordial Lycan. But since he had martial arts, he hit the Primordial Lycan more than the other way around. The Primordial Lycan was forced to step back again.

The Primordial Lycan roared angrily. They were still only using standard attacks. Aside from buff skill, both sides didn't use any offensive skill.

Another transformation happened in the Primordial Lycan's body. Its fur stood on its end and hardened, making it look like a humanoid porcupine. Jack thought the effect was similar to Leavemealone's White Tiger Rage.

The Primordial Lycan became stronger again. Jack tumbled back after several clashes.

"Okay! So, we are competing in buff skills, eh? Don't you think I will lose!" Jack exclaimed and used Sphere of Tiamat.

The Sphere of Tiamat similarly increased his stats while adding other effects. This time, the Primordial Lycan was pushed back with every clash. It received damage in every clash since every time it touched the sphere, it suffered chaos damage.

"Do you still have more? Don't be shy. Let it all out!" Jack cried out as he slashed.

"GROOAARR...!!!" The Primordial Lycan roared angrily. Its body grew in size.

"Gigantify?" Jack said after seeing the effect.

"Not only Gigantify. Look! Its muscles also become tauter. That was Tough Body skill. It increased his stats and defenses," Peniel informed from inside her secret dimension. She couldn't come out because she was considered an Archmage's familiar.

The Primordial Lycan became very strong after becoming a giant. It used one swing to send Jack flying, but Jack didn't receive damage due to the Sphere of Tiamat's protection.

Jack changed tactics. He zoomed around and hit the Primordial Lycan from its blind spots. His Sphere of Tiamat gave him bonus movement speed while the Primordial Lycan's Gigantify and Tough Body only increased its strength.

When Jack thought he could continue like this, the Primordial Lycan suddenly produced afterimage. It became faster. Jack was caught in surprise, and he was smashed into the ground.

"Illusive form? Hehe. So, you are still hiding something," Jack said while he was pinned to the ground by the Primordial Lycan's two weapons.

"Do you still have more?" Jack asked. "If not, this means I win!!"

Jack exploded into a bright golden glow. The explosion sent the Primordial Lycan hurling back. When it regained its balance, it saw Jack hovered before it. The Sphere of Tiamat surrounding Jack was now enveloped in a brilliant golden aura.

Jack had used the War God Manifestation.

## **Second World #Chapter 1823 1823. Completing the Challenge - Read Second World Chapter 1823 1823. Completing the Challenge**

### **Chapter 1823 1823. Completing the Challenge**

The Primordial Lycan stared at Jack warily. It could sense that Jack's power had grown stronger.

"Still have any more buff skill?" Jack asked. He was floating in the air and waiting for the Primordial Lycan to make its moves.

The Primordial Lycan answered by opening its mouth. A large torrent of black air poured out of its mouth.

The black torrent engulfed Jack. This black air had deteriorating properties. It was similar to the dark energies inside the eldritch beholder. Aside from receiving damage, those who came into contact with this black air would have their equipment's durability decreased. Their defensive values would also be greatly reduced.

Jack was protected by the Sphere of Tiamat, though. The golden aura from the War God Manifestation further reduced the damage received by the sphere.

"Well, I take it you have run out of buff skill, then," Jack said. He then shot downward.

The Primordial Lycan didn't see Jack bursting out from under the torrent of black air still pouring out of its mouth. Its breath attack had strong pressure. Normal opponents would be tumbling inside the torrent without being able to get out, but Jack's Sphere of Tiamat under the enhancement of War God Manifestation easily resisted the torrent's pressure.

Jack used mana concealment to mask his approach as he did an uppercut to the Lycan's lower jaw using his sword. The upperslash caught the Primordial Lycan in surprise. Its head was jerked upward from the blow, forcing its breath attack to stop.

Jack then unleashed his sword art at the Primordial Lycan's giant body. Its Tough Body skill might have boosted its defense, but Jack's swords enhanced by the golden light easily penetrated the defense and dealt full damage.

The Primordial Lycan recovered from Jack's surprise attack and swung its saber down. The saber swirled with dark energy as it slashed.

The Primordial Lycan didn't see Jack bursting out from under the torrent of black air still pouring out of its mouth. Its breath attack had strong pressure. Normal opponents would be tumbling inside the torrent without being able to get out, but Jack's Sphere of Tiamat under the enhancement of War God Manifestation easily resisted the torrent's pressure.

Jack used War God's Shield to block the attack. The Lycan's attack failed to cause Jack to budge.

The Primordial Lycan suddenly grew four extra arms and attacked Jack using Deca Slash.

"Asura? I also can!" Jack used his Soul Asura. His six little arms clashed with the Primordial Lycan's six giant arms, but it was the Primordial Lycan who recoiled from each clash.

The Primordial Lycan roared again. Eight long black appendages sprout from its body. These appendages ended with sharp stingers. The stingers shone with an ominous dark glow. With its six arms, it also stabbed Jack with its eight extra appendages.

Jack responded by using Dances of the Braves. Ten golden swords circled him. He also used the ten golden orbs from the aureole on his back. The golden orbs turned into swords. His Dances of the Braves slashed in his vicinity while the swords from the orbs slashed further ahead, creating two layers of cutting wheels. None of the Primordial Lycan's attacks were able to bypass his swords. It was the Lycan who ended up getting hit whenever it tried to advance.

While the exchange continued, Jack sensed something jumped out of the Primordial Lycan. This something turned out to be a giant wolf made of pure darkness. The wolf came pouncing from above.

Jack used War God's Stride and moved out of harm's way before the shadow wolf arrived. He then used War God's Wings. The wings gave Jack an increase in flying speed.

