

## **Second World #Chapter 1971: Chapter 1971. Using the Newly Gained Skills - Read Second World Chapter 1971: Chapter 1971. Using the Newly Gained Skills**

### **Chapter 1971:. Using the Newly Gained Skills**

The last loot was a legendary-grade runestone. Its name was Runestone of the Devil King. "It is another of those rare battle runestones," Peniel informed. "Like your Runestone of Spellcasting and Haon's Runestone of Combat, it can help you during combat."

"It will give me buff?" Jack asked.

"It's... a bit complicated," Peniel replied. "If you can master it, you will be stronger with that runestone active. That said, I imagine it will be rather difficult for you to master this runestone."

"Huh, why?" Jack asked.

"Give it a try, and you will understand," Peniel answered.

Jack rolled his eyes at his fairy companion. She still had her penchant for withholding information.

Jack thought about trying to fuse with the runestone like Peniel suggested, but he decided to do it later. Fusing with a runestone required time. Since Peniel said fusing with this runestone would be difficult, it should take an even longer time. The war was still ongoing. It would be a waste to throw away all those potential exp points.

"Considering this runestone is already a legendary grade, I no longer need gemstones to upgrade it," Jack said.

"Yes. That runestone is already perfect in its basic form," Peniel confirmed.

Jack nodded. He stored the runestone before shooting into the sky. He flew at high speed toward the battlefield.

He watched the scene as he approached. The defenders could already fight the underworld force on even grounds when Jack joined the battle. With Satan's demise, the battle tipped further in the defenders' favor. It was only a matter of time until the demons were vanquished.

Jack preferred it to be sooner. They needed to march into Liguritutum as quickly as possible. He looked around for a place with more enemies. After locating the spot, he dashed over.

"Time to test your power!" Jack exclaimed. He used the Void Demon Sword.

When the sword appeared, he was taken aback. The reason was the sword's size. He thought it would be a normal-sized sword, or at most, the size of a greatsword. However, the sword that appeared was freaking huge. It was the size of a small ship. It was probably a hundred meters in length.

The sword was composed of voids. When one looked at its surface, one could almost gleam a different world behind that void. The gigantic sword rushed forward when Jack was still processing its appearance.

With its gigantic mass, it swept through many demons at once. With one sweep, many were killed. Some were because their HP was already low. Another portion was because they received the instant-death effect. The remaining were due to suffering fatal wounds, like having their heads decapitated. Half of those who survived suffered wounds that weakened their fighting abilities and reduced their max HP.

The Void Demon Sword was not slow. It was also sentient. It detected nearby enemies and zoomed over, cutting many demons as it slashed past. The demons tried to move away when they saw this giant flying sword come over, but the slow ones found their bodies becoming heavy when the sword approached. They also received small damage every second. They were helpless as the void sword sliced into them.

Some tried using attacks to break the sword. However, all their attacks were as if sinking into a bottomless abyss. No apparent damage was visible on the sword. To make matters worse, several small swords started flying out from inside the void of the giant sword. These small swords spread out and struck the demons not in the giant sword's trajectory.

The demons had no means to destroy the Void Demon Sword. Defensive skills or spells still worked in reducing the damage they received. But since the Void Demon Sword had an instant-death effect and had a high chance of wounding, those defensive abilities were largely ineffective. The best move to deal with this void sword was not getting hit, but the demonic field it exuded rendered even that difficult.

In a short time, the demons' formation at the place where Jack was was a total mess. Jack hadn't even done anything else after conjuring the Void Demon Sword. The demons were too busy dealing with the void sword to do anything to Jack, who just floated above them.

One unfortunate thing was that this void sword dealt friendly fire. If allies were in the sword's path, they suffered damage too. The sword was sentient and tried to avoid allies. But with its bulky build, collateral damage was bound to happen sooner or later.

Jack had chosen an area where more enemies were grouped. But with how chaotic the battlefield was, some allies were there as well.

At one unfortunate instant, an ally was cut by the void sword together with the demons. The worst thing happened. The wounding effect triggered. That ally's body was cut in two, and he died instantly.

"Oh, shit!" Jack exclaimed. Even though it was unintentional, he still felt a grave guilt seeing the scene.

The killed ally was a strong combatant, a level 85 mythical grade from the Council of Elpo. Losing such a combatant was a great loss.

"Your new spell!" Peniel reminded Jack. She sensed the guilty feeling within Jack's heart.

"Right!" Jack remembered. He hurriedly cast Time Reverse.

The Time Reverse turned back time by one minute. The spell was a nine-rune spell, but the runes composing the spell formation were not too intricate. This let Jack cast the spell

quickly.

After casting the spell, time started to flow backward. He saw himself and everything around him move back in time as if watching a rewinding video. It was the same sensation as the time when he was doing the trial for the Time Sage.

As he saw everything moving back in time, his mana manipulation informed him that he could exert control over the process and stop it if he wanted. This meant he didn't need to go all the way back to one minute before he cast the spell.

He tested doing that and stopped the process. Unfortunately, he learned that even if he stopped the process midway, the cooldown was still a full hour. He stopped the time reverse just a few seconds before the unfortunate ally was killed by his void sword. He used Wind Dash and zoomed toward the ally.

The ally was startled when Jack suddenly appeared before him. Jack grabbed him and used the second dash to pull him away. The ally was dazed by Jack's interference, but he soon noticed the void sword charging past where he used to be. He had been so absorbed in the battle that he failed to sense the incoming sword. He understood then why Jack pulled him away. "Tha... Thank you...," he stammered.

Jack gave him a friendly tap. "Leave this place to me. You go help the others," Jack told him. The ally didn't disagree. He went away.

Jack returned his attention to the void sword still causing havoc among the demons. His Time Reverse had a one-hour cooldown. If the same incident happened again before the cooldown ended, he wouldn't be able to undo it.

"Hm... Let's see if I can control it," Jack uttered.

He used mana manipulation to strengthen the connection between him and the void sword. Once the link became clear, he knew he could influence the sword. He controlled it to go after the higher-grade and higher-level demons. He also empowered it, making it deal more damage and move faster. His current level of mana manipulation was advanced enough for him to do this, even when this was his first time using the skill.

Under his control, Jack made the void sword perform sword arts. He couldn't perform Formless Flowing Sword Style. That art needed at least two swords, but he could perform One-word Slash and One-word Thrust.

When he performed those sword arts, a void line was created following the slash or thrust. This void line lingered for several seconds. Demons who touched this void line received damage. Additionally, using the sword arts seemed to increase its instant-death and wounding effects. The rate at which the demons died increased.

Although the Void Demon Sword lasted only three minutes, it left a long trail of dead demons

after it ended.

"Hehe. That was one deadly skill," Jack remarked.

"You must thank the demonic seed. The original Void Living Sword isn't that big and fast,"

Peniel informed.

The surviving demons turned to Jack. If it was before, they would have looked at Jack in fury accompanied by the desire to tear Jack apart, but they were under the debuffing effects after losing Satan. What their eyes expressed was fear and anxiety. They couldn't bring themselves to retaliate. They just stood there with dreadful stares, until one of the stronger demons

uttered a rallying cry.

"What are you all doing? We are the mighty force of the underworld. Attacckkk....!!!"

Not all the demons acted, but enough did. They sent ranged attacks before they charged forward. Jack didn't worry. He looked at the incoming attacks with a smile. The Runic Ring of Defense appeared before him. He used mana manipulation to empower the ring. The ring spun and flared brightly due to the injection of mana.

All the incoming attacks were blocked by the ring. Jack received no damage. There was also no visible crack on it. The ring was more durable than he expected.

Jack used another new skill, Devil Eye Flare. Two fiery beams shot out from his eyes. The two beams sneaked through the horde of incoming demons and struck the demon who had uttered the rallying cry. The other demons who were late in reacting felt demoralized seeing that. They paused from joining the attack.

Jack then used Devil Blood, the active skill from the Ring of Devil Incarnate. Crimson blood vessels bulged through the draconic scales of his Supreme Dragon Form. Thin crimson mist sipped out of those blood vessels.

After that, a dark purple bubble encapsulated him. It was the Sphere of Tiamat, which had just gone off cooldown. With the boosts from the sphere and the Devil Blood, Jack charged toward

the incoming demons.

## **Chapter 1972:. Destroying the Main Underworld Portal**

**\*BOOM!!\***

The space shook as a shockwave reverberated through the air and slammed into the ground far below. The ground was no longer the landscape it once was. Any trees, hills, or mountains that once decorated the terrain were gone. The ground was now a flat land filled with rubble. No living things were visible in miles. Those who failed to flee far enough already died from the repeated shockwaves.

This was what happened in the area where divine beings scuffled for almost a full day.

"Begone...!!!"

A powerful rainbow energy lashed out from Lucifer's swing. Pride was smacked away by the force. A wave of chaotic rainbow energy followed. This wave pushed the other Gods and

Goddesses away.

"You seem pissed. Has Volgroth destroyed the main underworld portal?" Greed asked with a mocking tone.

Lucifer answered by pointing at him and firing a concentrated multicolor arrow. Wrath and Fear hurriedly combined their power with Greed and formed a shield that blocked the arrow. Even though they successfully blocked the arrow, they were pushed back and felt something heavy had rammed into their bodies.

Lucifer was indeed pissed, but not because of Volgroth. The main underworld portal was still standing. What pissed Lucifer off was he sensed the death of all the devils, including Satan. As much as he found that unbelievable, the disappearing links between him and the six devils were unmistakable. Only one thing explained the disappearance of these links. The devils had died.

This was an irreparable loss. He needed the devils to maintain control once they conquered the upperworld. Now, he could only rely on those lowly demons for the job. The perfect world The envisioned was now no longer possible.

