

Second World #Chapter 1851. The Defensive Fronts of Each Country - Read Second World Chapter 1851. The Defensive Fronts of Each Country

Chapter 1851. The Defensive Fronts of Each Country

Another large flyer flew around the air, slaying the demon bats wherever it went. If Jack was there, he would think this flyer looked very much like the infernal stormbird he encountered during his trip to the underworld. This stormbird was Everlasting Heavenly Legend's fourth guild guardian.

They were captured by Bowler and The Man, assisted by Serpent Boss and Speedrun, using the miniature cage given by Chris. After they delivered the portal-closing stones, they returned to the underworld and headed to the coordinates Chris gave. There, they found this stormbird.

The stormbird was not the same as the infernal stormbird that Jack had seen before. The infernal stormbird was blue. This one was dark purple. It was a variant of the same monster, Lord Stormbird. It looked almost the same but was much stronger.

Bowler and the others spent a week studying its habits before making their move. The miniature cage might have a 100% success chance, and they didn't need to reduce its HP, but they still need to get close. If they were killed before getting close enough or the stormbird flew away before they had the chance, everything would be a waste. There was no guarantee the stormbird would return after it escaped.

Luckily, they had Serpent Boss and Speedrun, who used to plan missions where they had to succeed with only one attempt. After making sure of the stormbird's routines, Serpent Boss and Speedrun moved in for the kill. Bowler and The Man stayed behind since they couldn't afford any mistake.

For this reason, Speedrun was accepted into Everlasting Heavenly Legends. The miniature cage needed to be activated by a guild member to register the captured monster as the guild's pet.

Their mission was a success. The captured Lord Stormbird was delivered to the guild. This happened shortly before the underworld forces arrived at the border.

Bowler and the others again returned to the underworld. They still had one more mission to carry out.

The Lord Stormbird was given the name, Ladohn, after officially becoming a guild guardian. His lightning attacks were more powerful than the infernal stormbird. He emitted constant electricity that electrocuted everything that came close, making him a troublesome opponent for melee combatants.

His flight speed was also very fast. The flap of his wings generated electrical blades that hit targets from range. These electrical blades were considered standard attacks since they had no cooldown. He also possessed some skills that dealt chaos damage.

Ladohn was a level 85 mythical-grade avian. This made him the guild's highest-level guardian.

With the reinforcement from the guild armies, the mobile fortress pushed the demonic tide back to the defensive walls. Spellcasters from Everlasting Heavenly Legends used their combination-casting mega spells from the safety inside the mobile fortress. This helped keep the demons from pushing back the mobile fortress.

Unfortunately, the walls were long. They tried to choose the most ideal terrains for battle, but ideal terrains were not many. They had prepared multiple defensive lines. This was the first of the lines.

Since the walls were long, the mobile fortress and guild units couldn't be everywhere. Some parts of the wall on the other side couldn't stand for too long. They started crumbling bits by bits, and the demon hordes poured in from the gaps.

Linda was with Tip inside the mobile fortress. She was using the war table to move the Themisphere army. Before Jack left, he replaced John's position for Linda. Players didn't receive any benefit from being a country's officer, so John didn't mind this temporary replacement. This was so Linda could operate the war table and the Monarch system while Jack and John were away. She, of course, did it under the supervision of either Thaergood or Saint Jonathan.

Linda tried her best to control the army using the war table, but there was a limit when they were fighting overwhelming forces. She could see their defensive lines were slowly getting pushed.

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Since leaving Liguritutum, the underworld forces separated into six armies and advanced from six different fronts. Each was led by one of the six devils. Two armies headed to Hydrurond, another two headed to Palgrost, and the last two headed to Aurebor.

Since their march was slow following the advance of the corrupted mana, the defenders were aware of this. The underworld forces didn't care, though. In their opinions, it didn't matter even if the enemies knew their movements. The result would be the same.

The defensive force in Hydrurond was divided into two fronts, the Northern and the Southern defenses. The Southern defense was guarded by the mobile fortress and the Themisphere army returning from Liguritutum. The Northern defense was guarded by

the Hydrurond army, which Aldryth had tried to rebuild since the Allied forces retook Messephyria.

Because she was a native sovereign, the army rebuilding was slow even with the boost from the world enchantment, State of Emergency. There were not enough Hydrurond troops to man the Northern defense.

Thankfully, the league factions came through. Most of the league factions with combat focus sent their members here. Thus, solving the problem of manpower.

As for players, most of Themisphere players guarded the Southern defense while Aurebor players took care of the Northern one.

In Palgrost, the defensive lines were also drawn to match the locations where the two underworld forces were entering the country from. They were similarly divided into the Northern and Southern defenses.

The Northern defense was guarded by the Sangrod army. After the underworld portal in their country was sealed, they no longer had to worry about internal problems. Thus, they sent their army to help with the defense.

The Southern defense was the responsibility of the Palgrost army. The same as Hydrurond, Palgrost had suffered massive troop casualties in past wars. Hence, they didn't have enough troops. Fortunately, Jack sent the 648,000 Themisphere troops originally stationed in Themisphere, including one of the newly built mobile fortresses. With this force, Palgrost had a fighting chance.

The players that helped defend Palgrost came from Palgrost and Sangrod. The players helped the respective countries they were from.

The underworld forces coming into Palgrost were a little later than in the other two countries. This was due to the navies guarding the inner sea between Liguritum and the Daflue region.

The delay was slight, though.

The navies put up a fierce fight when the underworld forces arrived. The cannon fires from their organized formations created a massive volley that took out many of the first batch of demons. However, when one of the devils arrived, everything pretty much went to hell.

The devil that wrecked the navies was none other than Leviathan. Water was his natural environment. When he was in the water, he was even more dangerous than when he fought the Allied Forces during their first meeting. He could manipulate water at will, causing tidal waves and tsunamis. Many of the ships were even sucked into his massive mouth and were slowly digested in his stomach.

In the short span of two days, the Palgrost navy base in Daflue became a pile of wreckage. The underworld forces marched on.

In Aurebor, the two fronts were separately guarded by the Aurebor army and Verremor army. Both countries had outworlder sovereigns. Hence, they had sufficient manpower. Verremor had a larger army because it lost fewer troops than Aurebor during past wars.

Jack sent the second of his newly built mobile fortresses to aid the Northern defense guarded by the Aurebor army.

As for the remnant of the Ligiritudum army, they headed to the Northern defense in Hydrurond after escorting the refugees past the border. They joined the small Hydurond army and the league factions in defending the place.

Ligiritudum players spread among the six defensive fronts. They had no one to organize them since their country was no more. They simply went independently and tried to help as best they could.

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At the Southern Hydurond front where Themisphere army and its main mobile fortress were fighting, the players spread out along the defensive line. Most of Themisphere guilds fought here under the leadership of Everlasting Heavenly Legends.

The guild members mostly fought in large teams with their guild members, but some preferred to fight in a small team, going wherever they pleased. One such small team was a group of veteran martial artists led by Domon. Domon was never much of a team player. He could listen to orders. But when he saw people needed help, he went that way. This made his movement pretty much chaotic. Both Tip and Linda were already aware of this, so they just left him to his own devices.

At one part of the walls which had crumbled, Muilan was fighting the enemies with her two swords.

"Muilan, watch out!" Murong yelled as she rushed to Muilan's side and used her spinning crane kick on a demon about to backstab Muilan.

The two women were members of Cipher Flights. Most of that guild's members were fighting in Aurebor. They were here simply because Murong wished to fight with Domon.

"Thank you, master," Muilan said. Her two swords created a net of sword lights that kept the demons in front of her at bay.

"Watch out, Murong!" Another voice sounded. Numerous melee weapons with tiger decorations flew by Murong's side and hit the swarm of demons that were about to surround her.

Domon came to her side while performing Death Carrying Cyclone to beat back the demons that had been stunned by his Tiger Armament Storm.

"There are too many of them," Murong yelled at Domon.

"Heads up!" A shadow jumped past them with a flying kick. The kick struck a demon bat swooping down at Domon and Murong.

Wong landed with the demon bat still stuck in his foot. His body then spun, creating a huge hurricane. This was Spinning Twister Kick, a skill he had just learned from a technique book.

The hurricane threw the demon bat and every other demon in the vicinity into the air while causing them continuous damage. When the hurricane subsided, Domon jumped up. He changed his weapon to dual swords. He used the burst attack of the Formless Flowing Sword Style, striking all the demons still disoriented in the air.

After landing, Domon said to them, "We need to defend this side! If more demons come through, it will be difficult to stop the tide."

Chapter 1852. Oriental Guardian Beasts

The four martial artists fought near the crumbled wall. Some native soldiers and players were nearby, but not too many. This was the reason Domon defended this part. It was severely lacking in defenders.

A large demon covered in spiky metal plates came to them. It carried with it a huge spiked club. It was swinging this club to smash the four out of his way. Domon came forward and used Tiger Ki Strike. His glaive and the spiked club collided. Despite the demon's huge frame, the demon was the one hurling back from the clash.

But due to Domon coming forward, the other demons saw it as a chance to gang up on him. They jumped at him from different directions. Domon activated his Tiger War God armor. At the same time, he used Weapon Festival. The multiple melee weapons materialized around him, striking the demons that came near.

Domon didn't exert control of his weapon festival. Using mana manipulation on the skill and consciously controlling the skill were two different things. He was good at the former but lacking at the latter. The floating melee weapons were empowered by mana manipulation and thus dealt more damage, but they attacked in automated mode.

Performing Soul Pursuit Hurricane, Domon's glaive expertly slid between his floating melee weapons. Despite the weapon festival's chaotic movements due to auto mode, Domon's control of the glaive in his hand was perfect. His glaive never touched the floating weapons. Yet, it struck the demons missed by his weapon festival.

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Wong rushed out in an attempt to aid Domon. A wall of fire suddenly came up before him, blocking his path. Before he could react, a torrent of fire washed over him. He had to activate Steel Body to mitigate the damage.