Under War God Manifestation, the golden aura made the War God's Wings appear even longer. With two extended sharp wing-blades, Jack zoomed around the Primordial Lycan, damaging it each time he passed. The Primordial Lycan's arms and the shadow wolf tried to catch Jack futilely. The combination of the War God Manifestation, War God's Wings, Strength of Hope, and Sphere of Tiamat made Jack too fast to deal with.

The multiple golden swords followed Jack as he flew. They also cut the Primordial Lycan when Jack flew past, dealing more damage.

The Primordial Lycan used several more offensive and defensive skills to contend with Jack, but nothing was enough to cope with Jack's speed. Jack continued to chip the Lycan's HP by flying in and out of the Primordial Lycan's range. When he was away, he used ranged attacks like the War God's Stare, War God's Light, Wind Slash, and Swords of Light to deal additional damage.

The battle lasted for almost the duration of the War God Manifestation, which was half an hour. By that time, the Primordial Lycan's HP was down to almost ten percent.

The Primordial Lycan had pretty much exhausted all its skills trying to catch Jack. Even if Jack lost his buff, he figured he should still be able to win, but he didn't plan to prolong this battle.

"Are you going to use it?" Peniel asked.

"Yeah. Let's see how strong it is," Jack said.

He didn't get the chance to try it when he was fighting the Ice Demon King, but the War God Manifestation had one more weapon. It had a finishing move that would end the War God Manifestation when used, similar to the finishing move of Lightning God Incarnation.

When Jack used this finishing move, the ten swords turned back to golden orbs and returned to the large ring on his back. The ring then spun at high speed. As it spun, the golden orbs turned brighter, so bright that it was as if a small sun was behind Jack.

The bright glow engulfed even Jack until nothing was seen but a giant glowing orb.

As the Primordial Lycan was hesitant about whether or not it should attack Jack who had now become a small sun, a loud voice sounded from inside the sun.

"War God's Beaammm....!!!"

A thick pillar of golden light burst out of the glowing orb. The speed of the beam didn't give the primordial lycan any chance to react. The golden beam swallowed the Primordial Lycan's entire body. Its HP was devoured as the golden beam washed over it.

Its remaining ten percent HP was quickly drained. Under the beam's still intense heat, its body vaporized until nothing was left.

Jack heard a notification then, "Congratulations to have completed the League of Champions' highest challenge!"

## **Chapter 1824 1824. The First Champion**

"Did you have to go and yell the skill's name before you attacked?" Peniel complained after the battle was over.

"It was cool, wasn't it?" Jack laughed.

"Cool your head! It was childish," Peniel said.

"There is only you and me. It's okay to be a bit childish," Jack returned.

Jack heard another notification while they were arguing, "Congratulations on being the first outworlder to complete the League of Champions' challenges. Receives 30,000 glory points and the title, First Champion."

"Thirty thousand glory points! That's generous!" Jack exclaimed.

He remembered he got 10,000 glory points when he became Praefectrus. He couldn't upgrade to the next rank after that, Laticlavian. The equivalent rank in the Order of Magi, Minister, gave him 20,000 knowledge points, so he figured it should be the same as Laticlavian. Following the pattern, becoming the highest rank, Legatus, should net him 30,000 glory points. Even though he couldn't become one, being the first player to beat Stage 100 seemed to award the same number of glory points.

He checked the gained title.

\*

### First Champion (Title)

No need to spend challenge points to take League of Champion's challenges.

Increase the limit of challenging the same stages in a day by 5 times.

Double the received glory points.

\*

"Great!" Jack said. He was running thin on challenge points. He had regretted not buying more challenge points when he ran into Gruff earlier. Now, he was glad he forgot to do that. He would have wasted his coins if he did since he no longer needed any challenge points with this title.

The best feature for him was the doubling of received glory points. Added with the double effect from Praefectrus rank, he could get four times glory points from each stage if he equipped this title.

He immediately equipped the title. He could challenge Stage 100 another nine times due to his Praefectrus rank and an extra five times with this title. With the double glory points, he should get one of the items he targeted from the exchange list.

It took him almost half an hour to beat the eternal-grade opponent in Stage 100, but that was because he was gauging the opponent's ability at the beginning of the battle. Now that he had experienced the opponent's battle style, he believed he could defeat it faster.

Without further ado, he re-entered Stage 100, unaware of the multiple wide eyes watching from afar.

"Who do you think that player is?" One of the watching players asked the one next to him.

"I don't know. How about you go and ask?" That player replied.

"All right. When he comes out, I will go and ask. Maybe we can become friends."

"I don't think so," Another player said. "I have an idea who that player is."

"Really? Who?" Asked the first player. His voice sounded skeptical. He assumed this one was only trying to sound smart by making a random guess.

"Have you not heard about the only player who had beaten the stages above 90 not long ago? I haven't heard of a second player who has achieved that feat. This one should be him. Who else can he be?"

"He...? But he didn't wear the king outfit."

"Then the logical reason should be because he has gotten better equipment. That golden shining armor does look the part."

The watching players were silent after hearing the deduction.

"Still thinking of going over and making friends?" The smart player asked the first player. "I did hear the rumor of him beating the shit out of the players who came to him for conversation. He considered them wasting his precious seconds when he was in a hurry."

"Really? I've never heard about that."

"Like I said. It was just a rumor. So, are you going to go talk to him? If you do, and you are fine, then I will approach him as well."

"Uh... I would like to, but I just remembered I have something to do. I will leave first."

That player scurried out of the room. The remaining players looked at each other before disbanding.

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Unaware of the commotion his presence had caused outside, Jack reappeared inside stage 100. Jack didn't waste time. Once the primordial lycan showed itself, Jack activated all his buffs and rushed forward. This took the primordial lycan by surprise and let Jack land a series of advantageous combos.