To make matters worse, there was still the problem with Volgroth. Although the main underworld portal was still standing, he could sense that his barrier had lost half of its energies. He needed to get back to that portal!

"I will drag you punks into hell and torture you for eternity!!!" Lucifer shouted in fury. He spun. His six colorful wings released multicolor energies that formed a hurricane. This hurricane expanded.

"Hold him!" Wrath yelled. Fear, Greed, and she channeled their negative energies to halt the hurricane's expansion.

"Urghh...! He is too strong!!" Fear exclaimed. They were as if trying to stop a broken dam.

On the opposite side, Love and Serenity approached Pride.

"Are you fine?" Serenity asked.

Many scars were visible on Pride's armor. Its luminance, which was usually dazzling, was now rather dull. Traces of light were seen seeping out of those scars.

"Your essences are slipping," Love said with worry.

"Never mind me," Pride told them. "He is going all out. We must as well!"

"We have already gone all out," Love said.

"No. I know you haven't. Listen, you two. Stop worrying about me. If we fail to stop Lucifer here, all will be lost. Everyone and everything in this upperworld will no longer be what it used to be. Even if we survive this fight, it will be meaningless. There is no point in me surviving this, do you understand?"

The two Goddesses have complicated expressions. Serenity turned to the multicolor hurricane that was still being retained by the bad Gods' energies. The hurricane had stopped expanding, but from the expressions of the three Gods, they wouldn't be able to keep doing that for long.

"I understand," Serenity said.

"Sister...?" Love turned to Serenity in disbelief.

"As Brother Pride said. If we failed to keep Lucifer here before Volgroth completed his mission, all will be lost," Serenity said. She then turned to Pride and asked, "How long can you last if we give you our all?"

"As long as I need to," Pride answered.

Serenity nodded. She turned to Love, who was still showing a troubled expression. Under Serenity's firm gaze, Love found her resolve. She steeled her expression.

The two pushed their hands in Pride's direction at the same time. A brilliant light flowed from them and into Pride.

"Hrrgghh...!" The influx of energy took Pride by surprise. Although he had prepared himself, the power that flowed into him was still more than he expected. He felt like his body was about to explode. He clenched his fists. With a thundering roar, he forced this overflowing energy under control.

The light from Serenity and Love condensed and wrapped around his body. Pride turned into a humanoid creature made of light. None of his armor was visible under the dense light.

With another roar, he charged forward. He pierced into the multicolor hurricane and crashed straight into Lucifer, who was in the eye of the storm. A powerful shockwave radiated from the collision. The multicolor hurricane ruptured from the shockwave.

Lucifer was shocked his full-powered attempt was stopped. He was even more surprised he felt hurt from the impact just now.

"You...", Lucifer noticed the change in Pride's appearance. "You are truly ready to die...?"

"Which part of it that you don't understand?" Pride said and sent a blindingly fast punch that struck Lucifer's jaw.

Lucifer reeled from the punch but quickly returned with a punch of his own.

"So be it! Die! You, miserable pretender!" Lucifer exclaimed. His punch was equally fast. The impact generated another earth-shattering shockwave.

One day passed after Satan was defeated. At the main underworld portal, the yellow barrier covering the portal was dimming. The HP bar above the barrier was nearly depleted.



On the ground surrounding the portal were mountains of demon corpses. These were the demons who originally guarded the portal and those who were called back to defend the

portal.

Xugguth was still alive. He almost died once, though. After that, he kept his distance and used his subordinates as cannon fodder. He only attacked when Volgroth was occupied.

These demons were not Volgroth's opponents. Volgroth could have dispatched them easily, but they were still a nuisance. Their interference caused him to be unable to focus his offense on the main underworld portal. He ended up needing two days to bring down the barrier's HP. "Hmph! You, demons, truly are bothersome, but this is the end for you. Prepare to get sent back to the underworld!" Volgroth exclaimed while unleashing his Celestial Soul Breath. The silver beam vaporized the demons on its path before crashing into the yellow barrier. This attack took out the barrier's HP. The yellow barrier faded out and exposed the main

underworld portal.

"Finally!" Volgroth exclaimed. This task had taken much longer than he planned. He knew they were in a race against time. He knew the upperworld Gods were holding Lucifer down. If Lucifer returned, he would be finished. Even if he was the strongest being, he was still nothing against a God.

"I will not let you!" Xugguth came at Volgroth from behind. Now that the barrier was gone, the main underworld portal was vulnerable. He couldn't afford to play it safely anymore. No matter what, Volgroth must not destroy the portal. He had to answer to Lucifer if that happened. He feared facing Lucifer's wrath rather than losing his life because Lucifer's wrath meant unending torture where he wished he was dead.

Volgroth sensed Xugguth's approach. He easily repelled the demon using a tail swipe.

"Nothing is going to stop me from destroying that portal!" Volgroth exclaimed.

The main underworld portal itself possessed an HP bar. It would take time to destroy the portal, but Volgroth had no intention of wasting more time. He flew back, which confused the demons. Why did the dragon retreat after the portal was exposed?

When Volgroth started glowing and the space around him distorted, the demons understood. Volgroth was not retreating. He was preparing an attack. Particles of light started to gather from all over, forming rivers of light that flowed toward the celestial dragon.



What Volgroth was preparing was his ultimate attack. The one he used when he first appeared here. The skill had gone off cooldown a while ago, but he refrained from using it to destroy the barrier, which HP was almost depleted. He kept it so he could use it now to destroy the

main underworld portal in one hit.

"Stop him! Stop him...!!" Xugguth exclaimed. He could sense the intensity of the mana being siphoned by Volgroth even from this distance. He remembered the beam that almost killed him when Volgroth appeared. He did not doubt the dragon was repeating that attack. The demons followed Xugguth's command. They rushed toward the dragon. Xugguth stayed before the portal and used a defensive skill, Ki Wall, which conjured a large energy wall. Like his Ki Shield, this wall contained dark elements. Xugguth pumped mana manipulation into the wall, empowering it.

The gathered mana before Volgroth's mouth formed a giant ball. Several rings with runic symbols appeared around the ball and circled it. Before he unleashed the gathered energy, he activated Celestial Dragon Lifeforce. The energy ball before his mouth expanded abruptly. "Begone...!!!" Volgroth exclaimed. The giant ball exploded into a massive beam. The runic rings merged with the beam. Runic symbols adorned the surface of the beam.

This beam was even more powerful than the first one because it was boosted by the power of the Celestial Dragon Lifeforce. All the demons rushing toward Volgroth were swallowed by the beam. Some evaporated upon contact. The stronger ones lasted longer, but they still perished. None of the demons were in full health, to begin with.

The beam crashed into Xugguth's dark wall. It didn't last even a second. The beam pierced through and engulfed Xugguth. His face was in despair as he vaporized. He was not in full health like when the beam hit him the first time. The beam was also much stronger this time. The beam went on and crashed into the main underworld portal.

## **Chapter 1973:. A New God**

The demons spared from getting hit by Volgroth's beam looked at the main underworld portal in trepidation. A sphere of light resulted from the impact. It covered the entire main underworld portal. The demons expected the corrupted mana to thin out at any moment.

The demons were not the only ones in a state of anxiety. Volgroth was feeling the same thing but for a different reason. The sphere of light resulting from the detonation of his ultimate attack should be larger than that. The last time, the resulting light from the detonation covered an area of almost one kilometer. This time, it only covered the main underworld portal. This made no sense. The power of his beam was more powerful this time.

The energy required to sustain the beam was finally exhausted. The beam ended. The light covering the main underworld portal continued to linger. Volgroth stared at the light with a wary gaze.

The light finally receded. To his astonishment, the main underworld portal was still standing. The light shrunk until it was a single dot. The light was held above the palm of a person floating before the portal. The light then died out.

Volgroth had a good look at the person. It was an ethereal.

"An outworlder...? No... You don't feel that way... What are you...?" Volgroth asked.

"A God," Master answered. He snapped his fingers.

Volgroth's body shook. He felt as if tremendous pressure had crashed into him from all directions. He lost all thoughts for that instant. When he came around, he felt disoriented. He then noticed alarmingly that his HP bar had gone down by half.

"Wha... What...?" He asked in confusion.

"Hm...," Master muttered in contemplation. "I expected to stamp you out with one move. It seems I am not used to this divine power yet, or maybe you are strong enough to resist my will."

Volgroth's mind cleared then. He understood what happened just now. He had been around God Hope for a long time to recognize the power of the divine. Not as powerful as God Hope, but it was still a divine power. He didn't know how this unknown ethereal got a hold of this kind of power, but the energy that assailed him was unmistakable.

Volgroth understood there was no point in trying to escape. Also, he still had a mission. He opened his jaws and unleashed the Celestial Soul Breath again. The breath this time was boosted by the Celestial Dragon Lifeforce. He could only hope this attack was enough to take out the portal.

The breath aimed at the portal but at a spot away from Master. Master scoffed at the attempt. He vanished and reappeared right where the breath was aimed at. A large oval shield appeared behind him.

The Celestial Soul Breath washed over him before hitting the oval shield behind him. The breath couldn't penetrate the oval shield. None of the breaths touched the main underworld portal.

Master could have positioned the oval shield before him, but he let himself get hit on purpose. He wanted to know if he could get hurt.

He noticed that damage numbers still appeared above him every second he was bombarded by the Celestial Soul Breath. However, all those damage numbers showed only 1 point of damage. He sneered upon learning this.

He put his open palm to the front. That palm clenched into a fist.

At the same time Master clenched his fist, Volgroth felt like he was having a heart attack. His body shook again. His Celestial Soul Breath was forcefully stopped. He then froze on the spot. Under that static pose, his body started falling apart.