His mana sense directed him to the one casting the spell. A high demon floating in the air not far away. It was a level 60 eternal. The high demon was in the process of casting another spell.

Before Wong could decide how to deal with the situation, a monstrosity appeared before him. It was the abomination composed of multiple demons, but this one had several disgusting tentacles that slapped around randomly. This abomination was a level 88 mythical grade.

The tentacles came whacking. Wong backflipped to evade them. The ground had visible gashes after the tentacles hit.

While Wong was doing his best to dodge, the eternal-grade demon completed its casting. It was as if a firecracker exploded nearby. This firecracker produced uncountable fiery darts that homed in at Wong and the other nearby defenders.

Wong's hands turned into a blur as he used Hundred Lightning Hands. Every fiery dart coming his way was slapped to embers without hitting him. However, performing this martial art caused him to be unable to move. The abomination with tentacles came again and was about to smack him with its tentacles.

A flame pillar suddenly struck the abomination before it swung its tentacles. The flame pillar was powerful enough to push the abomination and force it to stop its attack on Wong. Not long after, something fast came slamming the abomination from above.

It was a humanoid dragon.

"You?!" Muirong called after seeing this humanoid dragon. She had seen this being before. She and the others had fought it more than a month ago.

"Long!" Wong exclaimed. The humanoid dragon was Long in his enhanced dragon form.

Long executed Infinite Comet Fists, beating back the demons who were about to swarm him and Wong.

"Thank you for coming! We need all the help we can get!" Domon exclaimed while fighting the other demons.

Long harrumphed. "Hmph! Don't get me wrong. I'm not helping you, people. I'm just seeing this as a good opportunity to practice."

"Hehe," Wong chuckled. "Let's fight together then."

He rushed past Long and used Fist Cannon at the abomination. It was the only one resisting Long's infinite comet fist and stood its ground. Wong's fist cannon sent it reeling back.

The eternal-grade demon cast another spell again. The spell summoned several large fiery blades that cut through the ground and headed toward them. It was the Blade of Doom.

The flaming blades traveled in straight lines. Although it dealt high damage, it was useless against expert martial artists. Wong and Long easily stepped out of harm's way. Long even rushed forward. Using two skills at the same time to boost his speed. Speed Run and Beastly Speed. His target was the eternal-grade demon.

The eternal-grade demon was taken by surprise. It tried to fly further up while casting a spell that caused a burst of fire around it.

Long ignored the fire burst. He just charged through it. He lost some HP. Flames erupted on his body, but that was not the burn effect from the demon's fire burst. It was his Nine Yang Restoration. His lost HP was quickly refilled. He arrived next to the eternal-grade demon.

The demon was taken aback by Long's lightning speed. Before it could react, a fist landed on his face. Its legs were then hit by Long's leg sweep. It spun around uncontrollably in the air. Despite being an eternal grade, it was only level 60. So, it was powerless against Long, especially once it was dragged into a melee exchange.

Long grabbed the demon's body and threw it in Wong's direction.

Wong jumped and received the demon by performing an axe kick. The demon was sent slamming into the ground where Muirong came and used her Fifty Shades of Death to keep it pinned to the ground. The constant hits from Murong's martial arts rendered the demon unable to cast spells.

The other demons came rushing at Long who had advanced too far from the group to catch the eternal-grade demon. Long didn't panic. He even stared at these incoming demons with a sneer.

When the mass of demons arrived. He used Beastly Rage. The shockwave from the skill stopped the demons' advance. It also boosted his next attack which he executed immediately after.

He punched his fist into the sky. A massive image of a golden fist punched out of the ground below. All the demons in Long's vicinity were swept upward helplessly. This giant fist then exploded in a brilliant display of light. This was the World Conquering Fist. With the power boost from Beast Rage, all the nearby demons received massive damage.

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"This is taking longer than it should," A high demon with the name of Maliarki said.

"Lord Satan will not be pleased," A female high demon by the side said. She went by the name Ririth. Her voice sounded anxious.

"Aren't the upperworld denizen weaklings?" Another high demon said. His name was Xarod. "Weren't they almost decimated when our six lords attacked them?"

"They had time to prepare," Maliarki said. "Their effort is simply delaying the inevitable. The problem is we will suffer Lord Satan's wrath if they are not defeated by the time he arrives. How far away is Lord Satan's force?"

"Lord Satan should probably arrive in three or four hours," Xarod answered.

The battle had been going on for more than half a day. The defenders were still fiercely defending the walls despite being outnumbered. This upset the commanders of the demon army. These three high demons were the main commanders of this vanguard force. The three were all eternal grades. Maliarki was level 80. Ririth was level 78, while Xarod was level 75.

"In that case, we can't stand idle," Maliarki said. "Let's go! Send everyone out!"

The reserve demon army, still hanging at the back, rushed forward once they received the command. The pressure suffered by the defenders intensified. Their line of defense was again pushed.

The three commanders caused the situation to become even more difficult for the defenders. All three were potent spellcasters. Their spells hit hard and covered a large area. In a short time, the defenders suffered many casualties. Even with the help from the rune tree's recovery effect, it was still difficult to cope.

"Tip! It's time to use that," Linda shouted.

"I know!" Tip replied. He accessed the guild army platform and activated the active effect of a guild enchantment.

The enchantment was the secret guild enchantment Chris said to appear once they tamed the Lord Stormbird. This guild enchantment was called the Oriental Guardian Beasts. It was triggered when a guild possessed four guild guardians of specific monster types. The required types were a draconic monster with traits close to a dragon, an aquatic monster with traits close to a turtle, a beast monster with traits close to a tiger, and an avian monster with traits close to a bird.

This enchantment had a passive effect and an active effect. The passive effect improved the level growth rate of all guild pets. Unfortunately, Ladohn had just recently joined the guild, so the passive effect was not evident yet. As for the active effect, it was similar to Jack's Elevate Beast skill. It elevated the guild guardians by one grade.

Once Tip activated the enchantment, Penny, Gumeru, Czar, and Ladohn were enveloped by white lights. All four were mythical grades. After the activation, they became eternal grades.

Tip didn't activate the enchantment from the get-go because the active effect had a duration. It lasted three hours. Hence, he only used it when powerful opponents like the three demon commanders showed up. Once he did, he set those three demon commanders as the target for the guild guardians.

Chapter 1853. The Heavenly Beasts

Penny roared as she flapped her wings. Her elevated power improved all her abilities. Her roar caused the demon bats in her vicinity to stop in their tracks and lose their flying ability. They dropped like flies. She then shot up into the sky. Several seconds after she vanished into the clouds, she shot back down with incredible speed. The air around her burned, causing her to look like a falling meteor.

She was using her Diving Lava Beam. She had been fighting far ahead at the front line, so the area directly under her was filled with enemies. The demon bats who had lost their flying abilities earlier fell among these enemies. She let out her lava beam in their midst.

Under her elevated eternal condition, her Diving Lava Beam caused an explosion wider than when she was a mythical grade. The hit area was doubled to a diameter of three hundred meters. This attack halted a portion of the demon's advance.

After carrying out her attack, she left the wounded demons and rushed to where the demon commanders were. However, something beat her to it.

Ladohn had a faster flying speed. Under the elevated effect, he was even faster. A crescent blade followed his flight. He swerved away when he was close. The crescent

blade continued onward while maintaining its trajectory. It was heading toward the three demon commanders.

The three demon commanders were surprised the enemies dared to attack them directly. Ladohn was so fast that his crescent blade was already upon them by the time they noticed. Xarod moved forward and put his hand out to accept the incoming crescent blade. A ki shield appeared before that hand.

Ladohn's crescent blade crackled with electricity as it neared its target. It easily sliced through Xarod's ki shield. Considering the attack came from someone of the same grade but ten levels higher, this outcome was expected. It was a shock to Xarod, though. He had seen this stormbird in action. From what he saw, he estimated the stormbird to be a mythical grade. He had no time to use Inspect when Ladohn suddenly ambushed them.

The crescent blade continued onward, but Xarod managed to activate another skill in time despite his shock. A layer of hardened rocks covered his body. The crescent blade hit him, but the earth suit reduced the damage. It also prevented him from getting paralyzed.

"Watch out!" Maliarki cast a spell. A large blue sphere encapsulated the three of them.

Ladohn didn't stop after sending his crescent blade. He flew up and gathered the lightning elements in the environment. After gathering enough, he unleashed the energy upon the three commanders. Lightning sparks raged in the area where the three commanders were. Multiple lightning explosions occurred incessantly in the area. If Maliarki hadn't erected the protective sphere in time, the three would have drowned in the lightning turbulence.

Ladohn pressed on the attack after using his Storm Blast. His wings flapped rapidly. Each beat of his wings produced lightning blades larger than his standard attacks. The barrage of lightning blades battered the protective blue sphere until it broke.

A streak of fire rushed out as the blue sphere shattered. It was lightning fast. It stabbed into Ladohn before he could fly away.

"Loathsome bird! How dare you attack us?" The streak of fire was Ririth. Her body was coated in flames. Her flaming rapier was deep inside Ladohn. The rapier continued to discharge flames and cause fire damage to Ladohn.

Ladohn shrieked. Dense lightning burst out of his body. This lightning washed over Ririth. Her flame suit was not enough to protect her. The dense lightning assailed her, and she was blasted away.

Maliarki used the window created by Ririth to cast another spell. Large gravity balls spread all around Ladohn and exploded. They caused dark damage and generated a force field that prevented Ladohn from moving.

When the three demon commanders prepared to dish out another attack on Ladohn, they sensed pressure from below. They turned and saw a huge hurricane headed toward them. They hurriedly used whatever protective measures they could. The hurricane swept and tossed them around, dealing wind damage every second.

They only regained their balance after the wind died down. The hurricane shrunk and revealed Czar, Everlasting Heavenly Legends' third guild guardian. The wings on his back had winds constantly swirling around them, making it seem as if he had two tornados for wings. Czar was level 83. The three commanders were now facing two eternal-grade opponents higher in level than them.