The battle didn't last as long as the previous one. It took Jack around twenty minutes to finish the battle. Afterward, he reentered again, and this time, it lasted fifteen minutes. The subsequent tries ranged from around fifteen to twenty minutes. By the time he exhausted his fifteen-challenge limit for stage 100, around six hours had passed. He could repeat stage 99 but if he did, he wouldn't have the time for the Order of Magi. So, he called it quits.

He amassed 6,770 glory points from all those challenges. Combined with the 812 glory points originally in his badge and the 30,000 glory points for the reward of being the first player to clear stage 100, he had 37,582 glory points.

He went to the exchange counter and opened the Praefectrus rank's exchange list. He had already spotted the item the last time, but it was too expensive. The item he was

looking at was an Armor Orb. All different kinds of armor orbs were on the list, but they were only super rare grades. Each of them cost 20,000 glory points. They were the most expensive items on the Praefectrus' list.

"Do you think I can get a higher-grade armor orb or weapon orb if I climb to the Laticlavian rank?" Jack asked Peniel.

"It's not a possibility anymore, so why ask? Anyway, I don't think you will find them. Unique and Legendary-grade are very rare. The most likely faction you can get unique grades is if you are a high-ranking member of the Blacksmith Circle. As for the legendary grades, you can only find them on the field or from special quests."

"Okay, let's get one here and then more from the Order of Magi," Jack said. Similar to here, armor orbs were also exchanged in the Order of Magi.

## **Chapter 1825 1825. Stage 100**

"All the armor orbs in this selection are using normal element names," Jack remarked. The other armor orbs or weapon orbs he had received all this time used deity names.

"Yes. These orbs can be said to be standard ones. The ones with special names can only be gotten from loots or quests," Peniel explained.

"Okay, let's pick this one," Jack said. The armor orb he chose appeared in his hand.

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Orb of Greater Light (Super rare Armor orb)

Increase armor's base defense by 10%.

Light resistance +20.

+10% resistance to Blind effect.

\*

The armor orb cost 20,000 glory points. He only had 17,582 glory points left. He couldn't get another one. He left the exchange counter and left the building. He went directly to the Order of Magi next.

Outside the Order of Magi's hut, Jack saw many native mages come in and out. He figured the situation here was as hectic as at the League of Champions. However, when he entered the hut, it was the familiar vacant space with only young Janus behind the desk.

"Your Majesty, it's good to see you again. Nice armor," Young Janus greeted.

"Oh, right," Jack said and transformed into Unrivaled Arcaner. "Are the true you in the meeting at the palace, or did you send your copy over?"

"The true me is there, and I must say he is rather disappointed that you are not there."

"Hehe, I'm sorry," Jack said.

"So, what are you doing here?" Janus asked.

"I'm going to beat Stage 100 of the challenge stage!" Jack announced.

"I can't see how that is more important than attending the war meeting with the faction leaders?"

Jack sighed. He was tired of giving the same excuse. "I'm never a king material. I'm more the king's executioner, and I will carry out that role to the fullest. For that, I need to become as strong as possible!"

"I see. So, do you plan to hand over your crown to someone?"

"I'm not going to waste time discussing that," Jack said. He headed to the back of the room where the portal appeared.

"Do you have the confidence to conquer stage 100?" Another Janus asked once Jack stepped out of the portal.

That startled Jack. 'I swear, I will never get used to this,' Jack said in his mind while giving Janus an irritated stare.

"Just you watch! By today, I will walk out of stage 100 in triumph!" Jack declared. He headed to the obelisk number 95.

"I will be rooting for you!" Janus exclaimed in return.

When Jack entered stage 95, he faced the same number of opponents as the challenge stage in the League of Champions. Even the levels and grades were the same. The only difference was the type of monster. Here, he faced elemental golems. The golems came from a variety of elements. All the elements were represented here except for Soul and Chaos.

Jack's Time Sage persona was still wearing his unique-grade regal outfit. So, his equipment advantage wasn't as substantial as when he was in the League of Champions. Even so, he had a different advantage here.

He cast Remote Magic Field before casting Double Clone. Four of his copies appeared. He had one used Magic Weapon. This copy became the main tank, joined by three other copies who used magic staffs as if they were swords. These four copies blocked the elemental golems while the real Jack blasted his spells without reservation. He used the Strength of Hope to boost his damage output.

He also used his regal outfit's Judgement of Past Kings. This would cause the ghost kings currently on standby inside the mobile fortress to vanish, but they were not in complete number there anyway. Not all of them survived the war in Dritzuut. Some of them were killed and were now back to haunting Thereath palace. When Jack woke up from his mana awakening slumber, the mobile fortress was away. Jack hadn't had the time to go there to resummon the ghost kings.

Combined with his other AOE spells. He quickly took down many of the golems. The golems weren't fast opponents like the werewolves or lycans in the League of Champions. This was by design. It would be tremendously difficult if the challenge for spellcasters were against fast monsters. No mages would be able to pass the challenge if it was so.

What the golems lacked in speed, they made up for it in strength and endurance. For a normal mage, it would take a long time to grind down their HPs. If the golems caught up to the mage, one hit could very well end the mage's life.

Fortunately, Jack was no normal mage. His copies could go toe-to-toe with the golems. They were so fast that the golems had trouble hitting them. They also had enough HPs to survive some accidental hits. This gave Jack the lenience to cast offensive spells without worry.

For the golems' high HPs, a mage would need to be meticulous in balancing his spells and their cooldowns. If the mage just used all his spells without planning, he could find himself in a quandary where he ran out of spells to cast. This was the gist of the challenges in this faction. However, Jack was again no normal mage. His library of spells was abnormal. He had many high-level spells that dealt strong burst damage, and he had plenty of low and mid-level spells to cycle around to finish the remaining opponents.