In a short time, the broken pieces turned into dust. In less than ten seconds, Volgroth disappeared from there. It was as if he never existed.

"Hehe... Hahaha... HAHAHA...!!!"

Master's laughter echoed for miles. The demons who were still alive looked at Master with fearful expressions. They didn't know what to do. The ethereal had protected their main underworld portal from the fearsome dragon, but the maniacal laughter they heard now made them suspect this frightening ethereal might be insane. He might turn to attack their portal next. Should they attack? They were motionless in indecision.

Master finally ended his laughter and looked at these demons with a condescending expression. He waved his arm.

The demons shrunk away in fear that the swing just now was an attack, but they then found their HP fully refilled.

Master looked at the mountain of corpses. Some of those fallen demons died less than an hour ago. He opened his status window. Even after becoming a God, he still possessed these game features. While staring at the holographic status window, he sensed that he could do more than review his status.

He didn't have much time to experiment with his divine power. He absorbed the last of the divine treasures and became a God not long ago. As elated as he was, he didn't have the time to celebrate. He came to this place immediately. He didn't want the underworld forces to advance too fast and ruin the entire upperworld, but he also didn't want them to be expelled back to the underworld. He still had use for them.

While he tinkered with his status window, he found he could make changes. He didn't spend much time farming exp points to level up after gaining all the divine treasures. His five classes were still below level 90. At this moment, he learned that he could influence these levels.

He focused on the level of the Prime Demonologist and willed it to increase. The number increased following his will. It went up until it stopped at 99.

"Heh," Master chuckled. He guessed hacking was one of God's abilities in this world. He proceeded to increase all his classes to level 99.

He tried to do the same with his attributes. Unfortunately, he failed. The attributes refused to budge.

"Hmph," He harrumphed with dissatisfaction. Turned out that being a God still had limitations.

'Never mind,' He thought. As a divine, there was little use for the attributes, as had been proven with how he dealt with Volgroth just now. He didn't even need his classes anymore. His act of increasing his levels to the maximum was just his worldly desire for perfection rather than necessity.

He flipped the status window to the skill page. Similarly, he could also do some hacking here. He could open another page with a list of all the skills in this world. At least he thought so at first, but he soon learned it was not so. The standard skills from other classes were not available. This list only contained the non-standard skills and spells.

He could learn these non-standard skills, but not all. Some of them were grey. Upon further inspection, those grey skills were ones not learnable by his five classes. He again harrumphed with dissatisfaction at this limitation.

He didn't have the time to play around with these skills. He would do that later. He still had urgent business to take care of. So, he scrolled the list to where the mega spells were. He proceeded to learn a nine-rune mega spell, Restoration of the World. This mega spell was learnable by elite classes branched from the Healer class.

Master closed his status window and cast the newly learned mega spell. The gigantic spell formation formed almost in an instant. A colossal green tree with a crown spanning far into the distance materialized. Its leaves fell and flew to the dead demons who died less than an hour ago. Those demons returned to life with full HP. Even those who had their bodies vaporized were resurrected.

Xugguth was among the resurrected demons. He looked at himself in disbelief. He clearly remembered Volgroth's beam washed over him. He knew for sure he had died.

While the resurrected demons were confused, a powerful voice entered the minds of every

demon there.

"Guard the main underworld portal."

The voice possessed a telepathic power that pointed them to the owner. They all turned to Master. They did not doubt it was Master who had resurrected them.

Master didn't say anything else. He just vanished from there. Xugguth and the others looked at each other. They were still confused about what just happened.

"Damn you, all...!!!" Lucifer shouted as repeated shockwaves erupted from him.

He sensed his barrier disappear. Since he still could not leave this place, Volgroth would most likely be in the process of destroying the main underworld portal. This meant his time in this upperworld was numbered. The corrupted mana would soon thin. He and every demon would need to return to the underworld.

He was extremely angry. His dream of conquering the upperworld had ended. Not only did he fail, but he also lost his six devil subordinates. This venture had been a total loss without any gain. The most frustrating thing was that these vexing Gods were still hindering him.

Especially Pride, who traded direct blows with him.

"I will kill you all!!!"

Waves after waves of energy gushed out of Lucifer. The obstructive veil formed by the energies from the bad Gods diminished the power of these waves, but it didn't stop them. The waves slammed into the Gods and caused them to stagger. Only Pride, supported by Love and Serenity, could stay close to Lucifer and keep him on his toes.

"Does his power have no limit?" Fear asked. He felt himself getting weaker.

"Keep at it!" Greed encouraged. "We don't need to outlast him. We just need to outlast the time Volgroth needs to destroy the main underworld portal."

"That damn dragon sure takes his sweet time," Wrath said through her gritted teeth.

"He'd better complete his mission soon. Otherwise, I... Something is wrong!" Fear exclaimed. He sensed something approaching. However, he couldn't move. His energy was intertwined with Greed and Wrath. There would be backlash if he forcefully removed his, but he could still turn back. As he did, he saw a familiar face. "We meet again," Master said with a wicked grin.

## **Chapter 1974:. Desire**

Fear had sensed the power of the divine even before he turned back. He just didn't believe it. He knew the remaining divines were all here. When he saw Master is the one behind him, it was as if proving his skepticism. No way this outworlder was a divine being. Master probably possessed something that exuded divine power, like those divine treasures Master had pursued so passionately.

That's why he failed to react even when he sensed an energy spike from Master. Combined with the fact that his energy was still merged with Wrath and Greed in locking down Lucifer, The failed to react when Master shoved a hand toward him.

A blast erupted following that shove. That blast was so powerful it threw Fear forward. Due to the blast, Fear's energy link with Wrath and Greed was severed. A violent backlash of energy struck the three. The obstructive veil covering Lucifer was gone.

Feeling that nothing was hindering him anymore, Lucifer exploded with a formidable aura. His six colorful wings and three halos shone brightly. The force pressing down on Pride multiplied.

Pride didn't back down. He also pumped his energy. He sucked all the energies released by Serenity and Love like a siphon. In this state, he could draw their powers even without their consent. Serenity and Love felt their essences weakening as Pride forcefully extracted their energies. They were powerless to stop it even if they wanted to.

The light from Lucifer and Pride intensified until they were as if two suns. These two suns were in close range. It was inevitable they collided as they grew exponentially. Their collision resulted in a detonation that covered the entire region they were in. The monsters that thought they had fled far enough didn't know what happened when this explosion hit them. They vaporized on the spot.

The shockwave of the explosion traveled the entire world. Even on the opposite side of the planet from where the battle was happening, an earthquake occurred, and the winds from the explosion reached there. The winds, which had traveled the entire world, converged and formed a massive hurricane.

When the explosion subsided, the only living things in the region were the eight divine beings.

"I will not lose!" Pride exclaimed.

His body was still shining brightly. His two fists became meteors as they stormed at Lucifer. These meteors slammed into a multicolor wall formed of energy waves produced by Lucifer. The meteors and waves continued to counteract one another.

Pride never stopped shouting as he pressed on his assault. "I will take you down! You will witness my pride as the protector of the upperworld! I will let no devil roam this world! In the name of pride, I will...!"

His rave abruptly stopped, and so did his motion. The light that was shining from his body died down. Without the light covering him, everyone saw that his appearance had changed drastically. The armor that covered his entire body had lost all luminance. Its color became pale grey, and no spots were without cracks.

Pride's arm was in the middle of a punching motion when this happened. This punch continued due to momentum even after it lost all energy. The punch stopped when it hit Lucifer's open palm.

"Hehe," Lucifer chuckled after seeing his opponent's state.

Another energy wave erupted from his palm. This blast hit Pride without any resistance. Pride's body broke apart from the blast. The broken pieces of his body slowly dissolved and turned into dust, which blew away with the wind.

"Hahaha! HAHAHA!! Die, you pathetic fool!" Lucifer went into crazed laughter. "You are pride? What a joke! I am the true pride!! The greatest of all sins!!! You are nothing but a fake! A pretense! To have you masquerading as the good one is the biggest joke I ever heard...!"

Lucifer's laughter went on for a while. When he finally stopped, he looked around at his surroundings. Six divine beings; five upperworld Gods and one newcomer. He knew the newcomer. It was the outworlder who activated the main underworld portal. The same outworlder from the group who betrayed his underworld forces. Yet, this outworlder now helped him face the upperworld Gods.

Despite the intriguing situation, he had an urgent matter to take care of. He turned to the West.

"There is no need to worry," Master said to Lucifer. "The main underworld portal is safe. I have taken care of Volgroth."

Everyone there was surprised by his words.

"Do you know what you have done?! You have doomed this world!" Wrath scolded.

"Save your breath. He is the one who caused the underworld invasion in the first place," Greed said.

"Whose side are you on?" Lucifer asked Master. He couldn't understand this outworlder's intention.

"I'm on your side," Master answered.

"Heh," Lucifer chuckled. "I didn't quite catch your name the last time. You may tell me now."

"My name...?" Master paused upon the question. He considered giving his true name. But on further consideration, he was no longer that person. He was not even the player with the alias of Master. No, he had transcended. He was no longer his past. He was no longer human. He was no longer a player. He was now a different being entirely.



"My name is Desire," Master answered Lucifer's question.

"Desire... Hmph, an apt name for one who claws his way up from a pile of trash," Lucifer mocked.

Master showed no sign of being offended. He said, "We should take care of these Gods before we continue our talk."

"We? There is no we. If you wish to be on my side, you will have to do it from a kneeling position. There will be no negotiation," Lucifer said.

"Very well," Master said. There was no hesitation in his tone.