Not long after, Penny also joined the fray.

Against three eternal-grade opponents with higher levels than them, the three demon commanders had difficulties fighting back. They hurriedly transferred mental commands for the other demons to come to their aid. Soon, a horde of demons came to fight Penny, Czar, and Ladohn, relieving the pressure from the demon commanders.

When more demons were flying up from below, a massive sphere of water appeared out of thin air. This water sphere encapsulated the demons and drowned them. It prevented them from going to the demon commanders.

"What is that?!" Xarod asked in surprise. He then saw within the water sphere a giant dragon turtle swimming around, attacking the demons whose movements were now impaired by the water.

The dragon turtle was Gumeru. He was also an eternal grade due to the Oriental Guardian Beasts' enchantment. His level was 75. Despite having the lowest level among the guild guardians, he was not to be underestimated.

Under eternal-grade effect, his Dual-world domain had become mobile. In the past, it was static. It stayed at the same place where the skill was used. Gumeru could swim to the edge of his domain. Now, the domain always placed him at the center. This meant he could continue to swim up to the sky if he wished. The water sphere followed his movements. This effectively gave him a flying ability when he didn't possess one.

Aside from becoming mobile, there were two other differences to his eternal-version Dual-world Domain.

The first was the water inside his water sphere was denser. This put extra pressure on the enemies inside the water, limiting their movements further.

The second was that Gumeru could manipulate the water inside his domain at will. He could make it so the water split apart for his allies, so his allies could move normally without being hindered by the water.

With these upgrades, Gumeru continued swimming up until his water sphere enveloped the three commanders and his three guardian comrades. The three commanders had been trying to move away when they saw the massive water sphere approaching, but the other three guild guardians stopped their paths. Even with the aid of their demon subordinates, it was difficult to move freely against the three guild guardians.

As the water drowned everything around the three commanders, it split apart for the three guild guardians.

"Damn turtle!" Maliarki cursed. He cast a spell that erected a gravity shield around him. The gravity pushed the water from touching him. Even so, he could still feel the pressure. He couldn't move freely.

Ririth slashed her rapier, which had now turned into a fiery whip. The flames of her whip were greatly dimmed when they were inside Gumeru's water.

More and more demons entered Gumeru's water bubble to save their commanders. The demons were creatures of strict hierarchy. The lower-ranked demons were not hesitant to throw their lives for those higher in rank. That's why they dove into Gumeru's water world without second thoughts even if they knew they would be greatly hampered inside.

Before long, Gumeru's water sphere was as if an ant's nest. It was filled with demons.

This caused the four guardians difficulty in defeating the three commanders. But in turn, this greatly alleviated the pressure on the defenders' side. Not only did the defenders manage to maintain their defensive line, they could even slowly push back the demon horde.

The battle continued. Linda used the respite to rearrange the army's formation so the soldiers could fight efficiently as a coherent whole. He also sent some soldiers with mechanic skills to repair the siege weapons not yet destroyed.

The defenders' morale had been in continuous decline ever since the battle started. But now, their morale increased when the situation became better. They had the hope that they could beat this demon horde back.

"Keep at it, everyone!" Linda told the guild members who were controlling the guild armies.

"I would love to, but you should know. The enchantment is at its last hour," Tip said to Linda. He was referring to the Oriental Guardian Beasts.

"Can they defeat those eternal-grade commanders?" Linda asked. Taking out the enemy's commanders should throw the enemies into temporary confusion. Not to mention, those commanders were also powerful combatants.

Tip shook his head. "I think it is unlikely. The other demons are adamant about protecting those three, even at the cost of their lives. I've been sending commands to our guild guardians to put those three as priorities, but they still couldn't carry out the task."

"Then be ready to use the final attack when it is near the last minute," Linda said. "Keep them close to each other when the time comes."

Tip nodded. The active effect of the Oriental Guardian Beasts had one last feature aside from elevating the guild guardians by one grade. That feature was a combination attack between the four guardians. The drawback of using this combination attack was the active effect would end even if the natural duration had not yet ended. So, this combination attack could also be considered a final attack.

Another requirement was the four guardians had to be close to one another to execute the combination attack. Tip paid attention to the time. At the corner of the guild army platform was an indication of how much time was left for the enchantment's active effect.

Tip waited until almost the last minute, so the demons continued to be occupied up there. This gave them more time to decrease the number of demons down here.

When it was three minutes left, Tip had the four guardians gathered. With Gumeru's Dual-world Domain, this was easy to do even when there were so many demons around the four.

When only one minute left, Tip sent the command to execute the combination attack.

The four guild guardians uttered thundering cries at the same time. These cries stunned the demons in a large area. Their bodies then shone. The image of a large circle divided into four sections encompassed the guardians. Each section was represented with different colors. The four colors were: Blue, red, white, and black. At the center was a smaller circle with a golden color.

Out of the four colored sections, four beasts emerged. However, they were not the guild guardians. They were larger and they were different. The four beasts were the azure dragon, vermillion bird, white tiger, and black tortoise.

Chapter 1854. Satan's Arrival

The four heavenly beasts took action the second they appeared. The black tortoise unleashed a large flood of water. The white tiger let out streams of metallic blades that

sliced everything apart. The vermillion bird released a torrent of scorching fire. The azure dragon brought forth an endless number of wooden spears that pierced through everything.

The attacks of the four hit a large area and dealt large damage multiple times. Many demons perished by the combination attack, but it was not over. As the four heavenly beasts started to turn illusory, another beast appeared. It came out of the center circle that connected the four sections.

Out of this small circle, a yellow dragon emerged. It opened its mouth wide, and a blinding light blanketed everything. The demons received massive soul damage from getting touched by the light.

The three commanders had been using all their available defensive spells and skills ever since the combination attack started. From their mana sense, they knew that the attack from this yellow dragon was not yet over. Its light was in the process of getting focused, and they were the target.

Without hesitation, Maliarki grabbed Ririth, who was next to him. He shoved her to the front while casting a spell that conjured multiple layers of gravity walls. Ririth was sandwiched between these walls and couldn't move.

"No...!" She screamed.

Xarod didn't have time to pity her. He hurriedly took cover behind Maliarki's gravity walls.

The focused light from the yellow dragon arrived then. It seared through Maliarki's walls like it was burnt paper. Ririth, who was in between the walls, shrieked as the light burned through her.

Maliarki continued to cast one defensive spell after another. Ririth's body was slowing the advance of the light but she didn't stop it. Maliarki even forcefully pushed Xarod in front of him. Xarod didn't dare to resist. All he could do was activate all his defensive skills and hope for the best.

When the light subsided. Many demons had perished. Their bodies were burned to ashes. Ririth still had a quarter of her body due to her eternal-grade durability, but she was mangled beyond recognition. Her remains fell lifelessly to the ground far below.

Xarod had less than one-fifth of HP left and was missing an arm. Maliarki was the only demon commander whose body was still intact, but his HP was less than half.

The two watched their opponents with alarm as the circle image disappeared. The four guild guardians were visible again. As they did, Maliarki's worrisome eyes turned into relief before it became savage.

The mana he sensed from the four guild guardians had severely decreased. He also used his Inspect just now. All four were mythical grades. Those four had lost their eternal-grade power.

"Attack...!!" Maliarki ordered.

Despite the intensity of the combined attack, some demons survived, mostly high-level demons. Even if these demons were low on HP, they could still fight.

Hearing their commander's order, the demons charged at the four guild guardians. Tip sent the order for the four to retreat. They were too far away behind the enemy line. It was too dangerous to leave them there when they had lost their eternal-grade powers. He wanted them to retreat so the defenders could support them.

The demons didn't intend to let the four do that. They had suffered so many casualties because of the four. They wouldn't be satisfied if they didn't cut these four to pieces.

The one in trouble was Gumeru. Once they were back to mythical grade, Gumeru's Dual-world Domain was back to static mode. Once they swam out of the water sphere, the dragon turtle fell.

Penny and Czar caught Gumeru. Gumeru was so heavy that it took both of them to keep him afloat. If they let Gumeru fall, he would be swarmed by the demons on the ground. They were still behind the enemy lines. Gumeru would most likely not survive.

While carrying a load, their flight speed decelerated. The demons soon caught up to them. Ladohn engaged these demons and covered the other three guardians while they retreated. Penny unleashed her lava breath, and Czar produced wind blades to keep the demons at bay, but the demons surrounding them were driven by rage. They didn't care about their safety. They just wanted to tear the four apart. Maliarki and Xarod were also chasing. They were prepared to land the killing blows.

A thick silver beam suddenly pierced down from the sky. This silver beam slammed into Xarod. He was unable to resist the beam's force. He continued to get pushed while his HP rapidly decreased. His HP fell to zero before he hit the ground.

Maliarki was taken aback by the ambush. He stopped advancing.

A thundering roar was heard from the sky. A huge silver dragon dove through the clouds. Its diving speed was so fast it was as if a silver spear. It stopped abruptly before the four guild guardians. It then opened its wings, which caused massive turbulence to strike the demons surrounding the four guardians. The demons lost control and tumbled in the air.

The dragon then threw multiple silver-colored energy balls at the demons. The energy balls exploded upon contact and discouraged the demons from advancing.

"That's Eoranth!" Tip exclaimed.

Eoranth's appearance blocked the demons from Penny and the others. Tip hurriedly sent command to have the four retreated to the defensive line.

Eoranth arrived only now because he had just left the ancient graveyard not long ago. Broidrireg's lifeforce turned out to be more enduring than expected. He had laid weakly in his prepared graveyard for quite some time but didn't pass away. Eoranth and the others waited solemnly until finally, Broidrieg breathed his last about a week ago. After spending another day performing the burial rite, only then did Eoranth and the others fly to the front line.

They decided to split and go to the different defensive fronts in the different countries. Eoranth came to the one in Hydrurond guarded by the Themisphere army. The Themisphere soldiers who saw their country guardian had their morale increase.