As long as his levels were not too lacking, he had no problem dealing with these elemental golems.

Hence, he continued completing one stage after another, until he stood before the largest obelisk at the center of the plaza. The number 100 was floating above this obelisk.

"I must say, Mister Storm Wind, I was rather surprised now that we are at this point," Janus stood next to Jack. They were gazing at the obelisk together. "Yet, I always know

you will be the first outworlder to arrive at this point. I just never expected it to be this fast."

Jack smiled at him. He said, "Thanks for your support all this time."

"You are saying it as if you have this stage in the bag," Janus said.

"Hehe. It's the moment of truth then," Jack chuckled and touched the obelisk.

## **Chapter 1826 1826. Gold Dragon**

After entering obelisk number 100, Jack came out in a plaza under a blue sky. Around them were empty landscapes for as far as the eye could see. Yet, he doubted he could go too far. There was for sure an invisible wall limiting the stage.

As he had expected, a single opponent appeared. It was a multicolor golem that was three times larger than the ones in the previous stage.

\*

Primordial Golem (Eternal monster, Elemental), level: 90

HP: 5,500,000

Strength: 6,804

Physical Defense: 9,200

Magical Defense: 7,100

\*

Based on the attributes he saw from using Inspect, this primordial golem was better than the primordial lycan. But he bet in terms of speed, dexterity, and reflex, the primordial lycan was better. With his current Inspect skill, he couldn't tell, though.

The primordial golem's physical defense was almost as high as his who wore a legendary divine armor set. The magical defense was not that high. Yet, based on the golems from previous stages, Jack bet this primordial golem possessed high resistance. From the multiple colors, Jack thought it was safe to assume this primordial golem excelled in all elements.

Jack started by casting the same spell combo, remote magic field and double clone. But as soon as his four copies appeared, the primordial golem split into seven. Each golem was embodying a different element. Fire, Ice, Wind, Earth, Lightning, Light, and Darkness.

Jack sent his four copies to engage the seven golems who were rushing forward. The lead copy used Magic Weapon and performed One-word Slash. The slash collided with the thick arm of the fire golem. A Fiery explosion resulted from the clash. Jack's copy with the magic weapon was swept aside by the force of the explosion.

Jack's other copies experienced a similar result. However, unlike the previous stages, the golems didn't go after the copies who should have drawn their aggro. They ignored those copies and came after Jack's real body instead.

"Crap! This primordial golem is smarter," Jack uttered. He spread his gold dragon wings and flew up.

He didn't get far, though. A spell formation appeared from one of the golems, and Jack lost his flight.

"No-fly Zone!" Peniel identified the spell.

The golems tried hitting him once he landed, but Jack was fast. He used Eight Diagram Illusory Steps to dodge the hail of fists. The fists came accompanied by elemental waves, so Jack still received damage even when he avoided getting hit directly by them. His copies rushed over to try their best to attract the golems' attention, but the golems mostly ignored them.

"I must say, without legendary-grade armor, I would likely not win this stage if my bloodline hadn't fully upgraded," Jack remarked. He used the last skill of his bloodline.

A golden light pierced from the sky above. This blinding light slammed into the earth golem that was closest to Jack. The golem smashed into the ground as a result. When the light subsided, a huge gold dragon was on top of the earth golem. It was using its body to pin the earth golem to the ground.

Jack thought the gold dragon looked similar to Syndrillis but slightly smaller. Its golden scales glistened as they reflected the lights around them.

Without delay, Jack jumped onto the dragon's back and clung onto its neck. He had lost his flight ability, and the golems were gunning at him. Staying with the dragon should be the safest. The gold dragon didn't mind Jack's action considering it was his summon.

The dragon opened its jaws and unleashed a thick beam of golden light. The beam slammed the ice golem that was in the process of lunging forward. The beam was strong enough to send the golem tumbling back. Without ending the breath attack, the gold dragon spun. Its tail came up and slapped the golems that were close. The slapped golems then received the beam attack that knocked them back.

Jack didn't stay idle. He cast his spells from the safety of the dragon's back. The golems started using ranged attacks to get to Jack. Their ranged attacks came in the shape of

elemental balls formed in their hand that they threw. The gold dragon used its large wings to shield Jack from these attacks.

When the golems lunged again, the gold dragon's strength was enough to contest with them. The dragon even proved to be slightly stronger. The dragon was surrounded, though, so it had difficulty defending against attacks from multiple angles.

Jack cast Superior Acceleration. With the buffed speed, the dragon broke out of the encirclement. After occupying a better position, it could better fight back.

The gold dragon could cast spells. Some of its spells were Light Pursuing Ray and Ghostly Light Spears, like the ones cast by Aglea inside Euphosine's dimension. Jack supported by casting Time Realm, giving the dragon an additional edge against multiple opponents.

Together, they ground the golems' HP.

The golems combined back into the primordial golem. It probably saw that more numbers didn't produce the desired effect. Back into a single multicolor golem, its strength was higher. Its punch produced a multicolor energy wave. When the gold dragon's claw collided with the golem's fist, the gold dragon was sent back multiple steps.

Jack had been waiting for the primordial golem to revert. He was about to cast a spell when the primordial golem's entire body shone. The gold dragon pressed on attacking. Jack noticed the damage inflicted on the golem was reduced to half. Aside from the damage reduction, Jack also sensed the irregularity from the golem's mana.

"Back!" Jack commanded. He didn't know what the primordial golem was trying to do, but he didn't want to take chances.

The gold dragon obeyed Jack's command. It retreated until there was a decent distance between them and the primordial golem. By then, the glow on the primordial golem had grown to a large multicolor sphere enveloping its body.