Lucifer wondered if Master meant his words, but he decided it didn't matter. With Hope gone, no God in existence was his equal. Certainly not a new God who had just attained Divinity. The other Gods were still there. They were uncertain about what to do. Pride was gone. They had exhausted most of their energies. Lucifer seemed to still have full power. With Master in the mix, there was no way they could win this. To make things worse, if what Master said about Volgroth was true, then all their hopes were lost.

Fear was the first to act. He was not in his prime, to begin with. He still had a lingering wound from what Hope did to him in the past. He had not fully recovered. He only joined this endeavor because of the severity of the situation, and the plan with Volgroth seemed like a feasible one. It was different now that everything went to shit.

He was currently very weak. After an exhausting battle for two days, getting ambushed by Master, and receiving a backlash from the merged energies, he was in no condition to resume this battle. A primal feeling rose within him. This was a feeling that was supposed to be under his rule. Yet, it was now ruling his heart. The terror he felt for the very real possibility of dying made him turn around and flee.

Greed and the others were disappointed by Fear's action but didn't find it surprising.

However, Fear didn't get far.

He slammed into a multicolor wall that suddenly appeared before him. Before he could regain balance, a multicolor beam crashed into him from behind. The beam revealed itself to be Lucifer, now grabbing the back of Fear's head. He was squeezing Fear's head into the

multicolor wall.

"Ple-Please... Spare me...", Fear said weakly.

"Hahaha! HAHAHA!!" Lucifer laughed instead of saying anything.

The pressure he exerted intensified. Colorful waves again radiated from him, banging into Fear, who was pinned by the multicolor wall. The pressure pained even a divine being like Fear. His pained cries echoed into the distance.

Greed and the others couldn't just stand and watch. Unlike Fear, they had no intention to flee despite the impossible situation. The four rushed forward, but one of them was interrupted. Something came from above and slammed into Wrath, who was at the forefront.

"You!" Wrath saw it was Master. "You wretched snake! I should have ended you when I had

the chance!"

"You should," Master returned.

The others continued onward. Fear was in a more dire need of help. Lucifer saw their approach. With one hand still on Fear, he swung his other arm. The swing generated a multicolor wave. The three Gods used their powers to face the incoming wave. But when they collided with the wave, they were thrown back. They were severely weakened from

exhaustion.

Without interruption, Lucifer pressed on.

"AAAHHHH...!!!" Fear's pained cry turned into a wail.

Lucifer didn't let up. He never even stopped laughing. These two days of protracted battle had

been extremely frustrating. He was releasing all the tensions that had built up. He was taking out his frustration on poor Fear, who was helpless to resist.

Fear's wail finally stopped when light started pouring out of his eyes and mouth. His body

burst apart in one brutal explosion.

Lucifer finally stopped laughing. He turned back. Only four upperworld Gods were left. He had returned to his calm expression. However, the glint in his eyes still showed some lunacy.

## **Chapter 1975:. The Only Divine**

"Damn you...!!" Wrath cursed.

Giant fiery claws assailed Master. Master tried his best to fight back but had to retreat every time the claw crashed into him.

Master didn't find this surprising. The power of a veteran divine being was indeed too much for a fledgling God like him. Even so, he was ecstatic. Before this, he could do nothing against such divine power. Now, he could face them head-on.

"I will wipe that smile off your face...!" Wrath shouted in fury. Her assaults became more frenzied.

"You should watch your back," Master uttered.

Wrath suddenly found herself enveloped by a multicolor aura. This multicolor aura turned into several tentacles that wrapped around her body. She was being pulled away from Master.

"Wrath!" Greed called.

Greed, Serenity, and Love came to Wrath's rescue. But before they could do anything, they found themselves getting washed over by the multicolor wave as well. They couldn't fight the power. They were forced to the ground below.

The wave carried all four of them and slammed them into the ground. The multicolor energy remained there, acting like an anchor which kept them grounded.

"Urgghh...!" Greed tried exerting his power but couldn't free himself from the multicolor aura. His body was stiff. He couldn't move. Serenity, Love, and Wrath were having the same situation.

"Hehe. It seems that you have all used up your power to halt me these past two days," Lucifer slowly floated down to them. "And all of it has been for nothing."

"Don't sound so proud about it. If not for that vile outworlder, our plan would have worked," Wrath hissed defiantly.

Lucifer glanced at Master, who came to his side. He said, "Only a sore loser speaks of a what- if scenario. Thing happens, and that's it. There was no if. You lose, and I win. It's a battle, not a debate."

Greed sat on the ground. "You are right. The outcome is clear by now. Do your worst," he said. "Are you going to kill us?" Love asked.

Lucifer grinned at the question. "Are you afraid of dying?" He asked in return.

"Just get it over with! Is there a need to taunt us?" Serenity asked.

Lucifer caressed his chin in contemplation. He said, "To be honest, Fear has paid for the frustration you all caused. I'm no longer displeased. Not when everything is going well... for me, at least, hahaha..."

"You truly enjoy the sound of your voice, don't you?" Greed asked.

"I do," Lucifer replied.

The four defeated Gods gave Lucifer the silent treatment. The devil was just toying with them at this stage. They refused to play his game.

Lucifer taunted the Gods a few more times without receiving any retort from his opponents. He finally said, "I see that you are all eager to end this. Very well, then. I will fulfill your wish."

He aimed his palm at them. A multicolor wave radiated out from that palm. The wave hit the four Gods and lingered. Colorful energy continued to pour out of Lucifer's open palm. The multicolor aura bathing the four Gods intensified.

Although the four Gods yielded to their fate, they weren't willing to make it easy for Lucifer. They pumped their energies to resist. Unfortunately, they were already too weak. Lucifer laughed mockingly at their effort. The four Gods found their bodies became heavier and stiffer the longer this multicolor aura bathed them.

"This... You are not killing us...?" Serenity asked. She realized the oddness of their conditions. The multicolor aura didn't deteriorate their life force. It was impeding them.

"Hehe. I never said anything about killing," Lucifer answered. "I want you to watch how I transform this realm... from this eternal prison. Helpless and unable to do anything about it. Hahaha!"

"You, monster!" Serenity scolded.

"No, I'm not. I'm a devil," Lucifer returned with a devilish grin.

The colorful aura continued to build. The four Gods' bodies became so stiff they couldn't even move their fingers anymore. Their skin started to lose color, and so did their clothes. Slowly, they turned into pale statues.

Lucifer admired his handiwork. These Gods wouldn't be able to do anything. They could send their divine senses to find out what was happening in the vicinity but couldn't interact by any means. He would need to renew the energy binding them every few decades to make sure they kept being bound.

Maybe when the conquest of the upperworld was completed, he would build a throne and move these statues there. These fallen Gods would be fine monuments to remember his triumph in dominating the entire world.

He was still feeling exultant in his victory when he realized something. The rookie God, he no longer sensed that outworlder's presence!

He was about to look around when he felt a prickling pain in his side. He turned and saw Master. The rookie God's hand was on the side where he felt the pain. He looked down and barely saw a small orb drilling into his body.

"What did you..."

A blast of chaotic energy poured out of the wound, where the small orb had drilled in. The prickling pain transformed into a debilitating, intense agony that caused even him to involuntarily utter a pained cry.

On reflex, he lashed out with an energy blow that could flatten mountains. Master was blasted by this energy and flew away from the impact.

Lucifer endured the burning pain and looked at his wound. A stream of colorful energy flowed out uncontrollably from the wound. He could feel his life force flowing out with that leaking

energy.

"Argh...!" He covered the wound using his hand. He focused his power to seal the wound. Yet, he could only slow the leak. He couldn't stop it. To make things worse, he could feel that tiny orb was still wreaking havoc inside him.

"Ahhh...!! What did you do to me...?!" Lucifer yelled. The ground shook from his voice.

Master, who had been blown away, stayed far away. His divine essence was hurt by the blow just now. He knew if he faced Lucifer directly, he would be defeated in a short time. Thankfully, Lucifer had also exhausted a great deal of power from his battle against the six Gods. The devil was not at full power.

"What is this thing inside me...?!" Lucifer shouted.

"It is your end," Master answered. He then shot up into the sky.

"Where the hell do you think you are going?!" Lucifer shot up as well.

The sky up there had been cleared by the battle between Lucifer and the six Gods earlier. However, when Lucifer was dealing with Greed and the others, Master secretly used his Godly power to remake the clouds. He now disappeared inside them.

Lucifer shoved his hand forward. The clouds in the sky were blasted away. As they did, Master came into view again. Or rather, his illusions. Hundreds of Master's copies were floating in the

sky.

"Do not think this cheap trick can save you!" Lucifer exclaimed. His body spun, releasing a radial torrent of multicolor energy.

This torrent turned into a massive hurricane that swept all the copies. However, the copies floated there unaffected. All of them displayed condescending expressions.

"Struggle all you like. You will simply accelerate your end," All the copies said at the same time.

Master was telling the truth. Lucifer could feel it as well. His essence was leaking faster when he discharged his power. The thing inside him also got fiercer, and he couldn't stop it! "Aarrhhh... I will kill you...!!!" Lucifer didn't stop. He spread his arms and shot energy blasts in all directions. These blasts traveled for miles and obliterated everything they hit.

"I must say, Hope meets his end in a much more graceful manner than you," Master's copies continued to taunt.

"Damn you...!!!" Lucifer cursed. "Why can't I find you?!"

All the copies contained Master's presence. Lucifer had hit every single copy, but all of them

were illusions.

While divine beings had mana concealment, it was their natural state. They never truly trained for it like Jack and Master did. The mastery attained by Jack and Master was at a completely different level. Hence, when Master attained Godhood, he could push this ability further. Not only could he turn invisible, but he could also erase all his presence. That's how he could ambush Lucifer using the Godkiller when the devil's attention was elsewhere. He could also imbue all his copies with his presence, fooling even a divine being like Lucifer.