Maliarki was speechless. Eoranth was a level 98 eternal true dragon. There was no way he could survive. He looked at the situation. His army had been greatly reduced. Their number was still enough to fight the defenders but with Eoranth's arrival, that number would soon decrease even more.

"Kill that dragon!" Maliarki commanded.

The demons carried out the command even when they knew it was an absurd order. As for Maliarki, he turned around and fled after he gave the command. The command was simply to let his subordinates halt Eoranth while he escaped.

He looked back as he escaped. Both his demon army and the defenders were very far already. He should be safe. When he had that thought, he felt extreme pressure from where he was flying. He turned and found himself before a colossal being. Behind this colossal being was a massive army of demons.

"What is my commander doing flying away from where he was supposed to go?" Satan asked. "Also, where is your army?"

"I... My-my Lord... There has been a slight setback...," Maliarki stammered.

Beside Satan was a floating meatball with a large eye in the middle. It looked like a beholder without tentacles. This eyeball demon said to Satan, "My Lord, I see the vanguard army is still battling the upperworld defenders. The defenders seemed to be winning."

"Winning...?" Satan frowned. "Are you sure there is nothing wrong with your eye?"

"My lord, please don't joke like that. You know this eye is the only thing I am proud of," the eyeball demon replied.

Satan returned his attention to Maliarki, who had now turned as pale as a demon could be.

"Maliarki. I have some questions. Why is the upperworld army not yet vanquished? Why is your advance slower than the corrupted mana's advance? Why are you not with your army? And why are you still alive?"

"My... My Lord... You see... I... The enemies..."

"You seem to have difficulty answering. There is no need to worry. The reason is because my questions are rhetorical."

A huge giant hand made of fire materialized behind Maliarki as soon as Satan finished speaking. Maliarki wasn't given the chance to act when this flaming hand grabbed him. He was so small compared to the flaming hand that he was completely engulfed by the flames.

Maliarki was visible inside the flames. His mouth opened and closed as if trying to say something, but no voice was heard.

"Hm... Can you make out what he is saying?" Satan asked the eyeball demon beside him.

"Despite my incredible eyesight, I can't read lips, My Lord," The eyeball demon answered.

"Let's make that your assignment after we conquer this upperworld," Satan said.

"As you wish, My Lord."

Maliarki didn't last long inside the flames. His HP was not in a good condition to begin with. He turned into a pile of burned ashes after his HP was zero.

"Let's go greet these defenders who give my vanguard army a difficult time," Satan said. He gave a signal for his army to resume their march.

Chapter 1855. Satan Vs Eoranth

"F*ck!" Tips heard Linda curse.

"What is it?" Tip asked her. They were winning. He didn't understand the reason for Linda's curse.

"Check your platform's map. They should enter your view by now," Linda said.

Tip saw it then. Numerous red triangles appeared at the edge of his guild platform's projection map. These red triangles were heading toward them.

"More... More enemies...?" Tip asked with a trembling voice.

"I will be surprised if these were all we have to deal with," Linda chuckled in a sarcastic tone. "The ones we are fighting are just the underworld's vanguard army."

"Should... Should we retreat?" Tip asked.

Linda considered the question for a bit before answering, "Not yet. Most of the defensive walls are still intact. We still have many siege weapons. It is a waste to throw them away. We need to delay the enemies longer, to buy more time for the people building the next layers of defenses."

"I feel like we are only slowing the inevitable...", Tip said weakly.

"... Probably John and the others can create a miracle when they return," Linda said. She didn't sound hopeful, though.

*

The defenders fighting the demons were not aware yet of the second demon army heading their way. The only ones who knew were Linda and those who controlled the guild platforms inside the mobile fortress. They didn't tell the soldiers because they didn't want to lower the soldiers' morale. These soldiers were still in high spirits. If their morale fell, the speed of their defeating the vanguard demon army would also fall. They would then be in a worse situation when the second demon army arrived.

However, it didn't take long for the defenders to notice the demon reinforcement.

The second demon army was marching with a relaxed pace. They were not in a hurry. Even so, several of the demons in the army were hard to miss. This was because of their sizes.

Satan didn't need mentioning. He was the largest within the incoming demon army. Aside from him, there were some others with sizes close to a true dragon. Most of them were humanoid demons with dark shells covering their bodies. They had octopus tentacles for beards. Their hands and feet also had tentacles instead of fingers. These monstrosities were called Hell Demolishers. They were all mythical grades except for one who was eternal grade. They were all above level 80. The eternal grade was level 93.

Among the hordes were also many daemons, whose frames were twice or thrice the size of a regular demon.

Many among the high demons also wore lavish robes and flew with two pairs of bat wings. These were the archdemons.

The defenders' fighting pace immediately slowed once the second demon army came into view. They were so eager to defeat the vanguard demon army. They thought that was it. Once they defeated these demons, they could utter triumphant cries and return to their country with pride and glory for having saved the world. This fervor was squashed by the sight of the second demon army.

Linda had rearranged the army's defensive formation back to its original formation on the walls. She had been reining the soldiers so they didn't go out of formation. Their morale had been so high because they were winning that some wanted to push the demons past the defensive walls out of zeal. Now, they were glad they didn't go too far.

The vanguard demons were glad to see their reinforcement. They screamed in ecstasy because they knew it was time to avenge the shame they had just suffered.

Their delight was short-lived because the Hell Demolishers advanced first. Their giant legs afforded them a large distance with a single step. They arrived at the vanguard demon army in a short time. They didn't care about the demons below them. They stepped on these demons as if they were ants. Those whose HP were already low died from the stomping. These demons immediately scattered.

When the first of the Hell Demolisher was about to reach the walls, Eoranth swooped down from above. With a tail slap, he sent the Hell Demolisher flying back. The huge demon fell on its back on top of the demons who were too slow to run, crushing them.

"Hehe. A true dragon, eh?" Satan remarked after seeing Eoranth.

The eternal-grade Hell Demolisher advanced after seeing one of its kind sent to the ground by Eoranth. It swung its arms forward. The tentacles in its hand extended and enlarged.

Eoranth swooped to the side and dodged the incoming tentacles. He caught one of the tentacles in his hand while dodging. He then pulled and forced the Hell Demolisher to stumble forward.

The tentacles in the Hell Demolisher's other hand extended and pressed on the ground for balance. It stopped itself from falling, but it was still open for a follow-up attack from Eoranth, which came in the form of divine soul breath.

The Hell Demolisher uttered a strange cry as the soul beam burned its body. It was evident it was in great pain, but it refused to retreat. It resisted the beam's knockback force. The tentacle beards enlarged. They lashed out at Eoranth.

The dragon didn't expect the Hell Demolisher to still be able to attack even while suffering his breath attack. The tentacles wrapped around Eoranth. One tentacle even coiled around Eoranth's mouth and forced his mouth to shut, effectively ending his breath attack. The tentacles then pulled Eoranth toward the Hell Demolisher.

Eoranth didn't fight the pulling force. He lunged forward instead. The Hell Demolisher was caught unaware of this. Eoranth's large frame slammed into its body, causing it to stumble.

Eoranth didn't let the Hell Demolisher go. He grabbed the tentacle beard at its roots and pulled the Hell Demolisher back to him. At the same time, a gigantic runic symbol appeared on the ground underneath him. It then shone a bright light and created a light pillar that shot up to heaven.

The AOE of Eoranth's Souls of Heaven and Earth was rather large. The demons, who thought they could get a jump at Eoranth because the Hell Demolisher pulled the dragon into their midst, greatly regretted their attempts. They were caught up inside the light pillar and received tremendous soul damage.

When the light was gone, they saw Eoranth one-sidedly give the Hell Demolisher savage beatings. Some of its tentacles were even ripped by Eoranth out of sheer force. It tried to fight back by swinging its thick arms, but Eoranth easily swatted those arms away. Its strength was not comparable to Eoranth.

The defenders were riled up by Eoranth's display. Their dropped morale was lifted again. Their attacks increased in pace. The mythical-grade defenders, such as Emris and Everlasting Heavenly Legends' guild guardians, went and engaged the other Hell Demolishers who tried to destroy more parts of the walls.

Their heated battle suddenly stopped when a strange laughter was heard.

"Harharhar...!"

The laughter had strong mana manipulation. Even when they didn't want to, they couldn't help but stop moving for a beat. Even the demons were affected. This caused them all to turn to the one who laughed.

That person was Satan.

"Harharhar, and here I thought everybody in the upperworld was a small fry. Everyone, move aside!"

The demons immediately scattered to the side upon hearing the order. The area between Satan and Eoranth was suddenly cleared. The demons on the other side also stopped their assault and retreated. Everyone stopped fighting.

Eoranth was not moving, but he still had the Hell Demolisher's tentacle in one of his hands. He refused to let go. The Hell Demolisher was quiet. It didn't dare to act without Satan's approval.

Satan walked forward. He came until he was face to face with Eoranth. The two titans stood upright while glaring at one another.

Satan's hand darted forward and grabbed the Hell Demolisher's head. With a violent yank, he pulled the Hell Demolisher back. The tentacle that was still held by Eoranth was ripped apart. The Hell Demolisher was sent flying back and fell with a loud crash onto the ground.

It rose with its head bowing to Satan. It had lost one-third of its life from that short exchange with Eoranth. In its mind, Satan had saved it even when it was done violently.

It misunderstood Satan's intention. Satan didn't care about its well-being. It was simply in the way between him and Eoranth.

"Are you the strongest combatant here?" Satan asked.

"... I am," Eoranth answered.

"Are you the strongest combatant in this upperworld?" Satan asked again.

Eoranth didn't answer this time.

"Harhar. Never mind. I will just whoop your ass in front of everyone here who worships you."

Satan had seen the glints in the defenders' eyes. He could see how their spirit was lifted by Eoranth's actions. He didn't like it. What he liked was to squash their hopes and see the hopeful glints in their eyes turned into despair.

Eoranth didn't let Satan take the first strike. He didn't dare to be careless. He activated Soul Armor, Soul Wrath, and Soul-infused Fist all at the same time. His claw then swung at a high speed towards Satan's head.