"Be careful! That's Convergence Beam!" Peniel informed.

"What's that?" Jack asked.

"It is similar to your War God's beam. Not as strong, but still powerful. It discharges an elemental beam that deals damage of all seven elements."

## **Chapter 1827 1827. The First Magi**

When Jack was still pondering about how to deal with the primordial golem's skill, he sensed a change in the gold dragon's mana. The gold dragon took a low stance as it started inhaling. Streams of mana started gathering in its mouth.

Immense mana converged until it reached a tipping point. The gold dragon opened its jaws then. A ring filled with runic symbols appeared in front of the dragon as a massive light beam shot forth. Jack noticed this attack was similar to Eoranth's strongest attack, the Annihilating Soul Beam. Peniel later confirmed to Jack that this move was called the Annihilating Light Beam. It was weaker than Eoranth's Annihilating Soul Beam, but still a devastating skill.

As the gold dragon fired its Annihilating Light Beam, the Primordial Golem unleashed its Convergence Beam. The two massive beams collided with one another. One blindingly bright golden beam while the other was filled with multiple brilliant colors.

The two beams seemed to be in a stalemate.

While the two were contesting in beam power. Jack left the gold dragon and rushed forward. He cast the spell he had intended to cast when the Primordial Golem recombined into one. He cast Time Lock. It was useless to use this spell to stop only one golem when there were six moving targets. With the opponent returning to a single number, Time Lock was most effective.

The Primordial Golem's convergence beam didn't stop when Jack's Time Lock hit. It continued to battle the gold dragon's golden beam for dominance. However, since the primordial golem stopped, it no longer added power to the beam.

Sensing its opponent's beam weakening, the gold dragon pumped mana into its Annihilating Light Beam. The beam became denser and brighter. The golden beam started pushing the multicolor beam back until it completely dominated the contest and finally slammed into the primordial golem.

The golem, still in stasis from Jack's Time Lock, was blasted away by the powerful beam.

In the meantime, Jack used Reset and cast Superior Acceleration. He then started casting his mega spell while under boosted speed. Time Lock lasted ten seconds. Under normal situations, Jack needed more than ten seconds to cast the eight-rune mega spell. Hence, the need for the acceleration.

The Wrath of the Ancient Dragons was cast. The seven dragons were halfway when the Time Lock's effect ended. The primordial golem wasn't a fast opponent, so it couldn't dodge the incoming dragons. It put its arms forward in an attempt to block, but the Wrath of the Ancient Dragons was not a blockable spell.

The first dragon that arrived was the fire dragon. It bit the golem's arms that were blocking its advance. As it did, it dissolved into flames and blanketed the golem's arms. The golem felt as if his arms were encased in a cement block. It had difficulty moving them. The other dragons arrived then.

They bit different parts of the primordial golem's body. Like the fire dragon, they dissolved into their elements and stuck to the primordial golem. The golem couldn't move at all once that happened.

The primordial golem had high resistance against all elements, but that didn't help much. The damage dealt by the mega spell was reduced but still considerable. Without the ability to move, the primordial golem was nothing more than a practice dummy.

The gold dragon attacked in a frenzy while Jack cast his second mega spell. His superior acceleration had ended then, but it didn't matter. With the primordial golem incapacitated, he had all the time in the world.

Storm Wrath was completed. The gold dragon retreated as the mega spell appeared at the primordial golem's location. The dragon resorted to casting ranged spells for offense while lightning and wind from Storm Wrath ravaged the primordial golem.

Despite the primordial golem's absurd HP, defense, and resistance, it still couldn't endure that many punishments. The primordial golem finally fell before the Wrath of the Ancient Dragons finished its duration.

Jack stepped out of the obelisk, receiving 30,000 knowledge points and the title of First Magi as the reward for being the first player who completed the whole challenge.

"Congratulations! Color me impressed," Janus said when Jack came out.

"Thank you," Jack replied. He checked his new title.

\*

First Magi (Title)

No need to spend challenge points to take Order of Magi's challenges.

Increase the limit of challenging the same stages in a day by 5 times.

Double the received knowledge points

\*

One of the advantages of this title was the same as his Honorary Magi title. Although Honorary Magi gave him a boost of battle power when doing the challenges, this new

title gave him extra knowledge points when he completed the challenges. He didn't think he would have trouble even without the power boost, so he equipped this title and repeated stage 100 another twenty-four times.

His minister rank tripled the knowledge points he got from beating the stages. He raked up 16,155 knowledge points after completing his twenty-fifth run.

With the 19,913 knowledge points originally in his badge and the 30,000 bonus he received earlier, he had 66,068 knowledge points.

"Being in a higher rank sure makes a difference," Jack remarked after seeing the knowledge points inside his badge. His gain was many times more than the glory points gained in the League of Champions.

He went to the exchange counter and started using his knowledge points to exchange for items. He went to the Exalted rank list instead of the Minister rank. If he hadn't gotten the mega spell from Broidireg, he would have exchanged his points for the mega spell in the Minister rank.

He went to the Exalted rank because armor orbs were available to exchange in this rank. The armor orbs were the same as the ones in the Praefectrus rank in the League of Champions. Each of these orbs also cost 20,000 knowledge points.

He spent 60,000 knowledge points and exchanged them for three armor orbs.

\*

Orb of Greater Fire (Super rare Armor orb)

Increase armor's base defense by 10%.

Fire resistance +20.

+10% resistance to Burn effect.

\*

Orb of Greater Ice (Super rare Armor orb)

Increase armor's base defense by 10%.

Ice resistance +20.

+10% resistance to Freeze effect.

\*

Orb of Greater Earth (Super rare Armor orb)

Increase armor's base defense by 10%.