Unlike Hope, who controlled his passing, Lucifer never stopped rampaging. He continued to build up energy until it reached critical mass. This chaotic energy reacted with the Godkiller inside him. His body burst apart in a spectacular explosion.

The explosion again covered the entire region. Most of everything within the area of effect was destroyed. The terrain changed shape. Those far enough to safely witness the explosion thought the sun had fallen to the surface.

After the explosion receded, Master came into view. He was within the blast zone. He had erected a protective barrier when the explosion happened, but he was still hurt. He sensed his divine essence greatly weakened. He was not in danger, though. He would recover in time.

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

His laugh echoed throughout the sky. "From now on, I will be the only divine in this world...!"

## **Chapter 1976:. Started Marching**

Master's divine perception noticed something fell from where Lucifer blew up.

"Loot dropped by a divine...?" Master asked in astonishment. The Gods in the game design were not slayable characters. They weren't supposed to have a loot system.

Master reached for the fallen loot using his divine power. That loot flew toward him. When it arrived, Master recognized the item. It was one of the top legendary artifacts like his Necronomicon. The item dropped by Lucifer was the Book of the Damned.

Master stored the book. It's not like he needed any artifacts now that he was a God, but perhaps he could use this item to reward his loyal followers. After storing the book, he flew back to the ground. He landed before the four statues that used to be the upperworld Gods. Despite the insane blast, these statues remained unharmed. There was not even a scratch.

He probed these statues. To his annoyance, the four Gods were still alive. They were confined, though. The energy that confined them waned with time, but it would be decades before that happened.

He cursed Lucifer for not finishing the job. The best scenario would be for the devil to kill all the Gods. But no, the devil had to transform these Gods into a testament to his glory. What a conceited way to satisfy his vanity.

'Never mind,' Master thought. He could not expect all his plans to proceed perfectly. Problems always arose. At least, this was within a tolerable margin. He only needed to reinforce the energy confining these Gods when Lucifer's energy weakened. He was not powerful enough to do that now. But with decades of practice, he was confident it was within his capability.

He aimed his arms at the ground. The ground beneath the four statues started to soften. The hard soil turned into mud. The four statues started sinking. Before long, the statues were completely submerged. He then pulled rocks and earth from the surroundings and piled them atop the spot where the statues were. In a matter of minutes, a mountain had formed there.



It was the only mountain for miles. Everything else had been flattened by the detonation of Lucifer's death. If one flew high enough, one would see a colossal crater caused by that explosion.

Master looked to the East. He gazed in that direction for a while before turning back to the West. He then vanished from there.

At the main underworld portal, the demons were busy clearing up the surroundings of their brethren's corpses. They simply tossed those corpses further away. They cleared up the space because more demons came out from the portal. After Lucifer's barrier was destroyed, the demons from the underworld could enter again.

The newcomer demons were flabbergasted to find so many of their brethren were slain. Some high-ranking ones came to the demon in charge of the portal, Xugguth, to ask for an explanation, but Xugguth was in no mood to explain.

While the demons were reorganizing, a strange feeling descended upon them. They felt lighter on the inside, but at the same time, they were at a loss. The low-level demons did not know what to make of this feeling. The high-level ones, like Xugguth, knew what it signified. "Im... Impossible... Lord Lucifer...?" Xugguth muttered.

The other high-level demons had the same reaction as him. They just stood there frozen. They didn't know what to do.

While they were stumped, crackling thunder was heard. The air above them exploded. They all looked above and saw an ethereal there.

Xugguth's eyes went wide. He remembered this ethereal, and so did the other demons who guarded the main underworld portal. They gazed upon this ethereal with fearful eyes.

The newly arrived demons, however, lacked the news. All they saw was an ethereal showing up in their territory. One of the high-level demons in the midst, an archdemon, flew up and barked in a loud voice.

"Upperworld scum! How dare you intrude upon our territory? You must be tired of your-" The archdemon didn't complete his sentence because he had turned into dust. The incident had been so swift no one understood what truly happened, except for the demons who previously guarded the portal.

"Kneel!"

Master didn't waste any time explaining his intention. His one word caused a shockwave through the air. All the demons who heard the word felt their bodies trembling involuntarily. Xugguth was the first to drop to his knees. Following his lead, all the demons who witnessed how Master dispatched Volgmoth also knelt.

The demons were a hierarchical society with Lucifer on top. The lives of those with lower status could easily be decided upon by the ones with higher status. It could be said the demons were slaves to the devils. They were used to subjugation. Freedom was an alien concept to them. Without someone governing their lives, they felt a void in their hearts. That's why they felt a sense of loss when Lucifer was gone.

Now, another God had come to fill that void. Why would they resist?

The freshly arrived demons were confused by how willingly their brethren knelt to this ethereal. However, they could sense the power when Master's voice touched them. They knew he was a divine being. The higher-level demons who knew Lucifer was gone also bent their knees. The lower-level demons followed suit. Before long, the entire horde of demons expressed their submission to Master.

Master grinned at the sight.

"How are the other fronts doing?" Jack asked.

"The underworld force at Northern Aurebor had just been routed," John answered.

"This means all the fronts have won," Jeanny said.

John nodded. "Yes. Now, all our forces can start marching into Liguritutum."

"Ah... Here I thought I could go to the other fronts to assist," Jack lamented.

They had defeated the underworld force here half a day ago. Most of the demons were killed. The rest fled to the West, where the main underworld portal was. Jack and the others went into the mobile fortress to sleep. They had been fighting for three days straight, after all.

"You are nuts. Do you not have enough fighting?" Jeanny asked.

"Yeah. I prefer to go back to sleep. I am still tired," Paytowin said while yawning.

"I can repeat my level using the level-down pills. I still have more of those pills," Jack answered Jeanny. He then offered her, "Do you want some?"

"I will lose my level 99 skill if I do that," Jeanny said. After defeating Satan, she had also leveled up to 99.

"How is the preparation going?" John turned to his mother, who was operating the war table.

"We are ready. The army has rested enough. We can start marching anytime," Linda

answered.

"What about the wounded?" Grace asked.

"They were sent back to Themisphere with the caravans belonging to the Trade Association," Linda answered. "The Church of Creation and the Healer Society will tend to them once they arrive at the nearest settlement."

Jack nodded. He turned to Tip and asked, "How is the concoction of the Reconstruct Potion

going?"

Tip understood why Jack asked for the potion. He answered, "We should have the first bottle soon. I have instructed our members to bring the first bottle to Eoranth."

After the war ended, Jack sent Eoranth back to Themisphere using his King Badge.

"Good," Jack said.

"What about Honuren?" Jeanny asked. Although Honuren was resurrected, he still suffered some wounds due to the prolonged battle against Satan.

"He and most of the members from the Council of Elpo have left," Linda answered. "They should come to our aid again when we engage the underworld force during our march."

"I doubt that. With the devils defeated, I think they no longer consider this war their concern," Jeanny said.

"I agree. They are that kind of jerks," Paytowin remarked.

"Come on, man. Be respectful," Jack reprimanded. "They helped us. If not for them, this army

won't last this long."

"We can chit-chat while marching," John said. He turned to Linda. "Assistant, send the command for the army to march!"

"I am your mother, you disrespectful son. Also, you are not the king," Linda chided. She turned to Jack and asked, "Should we march?"

Jack nodded. "Let's march into Liguritutum!"

Linda sent the command using the war table. The army was already in formation. They marched with the mobile fortress at the center. Jack summoned his Runestone of Marching to

increase the marching speed.

John sent the commands to the other fronts as well. Aside from the Northern Aurebor Front, the other fronts were also ready to march. The army here should be the first to arrive in Liguritum because of Jack's Runestone of Marching, but the others should only be a few

days apart.

"With this speed, we should enter Liguritum in six days," John estimated.

"Is it enough time?" Paytowin asked with worry. "It should only be another ten days before Master finished merging with the last divine treasure, shouldn't it?"

"We will be a bit too pressed for time...," John agreed. "We might need to forget about facing

Lucifer and go directly to Master to save time."

"How do you propose we do that?" Jeanny asked.

"We use the army as a diversion to attract Lucifer's attention while we infiltrate World Throne

with a battalion of elite soldiers," John answered.

"That will mean sacrificing the soldiers!" Grace exclaimed.

"Sacrificing soldiers is inevitable in war," John returned.

"No! I won't agree to that," Jack asserted.

"Sigh... I expected you would say that. Well, in that case, we will have to deal with Lucifer first

and risk letting Master become a God and deal with him using Chris' method," John said.

"What is the cooldown of the divinity-stripping power again?" Paytowin asked.

"Three days," John answered.

"We need six days to reach Liguritutum. After that, we need how many days to reach World

Throne?" Paytowin asked again.

A booming sound stopped John from answering the question. They turned to where the sound

came from and saw someone floating in the sky above them.

That person was Master.

## **Chapter 1977:. What's So Special About You?**

The entire army ground to a halt following Master's appearance. Master's sudden appearance was not only followed by a booming sound but also a shockwave that touched everyone in the army. So, everyone was aware of his arrival.

Everyone was now staring at this lone figure in the sky. It took most people a few seconds before they registered who the ethereal was. It was members from the prominent guilds who recognized Master first. As the main target of the allied armies, the guilds had collected information on World Maker. This one here was the big boss of the enemies.

"Isn't that...," Lustful Elly from the Crowd of Sins tried to ensure she recognized the ethereal correctly.

"Yes. That ethereal is Master, the leader of the World Maker, our target," Prideful Josh confirmed.

"He has delivered himself to us on a silver platter!" Wrathful Tom exclaimed. He then shouted, "Sins' members! Get that ethereal...!!"