The claw that was burning with silver fire stopped a few meters from Satan's face. It stopped because Eoranth's wrist had been caught by Satan's hand. Eoranth used all his strength to push forward, but his arm refused to budge. He couldn't believe this. Never before had he encountered an enemy where he lost in the contest of strength. He could feel from Satan's grip that Satan was stronger. This was even after he used his buff skill, Soul Wrath.

Eoranth's other claw swung in from the other side, but this too was stopped. His two wrists were now in Satan's hands. He was unable to move away.

"Harhar, is this all the strength you can muster? If so, then—"

Satan didn't get to complete his sentence because Eoranth's close-up head suddenly lunged forward. Eoranth's jaws bit into Satan's neck. After landing the bite, his mouth shone. His divine soul breath was fired at point-blank range.

Satan received damage from the two consecutive attacks, but that was not the painful part. The pain came from the shame of getting interrupted while he was talking. This was a humiliation in front of his subordinates.

"You, bastard...!!!"

An explosive shockwave exploded from Satan's body. The shockwave was strong enough that it jerked Eoranth's head away. His head didn't move far because Satan's hands caught it and pulled it back. His head was then headbutted by Satan.

The collision created a thundering sound. A fiery explosion also happened upon the collision. Eoranth reeled back multiple steps. His hand was on his jaws. The pain was stinging.

"Harhar. Ready for more? This is just the start," Satan warned.

Chapter 1856. Hydrurond's Northern Front

Out of the six defensive fronts in the three countries, the two fronts in Hydrurond had contact with the underworld forces. The ones in Aurebor were not yet because they were further away. It took a longer marching time, but the difference should only be a few days. The ones in Palgrost were also further away, and the underworld forces heading to this country were hampered by the navy. The defenders in those two countries had the luxury of a few more peaceful days.

While the Themisphere army was fighting in the Southern part, Hydrurond and many league factions were guarding the Northern part.

Dytess served as the commander of the Hydrurond army. Ragorth was appointed the commander of the league faction collectives. Janus and Hashi stood by his sides as his lieutenants. Megan from Evil Breakers was appointed the commander of the outworlder community. She was aided by Herald from Inquisition.

When they saw the demon army appearing on the horizon, everyone couldn't help but feel apprehension.

"Fighting a demonic army. This would have been exhilarating if this was a game. I never thought I would fight demons for real," Herald said.

"These demons aren't real. They are characters in a game made real," Megan said. "I have fought a real demon in the past."

Herald looked at her. "You mean... in the real world?"

Megan didn't answer.

Although the combined league factions were many, their number couldn't be compared to an army. Hence, their total number was fewer than the troops defending the Southern part. But what they lacked in quantity, they made up for in quality. The levels and grades of league faction members were generally higher than the regular troops.

Additionally, Jack sent his trump card here, the Ancient Sect. The Southern part had the mobile fortress and rune tree, so he figured he should send this demon-fighting regiment here.

The five thousand ancient champions were pretty eye-catching with their shining armor. Agamon stood fast at the head. He was fully covered in his ancient armor, the same one he wore when he met Jack. Next to him were Hipponion and Atalente.

Aside from the Ancient Sect, Jack also sent his royal agents here. Duke Alfredo was appointed the leader. All the royal agents stood together except for Tetsuo, who stood a distance away. When Alfredo asked him to gather, he replied that he was better off fighting solo. This displeased the other royal agents, but they chalked it up to him being the newest recruit, so it would take time to get used to each other.

When the underworld forces arrived in this place, it was only an hour after the Southern front was hit. The defenses prepared here were largely the same. Well-built walls to stop the demons, traps to halt their charge, and siege weapons to soften them down.

Once the battle started, it didn't take long before the demons started climbing the walls, and melee engagement began. The Hydrurond army and league factions guarded the majority of the walls.

Half of the Ancient Sect guarded the middle, while the other half spread along the walls. The reason was, like Themisphere's Ancient Champions, they possessed an aura that debuffed demons. With them spreading out, their aura covered the entire defensive line, weakening the demons for everyone to fight.

The part that had the least difficulty in stopping the demons was the middle part, where the Ancient Sect was. Not only were the ancient champions all level 90 combatants with high grades but their skills and spells were also mostly catered to slay demons.

They were very eager to fight the demons. So much so that they jumped out of the wall and engaged the demons directly. This caused Dytess and Ragorth to worry. They worried these ancient champions' confidence would push them too far into the enemy's

territory and got themselves surrounded. But despite their seeming recklessness, they stayed near the walls.

Among the ancient champions, their three leaders were the most eye-catching.

Atalente was very fast. Her movements were like lightning. She had a short-cooldown movement skill that allowed her to zip a decent distance. This let her move from one position to another constantly, confusing the demons that tried to catch her.

She used a skill similar to Asura. The skill produced only two extra arms, and they didn't carry any weapon, but this skill had no duration or cooldown. She practically had the extra arms all the time. She used her golden bow with these extra arms while her two original arms wielded two golden longswords. She was both a melee and a range fighter.

Hipponion fought with fist weapons. He was not as fast as Atalente, so it didn't take long before the demons surrounded him. As they did, his armor shone. The glow was brightest at the animal carvings on his armor. The glow on these animal carvings made them seem as if alive. Then, they truly came to life.

The carvings popped out of his armor and turned into light-covered animals. Glowing lion, bear, boar, deer, eagle, snake, and fish moved around him. With a signal, these seven animals lunged at the demons. The lion, bear, and boar fought savagely in melee combat. The deer and fish were ranged attackers that sent wind and ice attacks. The fish could also submerge into the ground and deliver ambushing attacks. The eagle attacked from the sky, while the snake relied on fast speed to move around the enemies before striking.

Hipponion could also cast spells. His spells mostly derived from the druid and summoner class, allowing him to call even more summons to fight by his side.

As for Agamon, he didn't move much. His standard attacks were range attacks where he shot balls of energy at distant enemies. The circular disc behind him was similar to Jack's aureole when he was under War God Manifestation. This disc spun and glowed before Agamon fired a thick silver beam that dealt soul damage to a large number of enemies. The beam didn't deal as much damage as the War God Manifestation's final attack, but it could be used every five minutes.

Agamon also had a wide library of spells from the Inquisitor, priest, archmage, and elemental classes. Besides those, he had unique spells that hurt demons the most. One of his unique spells allowed him to control a mass of demons at once. This spell only affected weak demons, though. Another spell was an AOE offensive spell with a decent chance of causing instant-kill effects to demons.

With these ancient champions, the defenders here had a slightly better situation compared to the Southern defenders.

Despite the superiority of the ancient champions, the defenders were outnumbered. The mid-section might be doing well because of the ancient champions, but it was not so everywhere. After some time, one part of the walls crumbled over another. The defenders were doing all they could to stop the demons from pouring through the crumbled walls.

Duke Alfredo and the other royal agents went around helping the parts most in dire need of aid. Aside from Tetsuo, the royal agents had been together for quite some time, so they cooperated well with each other. They knew one another's strengths and weaknesses.

Tetsuo might be acting on his own, but he followed where the royal agent went. He just kept a certain distance from them. A distance that was not too far that he still received the buffs from Elayne's music.

He used a handgun in his left hand to shoot the enemies as he moved. When a demon bat swooped down at him, green wings sprouted from his back. He equipped the mechanical claw in his right hand and flew up. He dodged the demon bat's charge using Air Skate, shifting to the demon bat's side, and punched the bat.

The punch was a standard attack, but it was powered by mana manipulation. The bat lost balance from that punch. Tetsuo chased after the bat while using Infinite Lightning Punches.

The other bats came to their comrade's aid. Without stopping his punches, his left hand that held the handgun spun around. He was using Gunner's Bulletstorm.

"Robinson, go and aid Tetsuo," Alfredo said.

Robinson transformed into his eagle form and was about to fly up, but they heard Tetsuo exclaim, "No need! You, people, take care of your side!"

The others were surprised that Tetsuo could hear from such a distance, but they were more surprised that he was paying attention to them while fighting. Perhaps he was not that lone of a wolf.

Tetsuo continued to battle the enemies that outnumbered him. He didn't appear to be in trouble. None of the demons were able to hit him. He might not have the graceful movements of a martial artist, but his movements were accurate. Even when the demons cast spells at him, he could sense and evade them in time before counterattacking using his handgun.

He didn't use any big skills. He mostly used standard attacks to grind down his opponents. As a level 90 eternal grade, his attacks were rather meek. The other royal agents wondered if he was just high in level but possessed few skills, but then they noticed his expression. He seemed bored.

A level 82 eternal daemon carrying a fiery axe barged in through the scores of demon bats. Its fiery axe came cleaving at Tetsuo. Its entrance had been so abrupt that Tetsuo had no time to dodge. He parried the axe using his mechanical claw.

He then gave the daemon a point-blank fire in the face. Before he could fire his gun a second time, multiple ice swords appeared around him. He dashed back just as those ice swords pierced his previous position. He traced the spell and saw it was from a level 93 mythical archdemon a distance away.

Chapter 1857. Tetsuo's Fighting Style

Tetsuo used Rapid Shot at the archdemon but soon sensed an attack from behind. He swiveled in time to parry a dagger from a concealed high demon. This one was a level 78 eternal.

Several other mythical-grade demons around level 80 also came at him from all directions. It seemed that he had become the demons' primary target.

Tetsuo's face grinned for the first time. "This is more like it," he uttered.

A transformation happened to his body. His skin hardened and turned into carapaces. In a beat, his body was covered in interlocking layers of hard shells. His eyes enlarged into two large bulbs of compound eyes. Two long antennas sprouted from his head.

He had used Beast Form, and his Beast Form was insect type.

The carapaces on his back opened. Two slim but long dragonfly wings came out. These wings beat at an incredible speed, and Tetsuo disappeared just before the demons arrived. He appeared right next to one of these demons and punched it.

"Power punch...!" He exclaimed.