Earth resistance +20.

+10% resistance to Poison effect.

## **Chapter 1828 1828. The Staff of Mind Breaker**

He was still short one armor orb, but he didn't have enough glory or knowledge points. He embedded all the armor orbs he had gained into his armor.

He embedded the Orb of Greater Light in his helmet, the Orb of Greater Fire in his arm guards, the Orb of Greater Ice in his girdle, and the Orb of Greater Earth in his leg guards. Only his shoulder armor still had an empty etch slot.

With all the armor orbs added, his physical defense improved to 10,389, and his magical defense was 9,184. His defenses were higher than the Primordial Golem when it had no buff.

"Are you done for the day?" Janus asked. "You will be leaving tomorrow, won't you? It's late already. You've better rest."

"How do you know I will be leaving tomorrow?" Jack asked.

"Royal Advisor John mentioned it during the meeting," Janus answered. "The meeting was over. Everyone had left."

"How did it go?"

"As well as you could expect. Everyone knows what's at stake. No one was thinking about benefits, so everyone went along with the plan to secure our victory, or at least, to delay the enemy's advance. I must admit there has never been an occasion where all of us league factions gathered and discussed the same thing. This was probably once in a lifetime event. It's a pity you missed it."

"We all have our part to play. I doubt the meeting will go any better with me there. It is more beneficial for everyone if I improve my strength."

Janus nodded. "Go and rest well."

"Will you be heading to the front line?" Jack asked.

"Of course, I also have to play my part," Janus answered.

"I meant the real you."

"My clones and the real me will go. I will only leave a few clones so the faction facilities are still operational."

"Then I guess the next time we meet will be on the battlefield."

"It will be an honor fighting alongside you again," Janus said.

"The feeling is mutual," Jack returned.

When Jack was about to leave, Janus stopped him. "Oh, right! I almost forgot. Can you pass this to your royal advisor?" He handed Jack a magic staff. "He asked me to combine a magic staff with an artifact. I didn't bring it with me when I went to the meeting earlier today because it still needs a few adjustments. I've just completed it recently."

"He did?" Jack asked.

"Yes. I think he heard from you about how I used an artifact to craft the Staff of Illios. He requested the same treatment. It's not an easy process, I must say. It is also expensive and requires many high-grade materials, which he paid for and supplied. So, I did it as a favor considering he is your best friend."

"I wouldn't dare call him best friend, but okay," Jack said. He accepted the staff. When he read its description, he gasped. He knew what artifact John used to make this staff.

\*

Staff of Mind Breaker, level: 80/99 (Legendary magic weapon)

Magic damage: 1,200

Range: 80 meters

Attack speed: 1

Energy: 500

Intelligence +60

MP +500

Area Mind Blast: Discharge a mental attack that deals 500% magic damage to all hostiles in a 10-meter radius of the target area. Disrupt spellcasting. Range: 80 meters. Cooldown: 1 hour.

Mind Control: Take control of a target. Cannot target Eternal grade. A mythical-grade target has to be 10 levels below the caster. Range: 50 meters. Duration: 10 minutes. Cooldown: 24 hours.

Interrogate: Only work on an incapacitated target. Target lost consciousness for 1 minute. Within that 1 minute, the target will truthfully answer all the questions from the Mind Breaker's user. Or, the user can search through the target's specific memory within that 1 minute. Ranged: 1 meter. Cooldown: 8 hours

\*

"Hey! This staff still retains the artifact's effect even after it becomes a weapon," Jack said to Janus. "Why does my Staff of Illios have its surveillance ability greatly reduced? I remember you used the Eye of Illios to spy on events in another country. I can't do that anymore using my staff."

Janus shrugged. "I got better after doing it the second time," he answered casually. Jack couldn't find it in him to continue complaining.

Jack stored the Staff of Mind Breaker and left.

\*

The next morning, Jack met John and Thaergood in the throne room. They were having a last-minute discussion about country affairs before they left. Jack told Thaergood to send the two newly built mobile fortresses to Palgrost and Aurebor to help the defense there.

John told everyone to gather in the throne room before they departed. Currently, only Jack, John, Thaergood, Grace, Paytowin, Leavemealone, and Domon were there. Domon was here to send them off. He would head to the front line with the other guild members afterward.

After finishing his discussion with Thaergood, Jack lifted the Staff of Mind Breaker and exclaimed, "Hey, everyone. Look at my new staff!"

"Wow! That's a good weapon," Paytowin remarked after using his Inspect. "But don't you already have a legendary magic staff? What are you going to do with two? You can't dual-cast like Master, can you?"

"Motherf\*cker, give it to me!" John yelled. He was cursing Janus in his mind for passing the staff to Jack.

"Yo, man. That's not the way to ask for something. I do have two legendary staff and I can give you one, but can you be a bit more courteous when you ask?"

"F\*ck courteous. That staff is mine!" John exclaimed.

"All right then," Jack stored the staff back into his inventory, which caused John to fume.

The others didn't understand what was going on, but they were happy since it was not every day they saw John getting frustrated by another person's attitude.

Domon chuckled before saying, "Afei, stop messing around. If the staff is John's, give it to him."

"Not until he says the magic word," Jack insisted.

John grumbled at the request. He uttered the word, please, in between his grumblings.

"What? I can't hear you," Jack said.

"Give the staff to me, please, Goddamnit!" John exclaimed.

"If you remember, it is I who gave you the Mind Breaker. So, this staff can be said as mine, but I'm not a petty person. So, here."

Jack threw the Staff of Mind Breaker. John caught it mid-flight.

"Oh? So, you made the staff from that artifact? How did you do it?" Paytowin asked John.