As the head honcho of the enemies, catching or killing Master would surely net them and their guild hefty war contribution points. Hence, the guild players were eager to complete this seemingly easy task. Members of the Crowd of Sins, who could fly, flew up and rushed toward Master.

The native soldiers looked at each other with confused expressions. 'An enemy?' They thought. Should they attack as well?

"Keep the army still!" John told Linda. He also instructed the same to Tip, "Order our members to stay put! Prepare to retreat! Tell our allies to do the same as well!"

"John...?" Jeanny asked confusedly.

"There is only one reason he shows up on his own here...", John said with a grim face. Master didn't show any movement since he appeared. He was motionless in the air. He watched the incoming players with a condescending smile.

When the players were halfway toward him, he slowly lifted his hand. He opened his palm, and a loud thump was heard. All the players rushing toward him suddenly stopped. They then vaporized.

Everything happened so fast that nobody understood what had happened. While they were still processing the incident, some of the slain players came back to life on the ground below. These players were those who wore the Amulet of Rebirth. Those who didn't wear the amulet were in limbo, waiting to be revived after half an hour.

Those who came back to life lost only a level. They looked at each other in bafflement. They also didn't understand what had happened.

While they were still confused, Master made another motion. He snapped his fingers. The ones who came back to life vaporized again. This time, they no longer had the amulets to save them.

"Shit! He locked down this place, so we can't revive at the safe zones," John cursed. He then sent a message to Jack and the others, 'Send a transmission to Chris. Ask him to bail us out!'

"What about the people here...?" Grace asked.

"Wait... Are you saying... He is already a..."

"Isn't it f\*cking obvious by now?" John answered before Paytowin completed his question. "But... How? Shouldn't we still have ten more days?"

"I will answer that question," a deep echoing voice resounded in everyone's mind. "Tsk!" John sent a message, 'Don't say sensitive things out in the open. Use messages!' Master floated toward the mobile fortress. No one barred his approach. Even without Linda and Tip's orders, no one would be foolish enough to do that after the display just now. 'F\*ck! Is that f\*cking Chris sleeping?' John cursed in his mind. He had repeatedly used Chris' disc to contact the person, but there was no reply. He did not doubt Chris' teleportation device could bypass Master's barrier, even if Master was already a God. The only problem was it had to be Chris who initiated the teleport command.

Since they had to wait, he sent a message to Jack and the others, 'Do not provoke him! Delay the time until Chris teleports us! Especially the four of you! If one of us dies and loses the pinnacle class. It will be all over!'

Jack left the mobile fortress and floated toward the approaching Master.

'Bloody hell! What did I say about not provoking?' John cursed again in his mind.

"How did you become a God so much earlier than you should?" Jack asked after he and Master came face to face.

Master smirked. "You know, I truly don't get it. I don't understand what is so special about you. You are just an average Joe who happened to gain additional classes by luck. Why these people are willing to follow you is lost on me."

"I don't doubt that," Jack said. "Why others follow me will always be incomprehensible to selfish people like you. I have no intention of reeducating you. You do you, and I do mine. We will see who comes out on top."

"Insufferable fool, I've already come out on top! I'm already a God!!" Master boomed. Another shockwave radiated out of him. It was a stronger shockwave this time. Those hit by the shockwave reeled back. Some fell to the ground.

Jack was unaffected. He didn't budge. He didn't even blink. His gaze remained steady on Master.

"Heh, you have guts, I'll give you that," Master said. "To answer your question about why I gained divinity earlier than scheduled. It's because I used a couple of these things."

A holographic image showing something that looked like a compass appeared above Master's

hand.

"Time manipulator?" Jack said.

"You know this item? I'm impressed," Master chuckled. "This time manipulator creates an environment that allows its user to fast forward time. Under its effect, my race age and the internal cooldown for absorbing the divine treasures are also affected."

"What a pity. We originally hoped we could stop you before you fused with all the divine treasures," Jack said. "You've truly prepared well to get this result."

"Of course. Do you think I am someone who acts by instinct like you? Only an animal does that," Master ridiculed.

"So, what now? You have got what you want. Are you satisfied?" Jack asked.

"I will be once you all kneel before me," Master said.

"What if we refuse?" Jack asked.



"That is a very stupid question. Use your imagination for the answer," Master replied.

Jack sighed. "All right, we surrender. You will spare us, won't you?"

Master stared at Jack musingly. He said, "It feels hollow when you give no resistance. Where

is the fire you have whenever we meet face to face? This makes me wonder if you are planning

something..."

"Why do you say that? Like you said, I am an average Joe who acts on instinct. I don't plan

anything."

"You might not, but your advisor, on the other hand...", Master turned to those in the mobile fortress. He saw John, Grace, Paytown, and Jeanny there. "Hm... I've heard a rumor that you are close to a girl. Is that the one? I was wondering, will you be angry if I kill her?"

"Don't you dare...!" Jack exclaimed.

"Haha, that's more like it. You always gave me grief in the past. I want to see how you try to stop me now that I'm a God."

Master vanished after finished speaking. He reappeared outside the mobile fortress' wall.

"Cute toy," Master said while waving his hand.

Following the wave, the barrier surrounding the mobile fortress shattered. The fortress also cracked in two. It split in the middle, from the front wall to the rear wall. The keep at the center of the fortress crumbled. John and the others had to take to the sky to avoid getting buried with the keep.

The soldiers were about to attack when they saw the scene, but Jack shouted for them to stay

put.

"A rune tree...", Master remarked with amazement when he saw the great tree in the fortress' courtyard. He snapped his fingers. The rune tree burst into flames.

He glanced at Jack, who had flown over. He waited for Jack to do something, but Jack just glared at him. He snickered before slowly floating toward John and the others. His eyes caught

Linda among the group.

"You change sides?" Master asked Linda.

"I was captured. You can save me now that you are here," Linda answered.

"You...!" Paytowin almost brought his gun up, but Jeanny held him. John stayed silent.

"You were helping them control their army," Master said. He was not convinced of Linda's

words.

"They gave little choice. I was helping them fight the underworld forces, not you. Unless you consider the underworld forces are yours? You never tell me about using the underworld

forces, so you can't blame me for not knowing."

"So, are you saying you are still loyal to me?"

"I am,"

"Linda answered. She didn't show any hesitation.

"Well, I can't read minds... yet. I will have to take your word for it. However, I still need your

proof of allegiance."

Master pointed at John. "Kill your son for me."

## **Chapter 1978:. Hiding from the Divine**

"All right," Linda said. Again, no hesitation.

She lifted her magic staff and aimed it at John's head. The staff started discharging standard ranged attacks. The attacks hit John's head. The guy just stood there and took them.

Considering John was level 99 and wore high-grade equipment, combined with the fact that Linda had a healer-type class, the process took quite some time. John's HP went down slowly while everyone watched.

Master finally lost patience. He grunted, and John vaporized on the spot. Not long after, John returned to life. John had told everyone who had the Amulet of Rebirth to wear it. He did so too. His level dropped to 98 from the death.

Master turned to Linda. "Are you two playing me?" He asked.

"What do you expect? You know I'm not a battle type," Linda returned.

"If I may say my piece," John uttered.

"You may not," Master replied. At the same time, John's body vaporized again. He didn't come back to life this time. He was in limbo like everyone else who died a wilderness death.

Jeanny and Paytowin gritted their teeth. 'It's over now...', they thought. They had lost one person. They couldn't complete the Council of Twenty-four anymore.

"You two look like you have something to say?" Master asked Jeanny and Paytowin.

Before the two could answer, Master said, "I'm not interested to hear it, though."

The two vaporized as well. The same thing happened. Master dispatched them again the second they came back to life.

"Ugh...!" Jack wanted to strike Master so badly, but he knew it was pointless. He restrained himself.

Master could see that. He glanced at Jack. He purposefully let Jack live to toy with him. In the past, he would not do this. He had always avoided letting emotion govern his act, but he was a God now. He could do whatever the f\*ck he wanted. Even if what he did was a petty act of revenge.

"Where is all your bravado?" Master taunted. "Where is that mouth of yours? I remember I can't shut you up when we were trapped inside the Council of Charites. Why didn't you say something this time?"

When Jack did not respond, Master turned to Grace.

"Or perhaps you need more encouragement?" His arm aimed at Grace.

"Aahhh...!!" Grace's body was abruptly heaved upward. Her scream and her face showed that she was in great pain.

"Bastard! Stop this!!" Jack exclaimed.

At that time, Jack heard Peniel's voice in his mind. Jack told Peniel to hide inside her hidden dimension before he approached Master earlier. 'Chris' disc! It gave a reaction!

Jack sent his consciousness to the disc. He received Chris' message. 'What is it? I received a request from John to teleport you all, but I have lost the links with him. Do you still want me to teleport you all?'

Jack wanted to send a cursing message to Chris, but he didn't have the time for that. He started casting a spell.

Master saw Jack's action. He could stop Jack's Spellcasting at any moment, but he didn't. He knew whatever spell Jack used, it wouldn't harm him. He still held Grace in the air. He wanted to torture her slowly to hurt Jack. He wanted to see Jack's desperate face. He wanted Jack to attack him and learned how futile the act of opposing him was. He wanted to break Jack's spirit.

The spell formation formed rapidly. Master noticed that he didn't recognize the spell formation. It was an unknown spell. He frowned. There had been instances in the past where Jack cast spells foreign to him, especially the ones that seemed to affect time. He always considered those were non-standard spells that he somehow missed. Was this another of those spells?

Jack completed his spell when Master was still pondering. The time started rewinding. Jack used Time Reverse to turn back time a full minute. He was back at the time when he was conversing with Master.

"... I want to see how you try to stop me now that I'm a God," Master said and vanished.