"Ki bullet!" He yelled as an energy ball shot out from his fist and hit another demon.

When the archdemon cast another spell at him, he again disappeared before the spell hit. His dragonfly wings gave him extreme maneuverability. He could travel in every direction with a burst of speed and stopped abruptly. Even when these demons had mana sense to detect where he appeared, they couldn't react since they didn't have the speed to match him.

Tetsuo continued to zoom from one place to another, sending attack after attack while the demons had trouble following his positions. All the while, he continued to shout as he attacked.

"Power kick...!"

"Ki Blast...!"

"Power Shot...!"

The other royal agents who witnessed the fight from a distance were flabbergasted by how Tetsuo rendered those high-level demons helpless. Those demons couldn't land a single hit on Tetsuo. Alfredo was just about to send help before Tetsuo turned into an insectoid man. He didn't see the need for that now.

But still, did Tetsuo need to shout his skill names every time he attacked? His image as a lone and quiet man had now been shattered.

The archdemon was frustrated because none of his spells hit. Angered, he cast a large AOE spell, Ice Nova. He no longer cared if his spell hit his allies. He wanted to see how that human dodged this one.

The archdemon was far enough to escape the range of Tetsuo's mana sense but not his vision. After transforming, his vision was nearly three-hundred-and-sixty-degrees. His eyes could see almost everything around him. Combined with his mana sense, he was almost impossible to be backstabbed.

He saw the archdemon casting a spell and knew at once it was a spell with many runes. He left the mass of demons around him and headed to the archdemon. The other demons might be confused when he disappeared, but the eternal-grade daemon and high demon sensed where he was headed and gave chase.

A huge mantis appeared in their path. This mantis also sported dragonfly wings like Tetsuo's. This mantis was Tetsuo's pet, Battle Mantis.

The battle mantis was a level 91 mythical insect. It had two long forearms that ended with sharp sickle-like blades. These sickle arms slashed at high speed. Tetsuo strengthened his pet by using Ultimate Beast and Demonize Pet. The battle mantis' green carapaces darkened and hardened. Thorns also appeared all over its body, especially its head, where a row of demonic horns sprouted.

When the eternal-grade daemon and high demon arrived, the battle mantis used Multi Power Slashes. It was a skill that created many slashing lights, similar to the burst attack of Jack's sword art. The battle mantis might not be eternal grade, but its attack was formidable enough after the power boosts. Its slashes halted the two eternal grades, preventing them from chasing Tetsuo.

The daemon was enraged from getting stopped. It made a powerful cleave that conjured the image of a huge flaming axe. The battle mantis disappeared before the flaming axe hit. Its dragonfly wings gave him the same maneuverability as Tetsuo.

While his battle mantis kept his pursuer busy, Tetsuo came before the archdemon. He used Meteor Dash after summoning his pet. The meteor dash was a movement skill usable in the air. It was similar to the Wind Jet spell.

The archdemon was surprised to find his target in front of him. His spell was not yet completed. With the opponent already before him, he didn't have the luxury to continue casting. He had no chance but to change his spell to a magic shield when Tetsuo's fist came punching.

Twisting winds and lights followed Tetsuo's fist. This was Drilling Punch. A skill with a high penetrative ability. The archdemon's magic shield was shattered by the punch. Before the archdemon could react, Tetsuo split into many images and punched the archdemon from multiple directions.

Tetsuo's Multi-sided Strikes had blinding lights following his punches. These lights added light-element damage to his skill. It also stunned the archdemon.

Tetsuo pointed one hand to the sky. Following that act, a thin light pillar shot down from heaven and pierced the archdemon. This was a non-standard Technocraft skill, Satellite Shot.

The archdemon was slammed into the ground. The handgun in Tetsuo's left hand enlarged. It now fired constant rapid shots. This was a non-standard skill from the Gunner class, Gatling Gun. The archdemon was unable to rise due to the rapid fire. His HP continued to decrease.

The other mythical-grade demons chased after Tetsuo. The battle mantis was unable to stop the tide. The eternal-grade daemon and high demon left the battle mantis and came at Tetsuo. Tetsuo blocked the axe from the daemon using one hand while his other hand parried the dagger from the high demon.

"Hehe. I have enough warm-up," Tetsuo said.

Several shining metallic plates materialized around his body after he spoke. These metal plates slapped into different parts of his body. These plates interlocked with each other and formed a suit. By the time the process was completed, Tetsuo had become a humanoid insect cyborg. This was his special technocraft skill, Savage Techno Suit.

Tetsuo's dragonfly wings were originally thin transparent membranes. Now, they were solid metal plates, but they still beat at the same imperceptible speed. With these wings, Tetsuo disappeared just before the daemon and high demon landed their follow-up attacks.

Tetsuo dodged the two by shooting upward. On his cyborg's back were booster jets. Propulsion flames burst out of the afterburner, giving him incredible burst speed. His

body shot back down at twice the speed as before. The daemon didn't have the time to register what was happening when Tetsuo slammed into him from above.

Tetsuo continued shooting down with his fist on the daemon. Right below was the archdemon who was just about to get back up, but Tetsuo aimed right at that archdemon. The daemon's large body crashed into the archdemon. The impact sent him back into the ground.

Before the daemon and archdemon could do anything, Tetsuo's chest flared brightly.

"Ultimate Core Fireeee...!!!"

A bright burst of energy erupted from his chest and washed over the two pinned in the ground. The burst of energy created a huge explosion. By the time the explosion receded, a huge crater had been formed.

Tetsuo didn't let up. He used Infinite Lightning Punches again. The daemon and archdemon were unable to get up because of the pressure from Tetsuo's punches. The other demons were rushing to help. Tetsuo saw them approaching from his compound eyes. His battle mantis was unable to stop them all.

"Homing Missiles...!" He yelled as he used another non-standard Technocraft skill. Thirty small rockets materialized out of nowhere and flew at the incoming demons. These rockets could track their targets. If they missed, they flew back and chased the missed targets. Even the fast eternal-grade high demon with the dagger couldn't evade these rockets nonstop. The rockets exploded upon impact, dealing damage and causing knockback.

Tetsuo then used Gunner's Drone skill. His drone was shaped like a mechanical beetle. It flew by flapping its metallic wings. It was faster and more maneuverable than a normal drone. Its firing rate was also faster than a normal drone. It was like a drone equipped with a machine gun. It could also spit fire and throw concussive grenades. Together with the battle mantis, the beetle drone kept the demons from disrupting Tetsuo.

However, the demons were too many. The eternal-grade high demon with the dagger was also stronger than his two summons. She finally rushed past the battle mantis and the beetle drone and got close to Tetsuo.

Tetsuo was about to stop his punches and let the two demons below him go when he sensed incoming attacks. Numerous arrows made of light streaked through the sky and stabbed at the demons around him. The eternal-grade high demon used her dagger to block the light arrows. She was knocked back by the impacts.

A large golden beam then hit her, sending her far away.

A voice was heard from above. "That form and that loud battle style. Tetsuo, is that you?"

Tetsuo didn't look back. His compound eyes could see the things behind him. An enormous dragon with brilliant golden scales had descended to his position.

"Syndrillis? You are still alive in this era?" Tetsuo replied.

Chapter 1858. The Horror of The Devils

"I should be the one who asks that question," Syndrillis said. "I saw you die in the ancient war."

"I..."

Tetsuo wasn't given the chance to reply. The eternal-grade daemon he was pinning under his punches erupted with a fiery explosion. He had to retreat to avoid getting caught in the blast.

After moving away, he saw the daemon rise with a body coated in dark fire. Above it was a demonic apparition with four arms. The daemon used a variant skill of the Ancestral Possession.

The archdemon didn't get up. The archdemon had died from Tetsuo's unending assaults.

"We will catch up later," Tetsuo said as he shot the daemon using his handgun, which had now turned into a laser gun.

"Agreed. I will deal with the enemies above. You take care of the ones below," Syndrillis said.

She ascended while casting a spell. When it was completed, hundreds of starlights fell from the sky. These starlights chased after the fliers and dealt light-element damage. When they hit, they caused the Blind status and made the fliers lose their flying ability momentarily. Hundreds of demon bats fell from the sky due to this spell.

With three level 90 eternal-grade combatants, Agamon, Tetsuo, and Syndrillis, the defense here was better compared to the Southern defense line. Some parts of the walls crumbled, but the demons failed to push past the defensive line. The defenders held fast as the demon horde was reduced bit by bit.

Even though the defenders were winning, it was not without a toll. The defenders lost a decent number of men. They were outnumbered, after all. But seeing their enemies shrink faster than them gave them great morale. Their fighting spirit was high. That was until they saw the incoming second wave of the demon army.

The same as the defenders at the Southern defense line, they couldn't believe the army they were facing was just the vanguard army. Their hearts sank when the sea of demons approached. In the lead of this second wave was a titanic demon with the head of a goat and the body of a giant insect.

Dytess, and those who marched with the Allied forces, had seen this titanic yellow demon before. It was the devil, Beelzebub.

The devil floated above his army. They marched at a speed that was neither hurried nor slow. Within this army were several gargantuan creatures, humanoid titans with elephant heads. Their elephant heads had demon horns. Each head possessed three long trunks. There were also demonic giant lizards that breathed dark flames. Multiple demons rode on top of these demon lizards.

Plenty within this second army were mythical grades, more than the vanguard army the defenders were fighting. There were also a decent number of eternal-grade demons. The defenders watched with apprehension as this demon army slowly advanced.

"Stand fast...!!!" Ragorth yelled. His voice powered by mana manipulation reverberated on the battlefield. John had appointed him as the main commander at this Northern defense line. Ragorth hoped his voice maintained the defenders' morale, even if his own morale dropped after seeing the underworld force's second wave.

Before the demon's second army joined its vanguard army, Beelzebub took action first. Its yellow carapaces opened, and what seemed like a million bugs came out from inside him. This time, the bugs were not just giant flies. Countless giant roaches also came out of Beelzebub and crawled on the ground toward the defensive walls.