"I asked the leader of the Order of Magi to craft it for me. You can forget about doing the same. Even if you have a legendary artifact, not every artifact is compatible to be made into a staff. It also requires many coins and materials, which I'm pretty sure you don't have."

"Aren't you underestimating me too much?! I have the Legacy of Courage which housed lots of resources," Paytowin uttered.

"Which you have returned to the keeper inside the Sanctuary for Courage after we built that wonder building," John said.

"Ugh, I still go there from time to time to get tasks and rewards from Callan," Paytowin returned.

"You recovered awfully fast," Jack said to John. John was back to his usual condescending demeanor once he got the staff.

"I was just pretending to be upset," John replied. "I know you will just insist on keeping this staff if I deny you the satisfaction of letting you think you best me."

"Motherf\*cker," it was Jack who now cursed.

## **Second World #Chapter 1829 1829. Discussion before Departure - Read Second World Chapter 1829 1829. Discussion before Departure**

### **Chapter 1829 1829. Discussion before Departure**

More players trickled into the throne room as time passed. Jeanny came with David. Arthur came with Jet and Freddie. Red Death came with Scarface. Spring Crown came by himself and just went and chatted with Jeanny, to David's annoyance.

When Four Winds arrived with Purple Mist, Jack went and congratulated him. Four Winds had won the Grand Election Tourney and was now the official grand chief of Verremor. The process was not without resistance, he had to fight fiercely in the tourney. Some tribes expressed strong disagreements even after the result was out, but they lost to public support.

Four Winds had proved a capable commander after the war campaign to Liguritudum. Most of the tribes that fought in the war supported him. Additionally, the announcement of the underworld invasion had let everyone know that this was not the time for politics. They needed someone decisive to steer the country in this time of peril and many believed Four Winds was the orc for the job.

Four Winds didn't waste time. He used his ruling powers to issue Call to Arms and Mass Drill. Even if he was not a full sovereign during the war, he was a partial one, so he received plenty of merits from the war. These merits allowed his governor level to level up multiple times, which carried over into his sovereign level once he was appointed grand chief. He gained many ruling powers in the process.

He also did manual drafting and training for each settlement. With the effect of the world enchantment, he drafted many recruits. He appointed Water Lily as his main advisor and let her deal with the remaining details before he left.

As for the Raretooth tribe, they had nowhere to go after they lost Kabaka. Four Winds offered them amnesty if they followed him back to Verremor. They weren't willing to wander aimlessly in a foreign land, so they took up on Four Winds' offer.

One of the reasons Four Winds did that was because of Jack's request. Thebalder felt bad about what happened to his best friend's tribe after hearing the news. He asked Jack if there was a way to help that tribe, hence Jack's request to Four Winds.

Four Winds kept his promise once he became the grand chief. The Raretooth tribe was pardoned. They were considered a normal tribe, though. They no longer had their previous prestige due to their transgressions. They had to work from the bottom again.

They didn't mind. They were happy enough that they had a home again. They swore an oath of loyalty to Four Winds. Seeing their earnestness, Four Winds decided to entrust the security of Mjiku Maba to them, the city they were familiar with.

He, of course, tasked his guild members to monitor that native tribe, making sure they didn't stab him in the back.

"How long do you think we will be gone?" Four Winds asked.

"I honestly can't answer that," Jack answered. "We have to see what's what at Chris' secret location first."

"For all we know, we can be wasting our time," Purple Mist said. She didn't support the idea of leaving the country when they had just gained control of it for a few days.

"Drastic times call for drastic measures," Jack said. "I don't think the main creator of this world requests the best players to go there for nothing."

"Hm...," Four Winds grunted. He had the same mind as Purple Mist, but he trusted Jack enough to bet on this.

"Speaking of the creator," Purple Mist said when she saw the next group that came through the door.

It was Wilted and her gang. Most of the ones here already knew Handsome Joe, Anotherday, and Blackhole. The three were participants in the Outworlder World Tournament, so they were well-known enough. Two other players in Wilted's group were not so. Jack assumed they were Nameless and Badass.

Jack thought maybe he had seen those two, but he couldn't tell. Wilted brought quite many players with her during the war, after all.

Wilted introduced the two to everyone. Nameless was a male elf, and Badass was a male vampire. Everyone couldn't deny the two were impressive considering both had first-class special classes. Nameless was a level 82 Saint Knight, a special class from Paladin. Badass was a level 82 Hell Walker, a special class from Warlock.

"Hell walker," Jack said in his mind to Peniel. "The class sounds like they can travel to the underworld like the nightmare."

"They can," Peniel answered. "It is their spell when they reach level 90. The spell allows them to open a portal and wander around the underworld."

"Oh..., too bad he is still level 82," Jack said. "Otherwise, we can send another team to get the portal-closing stone."

"Their spell only allows themselves to go to the underworld. They can't bring a passenger like the nightmares," Peniel explained.

Wilted came to John and asked, "Do we have eyes on the underworld forces' movements?"

"It's difficult to spy on them," John answered. "Players who tried mostly end up dead. The ones with the most successes are intel gathered by the Dogs of War and the Jackal Crews."

"Even we have only limited intel," David informed. "From what little we can gather, it is safe to assume the underworld forces are splitting. They divided themselves into six armies and headed to three different countries. Hydrurond, Palgrost, and Aurebor. Each army was led by one devil."

"They are underestimating us by splitting up," Four Winds said.

"Splitting up ensures them the quickest way to conquer everything," John said. "Frankly speaking, they have the right to underestimate us."

"Yes, I still can't forget when Satan used his Soul and Chaos Chain Reaction," Jeanny said. "That skill is truly too OP-ed."

"It's literally a nuke," Paytowin remarked.

"What the hell is on your mind when you and your partner designed those devils?" David asked Wilted.