Jack transformed into the supreme dragon form and rushed toward the mobile fortress while casting a spell.

Master, who reappeared beside the mobile fortress, turned back and looked at Jack. He was happy seeing Jack try to stop him. He didn't worry, though. Whatever spell Jack was casting wouldn't harm him. He stopped upon that thought. He felt a strange sense of déjà vu.

He dismissed the feeling and waved his hand. The mobile fortress was destroyed. This time, he didn't immediately advance. He stayed there and waited for Jack. He wanted to let Jack hit him, to let Jack know how futile the effort was.

Master noticed he was unfamiliar with the spell formation Jack was casting. Another sense of déjà vu hit him.

Jack completed the casting as he got nearby. The spell was Time Stop. The entire world stopped moving except for Jack. Even Master was not spared.

Jack didn't waste the time. Time Stop only lasted five seconds. He used Dragon Eye before casting Double Clone, Superior Acceleration, and Time Realm in a row. With the improved speed, he brought one clone and used Void Walk. They reappeared where John and the others

were.

He grabbed John, Jeanny, Grace, and Paytowin before using the remaining four teleports from the Void Walk. In an instant, he and the people he dragged were already far away.

He then had his clone use Mind Annihilating Gaze on him. Both his clone and he were under Superior Acceleration, so their actions were extremely fast. Multicolor aura burst almost as instantly as when the eye skill hit him.

With mana awakening, Jack shot away another distance, leaving his clone. Throughout all this, he was calculating the time distortion to know precisely when the Time Stop would end. When it almost ended, he landed on the ground, cast invisibility, and used Void Defense. Both spells under mana awakening were altered to have AOE effects. The spells covered all five

people.

One of Jack's clones remained next to Master. So, when the Time Stop ended, Master didn't immediately notice any abnormality. Master was still staring at Jack, waiting for the spell Jack had just cast to hit him.

His obliviousness didn't last long. He soon sensed something was wrong. As a divine, his sense was sharper and encompassed a larger area. After being affected by time spells two times, he started to notice that time had been tampered with. He didn't know how. Even as a God, he had no power over time.

He returned his attention to Jack in front of him. He could see now that this was a clone. His condescending face turned into a scowl.

He grunted in displeasure. Jack's clone broke into pieces. He looked back to where John and the others should be. They were no more. Only Linda and Tip were there. His divine eyes noticed another Jack a distance away. He warped over but learned that this Jack was also a

clone.

"F\*ck you!"

Master was furious. He was a God now. No one may toy with him. Only he may toy with others. His hand aimed at the clone. The clone was pulled toward him without being able to resist.

"How dare you play me...," Master said through gritted teeth. The limbs of Jack's clone started bending at the wrong angles. The sounds of bone snapping were heard. A damage number came up with each snap.

The players who witnessed the scene were horrified. It turned out a gamer's body was not immune to wounds if it was the divine who caused it. Some started running away. They ran because they had tried using the Town Return Scroll, and it didn't work.

Multiple lightning suddenly struck those who had run the furthest, instantly killing those players.

"Nobody leaves!!!" Master boomed. This caused everyone to remain in place.

The body of Jack's clone continued to deform. Jack shared his senses with his clone, so he felt the pain experienced by this clone. He used his willpower to endure the torture. He didn't let

out a yell. His clone stared at Master defiantly.

This pissed Master even more. He clenched his fist. The clone was crushed by a sudden pressure. It was compressed into a small ball of flesh. Its HP bar zeroed. The clone dissolved

into nothingness.

"You won't hide from me!!" Master turned a full circle. His divine sense swept the surroundings. He didn't believe Jack and his friends could have gotten far. Hiding among the soldiers on the ground was useless. His divine sense could swiftly differentiate one person from another. Even so, he couldn't find any trace of Jack.

Master failed to sense Jack and the others because void defense made it as if he was extremely

far away. Master's divine sense might cover a vast area, but it was still limited. He couldn't sense what was happening in another region, and the void defense made it as if Master was one country away from them.

"You don't want to come out? Then these people will pay for your sacrilege!" He stretched his hand to one side. A pillar of fire burst from the ground. This pillar was so huge it covered thousands of soldiers. These soldiers were burnt to death in a short time.

## Chapter 1979:. I Will Come for You

"Damn it!" Jack cursed. Their position was far away, but they could still see what Master did. "Don't get provoked," John cautioned. "There is nothing you can do for them."

"What if we use Hope's Light?" Paytowin asked. "With Jack's control, he should be able to hit Master."

"Don't! I'm certain it will do no good. We will only expose our position," John said.

"John is right," Jack agreed. His senses sharpened while under mana awakening. He knew for sure Master could still easily destroy him even when he was in this state.

"We are saved thanks to your quick action," Jeanny told Jack.

"I'm grateful, but this is not a solution," John said. "Although your mana awakening can stretch the duration of Void Defense, it still has a limit. Once it is over, we will be found out." "Don't worry. In about twenty more seconds, Chris will contact us," Jack said.

"How do you... Ah... You used Time Reverse," John realized. "What happened before you turned back time?"

"You don't want to know," Jack answered.

Another pillar of fire erupted in the distance, killing thousands of people again.

"I can't just let him do that!" Jack exclaimed.

"Don't be foolish! You will risk everything if you face him now," John warned.

"I'm not facing him directly," Jack said. He cast Hundred Mirages.

Using the precise control of mana awakening, he merged all the mirages into one copy and sent this copy to Master.

Hundred Mirages' copies had the caster's mana signature, so Master sensed the copy approaching. However, Master could still tell that the one approaching him was an illusion, not the real Jack.

"Stop this," Jack's copy said.

"Come out and make me," Master challenged.

"I won't. You can act like a child and vent your frustration on those poor people. I still won't come out."



"How dare you call me a child?!" Master boomed. Lightning struck randomly. The earth cracked, and lava burst out.

"This is unlike you. I never like you, but I always respect your composure. Does becoming a God cause your personality to become inferior?"

Master's face turned into a scowl, but he quickly calmed down. As angry as he was, he did realize he let his emotions run amok too much. He wondered if becoming divine had truly caused his desire to become uncontrollable.

Jack saw the change in Master's expression. He said, "Don't worry. I will come to face you again, but not now. Not today, but I will come."

"Hmph!" Master harrumphed. He stretched his arm, but it was not aiming at the army this time. The empty land his hand aimed at was soon covered in a powerful tempest. When he saw no reaction, he aimed at another place, and the same thing happened.

"No need to waste energy. You won't hit me that way," Jack said.

Jack wasn't bluffing. Even if Master hit the spot where they were hiding, the tempest wouldn't hit Jack because of the Void Defense.

"I don't believe you have a way to escape from here," Master said.

"Is it the same belief as I can't hide from you?" Jack asked, which caused Master to scowl again.

"Believe it or not, I do have a way to escape. I'm going to use it soon," Jack said. "You can vent your frustration by killing the people here or by destroying the world. You have the power to do that now. But if that is the case, it will just prove that you are a small and petty person who deserves to be ignored. Just like how those people in our past world belittled you even when you were clearly much more intelligent than them. You will simply prove them right." Master stared silently at Jack. He didn't expect Jack to remember their past conversation.

"I will come for you. When I do, we will settle our difference once and for all."

Master snickered. "What can you do? I will squash you like a bug if you come."

Jack smiled. "You have nothing to worry about then, don't you?"

Jack's copy vanished then.

Master looked around. He still couldn't sense Jack. Was Jack telling the truth? Had Jack left? Somehow, he believed it was so. Somehow, he felt uneasy.

He harrumphed and dismissed the uneasiness in his heart. He was already a God. Nothing could harm him. Nothing could threaten him. Everything in this world was now his to command. Their lives and deaths were his to decide. There was no need for him to be concerned about one single person.

He turned and stopped thinking about Jack. If that fool truly came to him, he would take care of Jack then. He flew toward the army still hanging around the place. No one dared to run away after seeing what happened to the ones who tried.

Master came to Linda and asked, "Do you change sides?"

"I was captured. You can save me now that you are here," Linda answered.

Another feeling of déjà vu assailed Master. He was sure now Jack could somehow tamper with time. Once he got the time, he would search through the non-standard spell database for

those spells.

Master decided not to waste his time arguing with Linda. He said, "I will give you the control

of my army."

"This army?" Linda asked, referring to the Themisphere soldiers and players.

"This one," Master answered and waved his hand.

The space distorted, and a massive army came out of the distorted space. This army consisted

of underworld demons. Xugguth was in the lead.

"Xugguth, this is Linda. You will work with her from now on," Master introduced.

"What about the army here?" Linda asked.

"What do you suggest?" Master asked back.

"... It will be a waste if you kill them," Linda answered.

"You are not saying this so I spare them, aren't you?"

"Whatever you do with them, it's not my concern. I am simply telling you my opinion. It is better if you make them serve you, but if you prefer to rule a world inhabited only by demons and players, go ahead and kill them."

Master chuckled. He said, "They can still serve me even if I kill them."

The Necronomicon appeared in his hand. The black book released a copious amount of ominous black light.

The Themisphere army had just started marching when Master appeared. They were still near the battlefield where they fought Satan's army. The black light from the Necronomicon spread all over this battlefield.

In the past, Master could only revive the dead in a small area around him. He had to go from one location to the next to revive all those who died on the battlefield. That took a considerable amount of time. With his current divine power, he could significantly stretch the Necronomicon's AOE.

Under the horrified gazes of the living soldiers, the dead started to rise. Within these risen

deaths were the comrades they used to fight with and the demons they fought against. These risen ones were now hollow zombies loyal only to Master. Even strong demons such as Dajja were resurrected. Satan, however, was not among the resurrected. His devil status made him ineligible for the Necronomicon's power.