The roaches didn't give a damn to the demons from the vanguard army. They just rammed the demons for standing in their way. Many even got stomped by the sea of roaches for being unable to move away.

The sea of roaches and clouds of yellow flies soon neared the defensive walls. Those who had AOE skills and spells used them to hit as many of these bugs as they could. The bugs didn't have high HP. Many were killed by the barrage. However, there were too many bugs. Even if many were killed, many reached the defensive walls. The crawling roaches easily climbed the walls. The walls might as well not exist for these bugs.

After the defenders engaged the bugs at close range, many started exploding by themselves. Their explosions caused earth-element damage. These kamikaze attacks took out many defenders. Ragorth immediately called for those with low health to pull back and not engage the bugs.

"We have to stop that devil!" Syndrillis said.

"How? We have to fight through an army to get to that devil," Tetsuo said.

"We will open the path!" The two heard a voice. They turned and saw the ancient champions charging forward with Agamon at the lead.

"We will help too!" Duke Alfredo and Jack's other royal agent joined the ancient champions.

Beelzebub simply stared at these warriors with a flat expression. His countenance never changed since he arrived at the battlefield. A spell formation appeared in front of him. When his spell was completed, the ground ahead of him churned. The rocks and soils tossed around and formed what looked like a tidal wave on land. This earth tidal wave rushed forward.

All the ancient champions had the Angelic Possession skill. Wings made out of light lifted their bodies before the earth tidal wave hit.

As for Jack's royal agents, Laurent cast Mass Angelic Wings, which granted flying ability to those who couldn't fly.

They might have escaped the earth tidal wave, but the spell didn't stop after passing through them. It went ahead and hit the defensive wall. The part of the wall where the spell hit crumbled in one hit. The defenders standing atop this part fell to the ground and were swallowed by the still churning earth.

Agamon and the others who had rushed ahead saw a change in Beelzebub's expression. A wicked grin decorated his face.

The demons around Beelzebub moved ahead and engaged the ancient champions and the others. Different from Satan, Beelzebub had no interest in engaging the enemies directly. With the defenders' main combatants pulled out, it was easy to get them surrounded. Plus, the defense in the wall weakened. Beelzebub wanted to take out both these main combatants and the walls' defenders at the same time.

Beelzebub cast another spell as flies and roaches continued to scurry out from the gaps all over his body.

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At Chris' secret garden, several people were watching a projection inside the lake pavilion. The projection showed the scene happening at Hydurond's Southern defensive line. Satan was seen giving Eoranth a severe beating. Those present here had seen the Lord of the Dragon in action. They couldn't believe the battle between the two titans would be so one-sided.

"Let me use your Anywhere Door. I need to go help," Jack said. He was among the people watching the projection.

"If you go, I guarantee you will waste everything you've worked for," Chris said. "And for Pete's sake, it's not called Anywhere Door. Do you think my tool came from the seventies kids show?"

"It functions the same way, doesn't it? Anyway, what do you call that magic door of yours that can bring you anywhere?" Jack asked.

"... It's called Anywhere Portal," Chris answered.

Jack was speechless. He felt stupid for asking.

"Whatever. We need to go help the battle, or everything will be lost," Jack said.

The projection now changed to show the scene at Hydrurond's Northern defensive line. The situation was worse here. Unlike Satan, Beelzebub utilized his advantage in number even when he outpowered the enemy's combatants. He even seemed to relish in the bullying.

"As I said, you won't be able to do much even if you go," Chris said. "You might think you are stronger now that you are level 90, but those devils will run you down with ease."

After one month of grinding inside Chris' special dungeon, Jack's level had improved at a rapid rate. If he used a normal training dungeon, it would take him at least two weeks just to level up one time.

"We can't just stay here and do nothing!" Jack exclaimed.

"Those people at the Northern defense line should have retreated. Damn those ancient champions! They are too daring. We will lose lots of troops if they continue to be stubborn," John said.

"I remembered you told every front to try to hold for at least three days before retreating to the next defensive lines," Jack said.

"I said, try. I didn't mean they had to do that at the cost of losing more troops," John returned.

Some of the twenty-four players had returned after successfully passing the trials. John just returned recently around one week ago. His class had now changed to Monster Overlord. He had only used Chris' training dungeon for one week, but it was enough to help him level up two times. He was level 86.

The other players who returned within this one month were Spring Crown, Jeanny, Grace, Paytowin, Four Winds, Leavemealone, Red Death, Wilted, Arthur Bagrat, Jet, David, and Anotherday.

Chapter 1859. Pinnacle League Factions

The second fastest to return to Chris' secret garden was Spring Crown. He passed his trial in one week. Chris was again surprised by the feat even when he said one week was the fastest. He expected everyone to take at least two weeks.

The others who passed the trials before two weeks passed were Jeanny, Leavemealone, Four Winds, and Red Death. The others gathered here returned after two weeks. David and Anotherday were the latest among the group. They only returned two days ago.

The other nine were still in the trials. Luckily, none of the trials had been completed by random players like Jack did with the Time Sage. Still, everyone was worried. If even one of these nine failed, they couldn't complete the twenty-four classes. Chris regularly monitored the ones who were still inside the trial spaces. Even though they had not yet passed, they were also not considered failed.

Jeanny's class was now Dragon Lord. Grace was Divine Knight. Paytowin was Heavenly Mech Warrior. Leavemealone was Supreme Fist. Four Winds was King of Fury. Spring Crown was Weapon God. Red Death was Death Executor. Wilted was Grim Reaper. Arthur was Primordial Punisher. Jet was Beast Conqueror. David was Celestial Commander. Anotherday was Veiled Demon Slayer.

Like Jack, they lost all the skills from their previous special classes, if they had ones, but gained new skills. They all agreed the skills from these pinnacle special classes were more powerful than their previous skills. They also gained potent passive abilities.

The regrettable thing was they gained these special classes at their current high level. They couldn't enjoy stat increases as much as if they gained these classes at level 50, as Jack did with his Time Sage.

All of them used Chris' training dungeons after returning. They all wanted to increase their levels quickly. They weren't training now because Chris informed them the underworld forces had initiated contact with the defenders. Hence, they all came out to look at the situation.

"How are the situations in the other countries?" Four Winds asked.

"The defenders in Aurebor and Palgrost have not yet encountered the enemies. The underworld forces are still on their way. They will probably enter battle in a few more days."

"We should just focus all our defenses in one place," Four Winds said. "They might lay waste to the countries that are not defended, but we have a better chance of taking them down one by one if we combine all our forces."

John didn't refute. He was contemplating. He knew the plan to slow down the underworld forces was not an ideal winning plan.

"I disagree," Chris said. "This setup is better. Let's say you concentrate your forces and somehow defeat one of the devils by luck. You will just invite the other devils to come together and hunt you down. They do not need to stay their course if there is no resistance. They can simply let their armies advance while they head elsewhere, like where your forces are concentrated. I can assure you, if those devils are together, you will face a whole different level of difficulty."

"What's the point? From the look of it, we will still lose," Paytowin said. "What's the point of us staying here and getting stronger when everything is already destroyed by the time we leave?"

"You truly have no faith, eh? Did you forget already I said I have modified some things for contingency?" Chris asked.

"What do you mean?" Wilted asked.

"I said I set it so all the league factions will join the fight against the underworld forces," Chris answered.

"They are already fighting there, and they are losing," Paytowin protested.

"My friend, I said ALL league factions. Those over there are not all," Chris said.

"Wait, do you mean...", Wilted appeared to realize something.

"I don't think they will keep themselves hidden for long. Any minute now," Chris said.

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At Hydrurond's Southern defensive line, both the armies of the upperworld and underworld stood by the sides. None of them took any action. The only ones still in battle were the two titanic figures representing each army. Satan and Eoranth.

Calling it a battle was misleading. It was more like a beatdown. Satan was evidently stronger. He was also more advanced in mana manipulation. He didn't even use many skills to overpower Eoranth. He just relied on his physical superiority.

Eoranth refused to admit defeat, though. His pride as the lord of the dragon pushed him to keep fighting, even when his HP kept falling. His ferocity only intensified with time, but it wasn't enough.

"We have to help Eoranth!" Tip said.

"No, stand down!" Linda commanded.

"We can't just let die without doing anything!"

"Right now, the demon army is standing down. If we move, they move!"

"She is right, Tip. We will just make matters worse by joining the fight," Saint Jonathan, who stood beside Linda, said.

"So what? Are we going to just stand back and watch our greatest protector die without doing anything?" Tip protested.

Linda couldn't answer. She was running her brain to think of a solution, but she couldn't think of one. Even if they acted, it was unlikely they could save Eoranth. The army Satan brought was more powerful than the one they fought earlier. It had more numbers with plenty of high-grade and high-level demons.

They should retreat. They would waste the defensive structures and siege weapons here. More than two-thirds were still intact. Retreating was always the plan. She just didn't think they had to do it so early. It was not even a full day yet since the battle started.

The question now was how to separate Satan and Eoranth. Eoranth seemed to have been blinded by rage and pride. She doubted the dragon would listen to her. She could sacrifice troops to draw Satan's attention, but Satan had the Soul and Chaos Chain Reaction. He could lay waste to the sacrificial troops she sent in an instant. Right now, she had been pulling the army back to a certain distance from Satan.

While thinking, she continued to arrange the troops in a position that allowed them to retreat at a moment's notice. She also sent messages to the guild leaders to ready their members. All the while, the duel between Satan and Eoranth kept on going.

WHAM!

Eoranth was forced to his knees from a massive impact from Satan's flaming hammer. Wounds were visible on his body. One of the bones in his left wing was broken. He couldn't fly properly even if he tried. His HP bar was down to half.

Satan, on the other hand, still had his HP bar above 90%. The contest was pretty clear-cut.

"Harharhar," Satan laughed. "You might think you can fight me because we are only one level apart, but let me tell you. Even if you have the same level as me, you still won't win. There is a big gap between a dragon's bloodline and a devil's bloodline. We devils are the pinnacle of existence. Now, face your fate, dragon!"