"To be fair, I never thought they were going to become real devils whom we have to defeat to save our lives," Wilted replied.

"Because of that skill, we can't fight Satan with quantity. I have left instructions. If Satan is to be engaged, it will only be with a few high-level combatants who have the speed to flee the skill's zone."

"As if there is such a combatant," Paytowin remarked.

"This is all your fault," John said to Jack. "If only you can enter the mana awakening state at will, we will have a way to fight Satan."

"Do you not believe I'll whack you in front of everyone?" Jack threatened.

## **Chapter 1830 1830. Entertainment while Waiting**

"You had a meeting with the league factions yesterday?" Wilted asked. She had been away doing her own matters the last two days, so she was unaware of the meeting.

"Yes, we discussed their positions and roles in the coming war against the underworld forces. You sounded surprised?" John asked.

"In the original game we designed, the league factions remained neutral to the end," Wilted answered.

"Even with the underworld threat that will wipe out everything, including them? That doesn't sound very realistic," Jack said.

"It's a game," Wilted answered. "We can't just have everyone take action. It will be too much of a mess. The original design only has the players and the country armies battling the underworld forces."

"Perhaps it's because this world is now real, so they behave more realistically," Paytowin offered his opinion.

"Probably," Wilted said.

"It doesn't matter how. As long as they are willing to help, that's a good thing for us," Jack said.

"It is," John agreed. "Though I doubt their addition is anywhere enough to cover the shortfall of players and native armies that should have faced the underworld forces in the original design."

John was looking at Wilted while saying that. Wilted responded with, "That's correct."

"Well, then we have to make full use of what we got," John said.

They continued chatting more. After a while, John asked, "Is everyone here?"

He was making a headcount. Some people outside the twenty-four also came, probably to say goodbye like Domon. So, he couldn't tell if everyone was here even when there were more than twenty-four people already.

"We are short one person. Damn it! Where is that damned sailor?" John cursed. He sent a message to Will to ask about his whereabouts.

While he was sending the message, the others continued to chat with each other in groups. Wilted's gang was hanging with their own group.

"I don't understand. We have plenty of capable players from our own circle. Why bring outsiders?" Badass asked Wilted.

"I agree," Nameless said. "Chris' message is for you, isn't it? You have the most right to decide who to bring. I understand when it comes to the Themisphere King or Spring

Crown. No one questions their abilities, but some of the others. I can't see why the choice."

"That's right! Some of the people here are still in their elite class. I bet they are still wearing rare-grade equipment. We should set special class as the minimum requirement to join this journey."

Badass intentionally increased the volume of his voice in his last sentence.

"Pipe down, will you?" Anotherday said. "The people suggested by the Themisphere king and his royal advisor are surely not common players."

"Brother, why are you defending them? I'm sure you can see that our people are better candidates compared to some of the ones here."

"Is there a problem?" Jack came and asked.

"I'm sorry. My people are just having some disagreement. No need to mind us," Wilted said to Jack.

"It's good that you are here, Your Majesty," Badass said to Jack. "I meant no disrespect, but certainly, you understand the importance of this journey. We knew Chris from the old days. We played games with him often and we are his game testers like Anotherday here. We know the people he asked to go to his place will have a significant role to play. We need to make sure that all the people are chosen based on their merits rather than preferences."

"I see... Well, I can't blame you since our groups hardly know one another," Jack said. "I know we need to respect one another if we are to work together. For that, we need to know each other. Regarding your skepticism about the people from my side. I have an easy fix."

"What do you suggest, Your Majesty?" Badass asked.

"Just now, you questioned the ones still in their elite class, didn't you?" Jack asked. He turned and called, "Uncle Freddie, David! Can you come here, please?"

After the two approached, Jack said, "How about you pick two people from your side and we have a two-on-two bout? Let's put it this way. If you can last ten minutes against the two of them, you can pick two players to replace them. How about that?"

"Your Majesty must be joking, right? If we can't defeat them in ten minutes, consider we lose!" Badass exclaimed.

"Well, if you insist," Jack said.

"Wait a minute. If we lose, we are out of the team. What will we get if we win?" David asked.

"Fine. If you win, we will be the ones who leave. Not that we will lose, of course," Badass announced.

"Hey! What the heck is this about leaving?" John came after hearing the commotion. "We don't have time to shit around. We can't go and find new people. We have to leave this morning!"

"Okay. If we lose, I will give the two of you unique-grade equipment suitable for your class. How about that?" Wilted said to David and Freddie.

"That's fine," David said.

Handsome Joe came to Badass and said, "You do know that gunner is the participant in the world tournament, don't you?"

"That's a long time ago. If he is still in the elite class, then he doesn't have many skills available. By now, we who have special class are surely superior."

Joe shrugged. He could see there was no talking Badass down. He should let the guy do this, or Badass would whine about it the entire journey.

"Who will fight with me?" Badass asked.

"I will be your partner," Nameless said.

"What's the rule? We can't have them kill each other and lose one level, can we?" Wilted asked.

"How about this? Whoever loses more than half their HP or is forced out of the arena is considered lost," Jack suggested.

"What arena?" Everyone asked.

"We will mark an area with the size of twenty-by-twenty meters," Jack said. "John, I know you have a chalk. Will you do the honor, please?"

"Your Majesty, can I suggest we do this outside?" Thaergood asked. He was not keen on having people fight inside the throne room.

"This will just take ten minutes. It will be a hassle to move elsewhere. Let's just take this as entertainment while we wait for our last member," Jack said.

"Entertainment..."

Badass and Nameless were speechless upon hearing Jack's words. They were fighting to prove their points, but for Jack, this was only entertainment? They felt fired up. They were going to prove that they were right!