Linda was lost for words seeing this. Like Master said, he could make the living army here serve him even if he killed them. Master didn't discuss the matter further with her. He flew above the Themisphere army. He saw these people were looking at him with fearful eyes. That was expected. However, in those fearful eyes, he saw another emotion. Hope. When he was wondering what could have given these people hope, Jack's face crossed his mind. This single thought drew his ire again. He almost gave in and obliterated these people, but he stopped himself.

"I will give you all one chance," Master's voice boomed across the plains. "Kneel!"

It was the players who knelt first. Most of these players were independent players. Guild players started kneeling once they saw their superiors did. Even the members of Everlasting Heavenly Legends did too. The ones who hadn't knelt were the native soldiers. When Master thought these natives would choose to be stubborn to honor their king, some started kneeling. These were the high-ranking officers. Seeing their commanders knelt, the remaining soldiers followed suit.

'This is easier than expected,' Master thought. He at first thought he had to make a few examples before the masses fell to their knees.

A portion of the people here knelt due to fear after seeing what Master was capable of, but the reason everyone did without showing any defiance was because Jack had sent the commands via his royal agents. While Master was searching for Jack earlier, they

spread the word. They were to comply with Master's every demand. They were to be patient until the day he came

back.

Jeanny did the same to their guild members, who then passed along the message to their

allied guilds.

In this way, everyone put on a façade of obedience. They were willing to bear this shame because they knew there was still hope.

However, a pair of people seemed unwilling to dance to the tune. Master soon noticed these

pairs. To his surprise, the pair were people he knew well. They were Wong and Long.

"Get down, you fool!" Domon scolded, but Wong refused. He remained standing tall.

Domon sighed. "In that case, I..."

Wong put a hand on Domon's back. "If you get up, your students will follow. They will die."

"So, you are allowed to keep your dignity but not me?"

"At least let me win over you in this regard, okay?" Domon looked around him. The eyes of his old and new disciples were on him. Wong was

right. If he rose, they would rise as well. He sighed again. If not for his grandson's urging him to submit, he wouldn't have knelt. He did not fear death. It was not a true death anyway. However, all these disciples who looked up to him would lose everything they had worked so hard for. He didn't want them to lose it because of him. So, he restrained himself. He stayed kneeling even when Master appeared above them.

"Well, well. We meet again, my heavenly enforcers," Master said. "You might think I only commanded my enemies to kneel, but no. I demand everyone to kneel. Even if you serve me, the two of you still need to kneel."

"You misunderstand," Wong said. "We refuse to kneel not because we consider ourselves on your side. We refuse to kneel because we are done being your lapdog. From now on, you can't tell us what to do anymore."

## **Chapter 1980: Master's Declaration**

"Bold words," Master said to Wong. "You do understand what will happen if you refuse to submit, don't you?"

Wong wasn't perturbed by the threat. "If you think everyone will fall in line simply because you have the power, you are no different than those tyrants in our past world. There will come a time when people say it is enough and can't take it anymore. They will then rise against you."

"I would like to see them do," Master chuckled. "Unlike our past world, I don't need to rely on others. No matter how many oppose me, I can eliminate them with a simple snap of the finger."

Master demonstrated by snapping his fingers. Wong's body shook heavily.

"Grrghh...!" Wong felt like he was having a heart attack. His HP fell straight down to 10%. He almost fell to his knees from the pain, but he stopped himself halfway. The pain was still there, but he endured it. He panted while maintaining his gaze on Master.

Master turned to Long. "What about you?"

Long shrugged. "You should know I never truly submit to you. If you do, you are more delusional than I thought."

"Hehe, delusional, eh?" Master chuckled. He floated up while at the same time, the area around there darkened a bit. "You might think my quest of becoming a God is a delusional dream in the past, but what do you say now? When reality is before your eyes?"

"I admit you surprised me, but that's all," Long answered.

**\*BOOM!\***

An incredible pressure fell upon Long. The pressure was so strong Long couldn't stand straight. He was down on all fours on the ground.

"Haha. Even if you refuse, you will still kneel," Master laughed.

"Long!" Wong called in worry.

"You too, Wong," Master uttered. The same pressure bore upon him. If Long, who had higher stats, was unable to resist, how could Wong? He was also down on the ground.

"Hahaha...!" Master's laughter echoed throughout the land.

"Is this how you are going to spend your Godhood?"

Master was startled that someone dared to talk to him after the display of his power. He turned to the one who spoke.

"You... If I'm not mistaken, you are that fool's grandfather."

"I have no idea who you are talking about," Domon said.

"Hehe. Considering that fool has your blood, I kind of expect you to refuse to kneel."

"I very much want to, but I am a nobody. No need to talk about me. This is your big day. You are at the center stage here. Are you going to celebrate it by showing everybody how petty you are?"

"Hmph... I can see now where that fool comes from," Master said. "But you are right. There is no need for me to bother with small matters."

He snapped his fingers. Both Wong and Long vaporized. Only Long came back to life immediately because of his Immortal Soul. Both didn't wear the Amulet of Rebirth. The way they saw it, the result was the same. Master waved his hand and Long turned into dust again. Master floated into the air. His voice boomed across the plane. A projection of him appeared in the sky. This projection did not only appear in the sky here but also in the sky all over the world. Every inhabitant of the world could see his image.

"People of the world!" Master addressed. "This is your God speaking. Your only God! Starting today, the old Gods are no more! So are your rulers. From now on, you will no longer be governed by the sovereigns. I will decide the rulers of each country, and you will bow to them. They will be the extension of my hands. If you defy them, you defy me. Let me be clear with you. I'm not the old Gods who leave you to your own devices. In the next few days, I will lay out some ground rules. If you break my rules, you better believe I will come and enact punishment. This world is now mine! All of you will abide by my rules!!!"

Jack appeared at Chris' secret garden after he accepted the invitation from Chris to teleport. John and the others had arrived earlier. Jack accepted the invitation later because he was still speaking with Master via his copy. He was in the mana awakening state when he arrived. He ended that state now.

"You know, I was amazed when you activated that rainbow light thingy during your fight with Satan. I didn't know something like that was possible," Chris said about Jack's mana awakening. "Which is exciting if I think about it. This means this world is evolving into something that might surprise me further. Being a ghost of a creator does have its setbacks. It is boring when you know everything."

Jack ignored Chris' ramblings. He went to the others. Everyone was there except for Will. After John sent the messages, all twenty-two players possessing the pinnacle classes contacted Chris and asked to be teleported here.

"Great thinking on escaping Master," Four Winds told Jack after he arrived.

"Thanks, I was just lucky," Jack replied.

"I can't call that mana awakening as luck," Wilted said.

"I will tell you what luck is. We are lucky he went to Jack's place first," Spring Crown said. "If

he went to any other fronts, one of us is most likely a goner already. If that happens, our chance of taking him down is gone."

"Who is it that makes this stupid rule about needing all of us to take out Master's divinity?" Jet said rather loudly.

"You should feel lucky there is a rule at all to take out his divinity!" Chris shouted back. They were near his lakeside gazebo. He went to the gazebo and activated his spying platform. The projection showed the place where Jack had just come from. The place where Master was at. Some went to watch the projection.

"So, what's our play now?" Jack asked John.

"Either way, we have to wait for Will," John answered. "He is still inside the training cave."

"What is his level now?"

"Chris said he was level 87 when he entered the cave earlier today."

"He sure takes his sweet time," Paytowin remarked.

"It is only four days since we head out to face the devils," John said. "He is supposed to still have another week to train. I say we wait until he reaches level 90 before we face Master."

"Do we need to wait?" Jeanny asked. "The divinity-stripping power doesn't depend on our levels, does it? As long as we are together, we can do it even if our levels are low."

"Yeah," Paytowin agreed. "Once Master loses his divinity, Jack can enter mana awakening and finish the fight swiftly."

"Not to mention, it's twenty-three against one," Jeanny added. "Even if he has five classes,

he is no match against the twenty-three of us."



"You are assuming he is alone," Wilted said.

They heard a commotion from the group watching the projection. They went over to check. They saw then what caused the commotion. Master had summoned a large army of underworld demons. These demons seemed to be following his commands.

"He is certainly not alone," Jet remarked.

"We are also not alone," Jack said. "My army and our allied guilds are just waiting for our

signal before acting."

"That is assuming he didn't wipe them out right there," Jet said.

"Can you please stop jinxing things?!" Paytowin scolded.

They watched the projection tensely. They were worried Master lost all rationality after becoming divine and turned into a Mad God. Fortunately, only Wong and Long suffered his wrath. The others who knelt were spared. They then watched Master projecting his image to

the world.

They looked up and saw no image of Master in the sky. This place was immune to Master's

influence.

After the declaration was over. Master went to speak with Linda and Xugguth. He then vanished. Linda and Xugguth started giving orders to the natives and players at that place. Either from pretense or true fear after witnessing what Master was capable of, no one

disobeyed.

"I say we wait for Will to reach at least level 90 first," John said, resuming their conversation. "That should be around two more days with the help of Time Manipulator... unless Chris has

more exp

pills?"

"Chris doesn't have," Chris answered.

"In either case, we need to study what Master is doing," John continued. "We can't have the

twenty-three of us going around the world looking for him. Once we learn his movement patterns, we can decide when and where to engage him. This should maximize our chance of taking him out. That, of course, considering Chris allows us to use this spying tool for that

purpose."

Chris opened his mouth about to say something but closed it again when Wilted said, "Chris allows that."

"Very well, then. Let's lay low here for a few days while we observe the situation," John

announced. "Those of you still below level 99 better use the training cave to pass the time. We need to be ready by the time we face Master. We only have one shot at this. We need to make it

count!"