Satan lifted his fire hammer. It enlarged to a mythical proportion. The hammer became as large as him. He then brought this hammer down at Eoranth. Its size was now enough to cover Eoranth's entire body.

Eoranth gritted his fangs. He was about to push himself up to clash with the hammer when suddenly the hammer changed trajectory. It veered just in time before colliding with a massive silver beam heading to Satan. A massive explosion resulted from the collision. This explosion caused Eoranth and the demons in the vicinity to fall to the ground.

Satan remained in his position. He didn't budge from the explosion, but his flaming hammer was no more. It was destroyed in the explosion. He didn't mind, though. The hammer was not a real weapon. It was a weapon crafted from his energy. He could make another one anytime he wanted. He turned his head to the one who had fired the beam.

Everyone on the battlefield did the same. What they saw was a host of people floating in the air. Leading these people was an old man with a long white beard. He carried with him a long golden cane that ended with a bird-shaped head.

Players recognized this old man. He was the one overlooking the end of the tutorial phase, Honuren.

Behind Honuren were the members of the league faction that worshipped the God of Hope, the Council of Elpo. The same one Jeanny and Paytowin had visited.

"Probably we can still hold this place for a while," Linda said after seeing those people in the sky. She also knew about Hope's faction, courtesy of the information she gained while serving under Master. Among the divine factions, this one was the strongest.

"Hmph! Another loser joining the fray?" Satan mocked. "Doesn't matter. No matter how many you are, I will squash you all!"

Honuren wasn't intimidated by the declaration. He watched from above while brushing his long white beard. He responded with a declaration of his own. "Denizens of the underworld! You will regret stepping onto this land blessed and protected by the mighty God of Hope. We are impartial to worldly matters. But for you, demons, we make an exception. We will not let you taint this world further. In God Hope's name, you will be vanquished!"

With that declaration, the host behind Honuren uttered a thundering war cry. They then charged forward.

Linda and Tip didn't stay idle. Following the Council of Elpo's lead, they also sent a command to the army to resume the battle.

Chapter 1860. Enemies Forced to Work Together

At Hydrurond's Northern defensive line, the defenders struggled under the assault of the overwhelming demon army and Beelzebub's bugs. Beelzebub also continued to cast one spell after another.

The mass of demons and bugs prevented Syndrillis, Tetsuo, and the ancient champions from reaching Beelzebub. The devil continued to cast spells without interruption. Many of his spells had extremely long range, hitting the wall and its defenders.

"Hah!" Agamon shouted. The golden disc behind him glowed and revolved at high speed. Multiple beams shot out of the disc in all directions. The flies and roaches swarming around them were evaporated upon contact with the beams.

"Hmph..." Beelzebub grunted in displeasure seeing the scene. The beams from Agamon's disc could instant-kill weak demon-type summons. His demon bugs were only elite grades, so they were susceptible to Agamon's beams.

With the surrounding bugs cleared, they struck the demons barring their way. Hipponion and a few ancient champions broke through and came before Beelzebub. Hipponion's seven animals served as the tip of the sword. The lion and the bear were at the forefront, ready to pounce at Beelzebub.

Something long and steel-like suddenly pierced the two animals. The two animals lost HP and were pinned to the ground. Six long insect legs came out of Beelzebub's carapaces. These legs ended with sharp tips that made them look like spears. The two animals pinned to the ground continued to lose HP each second.

Beelzebub's insect legs stabbed at the other attackers. Each hit caused high damage and had a high chance of causing Bleed status. All the while, he continued casting. Rock pellets materialized in the air and rained at the attackers. He cast another spell, and a rock cloud formed near him. This rock cloud flew around him, battering anyone that came near him. Hipponion and the other ancient champions were unable to get close.

Atalente attacked using her golden bow. Her arrows caused trails of light as they streaked across the sky, but even these arrows failed to hit Beelzebub. Large rock shields materialized and floated around Beelzebub. They blocked any range attack coming at the devil.

While protected by the living earth shields and the rock cloud, Beelzebub spat a condensed jet of yellow liquid. The liquid was strong acid. It dealt earth-element damage, caused Poison status, and reduced equipment's defense values and durability. It also had strong knockback. The ancient champions were sent toppling back by the liquid jet's force.

Something fast flew past the ancient champions. It even slipped through the living earth shields circling Beelzebub. It zipped right to the devil's goat head.

"Ultimate power pun—"

That something was Tetsuo in his insect-cyborg form. His speed let him slip past Beelzebub's protective spells. However, as fast as he was, Beelzebub's eyes still caught his movements. Those eyes shone an eerie yellow just as Tetsuo was about to land his punch. His movement stopped, and a layer of rocks started covering his body.

He was hit by Beelzebub's Infernal Stone Gaze. One of Beelzebub's legs slapped him into the ground below. The devil followed up with a spell that caused the earth to open up and swallowed him whole.

"Accursed devil, take this...!" Syndrillis' voice resounded in the air. She had been driving the flying demons back before taking a chance to gather mana. The gathered mana in his mouth was now unleashed in the form of a thick beam.

Syndrillis' Annihilating Light Beam couldn't be compared to the one unleashed by Jack's gold dragon summon. Even though their levels were not far apart, Syndrillis was a true dragon while Jack's summon was considered a wilderness dragon. Syndrillis' beam was at least three times thicker than the one unleashed by Jack's gold dragon.

This thick golden beam rushed toward Beelzebub, who just stared calmly. A shield composed of runic symbols appeared before him. This runic shield stopped the annihilating light beam.

Syndrillis didn't let up. She continued to pump mana into her beam. Runic symbols appeared around her mouth, strengthening her attack. This caused Beelzebub's runic shield to shift a little and even dimmed. Beelzebub frowned at this. He grunted, and the runic shield intensified. At the same time, he cast a spell.

Multiple Giant rock spears materialized. These rock spears shot forward with a drilling motion. These drilling rock spears stabbed into Syndrillis. She received damage, and some of the spears caused wounds on her body. This forced her to end her beam attack.

One of the drilling spears broke her left wing. She fell from the sky.

Beelzebub's spell had not yet ended. His spell conjured one last spear that was ten times larger. He was aiming this spear at the falling dragon.

"ROAARRRR...!!!"

A huge roar startled everyone. This was no ordinary roar. The demons who heard it were paralyzed. Before they knew it, something large flew past them.

Beelzebub sensed the incoming enemy. He redirected the giant spear and sent it to this new enemy instead of Syndrillis. The new enemy shifted to the side when this giant spear was about to stab it. Its mouth then bit at the spear. Sparks were created when its teeth scraped the rock spear still drilling at high speed. The teeth won. The drilling motion stopped. The rock spear then snapped from the powerful bite.

This new enemy was a gigantic lion with bat wings. It was the Council of Virtus' Forctis Lion. It went into seclusion after being wounded during the destruction of Daminos Square Garden. A few weeks after the Sanctuary for Courage was built in Therimdel, it came to the city. It probably sensed God of Courage's presence from the wonder building. Pallas and the others welcomed their guardian back with elation.

The Forctis Lion was a level 95 eternal grade. It was stronger than Syndrillis. It made another roar and fired a powerful sound cannon at Beelzebub. Beelzebub cast a spell that erected a huge earth wall to block the sound cannon.

"My comrades, let us fight with bravery and drive these demons back to hell...!!!" Pallas, Mihos, and the other members from the Council of Virtus followed behind the Forctis Lion. They pounced the demons who were still disoriented by the Forctis Lion's charge.

Riled by the appearance of the members of the Council of Virtus, the defenders were as if injected with a dose of courage. They let out a spirited war cry.

Beelzebub snorted in disdain. Did they think this small divine faction was enough to face the might of the underworld forces? Beelzebub found it laughable. When he was about to remind this pitiful crowd of the horror of the demons, he sensed another assault from the opposite side.

He turned just in time when five beams of different colors came at him. The runic shield reappeared to block these beams. This time, he was a bit hasty in erecting the runic shield. The combined five beams were stronger than Syndrillis' attack. The runic shield stopped four beams, but one punched through. The red beam containing the fire element struck his head.

He scowled. More out of annoyance than pain. He looked angrily at the perpetrator. Not far away was a huge wingless dragon with five heads. It was the Primordial Hydra.

Around the Primordial Hydra were members of the Cult of Phobos. Vekja, Strah, and Korku led the cult.

Pallas stared at the cult from the opposite side of the battlefield. He wanted nothing but to head over and pummel this bunch of villains, but he knew now was not the time. A bigger villain was before them. One that required them to cease their animosity for a while and fight together.

Korku was returning Pallas' stare. "Hehe, I bet he is trying his best not to come here and pick a fight," She chuckled.

"He knows he can't afford that. These demons threatened everyone, including us," Strah said. "Furthermore, our God has given us his blessing to join this fight."

"For fear," Vekja said with his queer voice. "We will show these demons the meaning of fear."

"For fear...!" The members of the cult exclaimed.

"For courage...!!!" The voice from the other side thundered back. They might be suspending their enmity for now, but that didn't mean they couldn't compete in glorifying their respective Gods.

The Council of Virtus advanced from the right, the Cult of Phobos from the left, while the ancient champions were at the center. Seeing this, the remaining defenders on the wall also rushed forward to aid the push.

The Forctis Lion, Primordial Hydra, Vekja, and Agamon advanced to engage Beelzebub. While the rest fought the overwhelming demon army.

During the commotion, Alfredo used Telekinesis to pull the earth where Tetsuo was buried. The earth was held by magic. It took him a considerable amount of effort to peel the earth by a little, but it was enough. The created gap allowed Tetsuo to punch through and release himself.

Meanwhile, Laurent went and healed Syndrillis. He used a spell that could recover a wound. Since Syndrillis had too many wounds caused by the rock spears, Laurent chose to cure her wing. She could now fly again.

"Thank you," She said. She flapped her wings and took to the sky. She was going to aid the others to fight Beelzebub.