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Chapter 1991:. The Final Battle

After the appearance of the twenty-four golden statues, it was clear the enigmatic chant came from these statues. Master felt extreme unease from these statues.

"Whatever you all are playing at, I will blow them apart!!" Master discharged a powerful shockwave. However, the shockwave stopped before hitting the statues. He couldn't believe the sight. How could these statues resist his divine power?

The twenty-four statues circling Master started to revolve. Slowly at first, but it soon picked up in speed. Their chants also became louder.

Master tried teleporting himself out of the circumference of these statues but found he was unable to do so. In his frustration, he unleashed several more divine blasts. All his energies seemed to fall into the ocean. None of them touched the statues.

Ever since he became a God, he never felt threatened, not even when he joined the brawl between Lucifer and the other Gods. These golden statues, however, gave him a feeling that they could end him. The feeling of fear and powerlessness, which he thought was behind him, came back into his heart again.

The fear drove him to unleash even greater power, but none of his power reached outside the circumference of the golden statues. It was as if an invisible sphere was locking him down. As he continued to discharge energies, he learned that this sphere was closing in.

"What is this...? What did you do...?!!" Master roared at Honuren down there.

Master tried sending another blast to destroy everyone down there. But again, his assault sunk into nothingness. Before he realized it, the twenty golden statues were right next to him. He tried to physically barge out but failed. The invisible sphere following the statues was like an impenetrable wall, even for a divine being like him.

While he was at a loss about what to do, the golden statues erupted with a bright glow. This glow engulfed him. He felt some sort of energy invaded him. He was unable to stop it. When the glow finally subsided, he knew what had happened.

He was no longer divine.

"Apollyon! Today will be your end...!!"

Master turned to the source of the voice. It was Wilted. With her was a group of players. They emerged from one of the buildings. Within this group was Jack. They were charging toward him.

Master had no time to process the incident. Everything had happened too fast. All he knew was he was in enemy territory. He was alone, surrounded by enemies, and he was without his divine power. Two magic staffs appeared in his hands. He started casting.

"Be careful! Those two magic staffs are also legendary grades," Peniel warned.

"He won't have the chance to use them!" Jack exclaimed. He cast Time Stop.

Everything stopped. Only Peniel, he, and his clones were on the move. He had cast Remote Magic Field and Double Clone earlier. After casting, he transformed into Unrivaled Arcaner before having one of his clones join hands with him and the twenty-two others to activate the Council of Twenty-four. He had now reverted to his real self. He and his four clones were now rushing to Master while everything was frozen in time.

"This is your end!" Jack exclaimed when he arrived, but then he realized something.

The spell formations on Master's two staffs were still moving.

His consternation was interrupted when a powerful shockwave erupted from one of Master's spells. This shockwave radiated with a strong knockback force, pushing him and his clones away from Master. Master's second spell, which consisted of eight runes, was completed.

A huge meteor fell from heaven. It went straight to the members of the Council of Elpo gathering below.

"How...? Why can he move during my Time Stop?" Jack asked.

Peniel was also confused but soon showed a face that realized something. "He must have gotten his hand on that artifact!"

"What artifact?" Jack asked.

"Chrono Guard. It stops its wielder from getting affected by any hostile skills or spells that affect time," Peniel answered.

Master indeed possessed this artifact. This was the thing he demanded from the Serpent God when he invaded the Naga's settlement. It was a time-countering legendary-grade artifact. During his time studying the Second World game, he never truly understood the significance of this artifact. Yes, some spells slowed others, but it

was not noteworthy. He didn't understand why this artifact was so valuable that it was categorized as a legendary grade and placed under the possession of a deity.

After learning about Jack's unknown ability to manipulate time, he understood its significance.

Master had moved away after casting the Meteor Fall. He looked at the others who were frozen in time. His suspicion was correct. Jack could manipulate time the way even a God couldn't. He was very eager to ask Jack where he got such an ability, but now was not the time for questions. With his divine power gone, he was in a precarious situation. Fortunately, he had prepared for the worst situation. He took out a metallic plate just as the Time Stop ended, and the people below started moving again.

Honuren and the others immediately registered the menacing meteor coming toward them. Honuren cast Soul Beam. Everyone else sent their skills and spells at the meteor. The meteor exploded before reaching them.

"That is...," Peniel recognized the plate in Master's hand. "It's a Mass Recall Plate!"

Jack didn't know the item. But from its name, he could hazard a guess. Unfortunately, he was far from Master when Master activated the plate. A bright glow erupted. When the light subsided, a massive army had appeared around Master.

The Mass Recall Plate was something Master hunted for in the underworld aside from collecting legendary-grade equipment. This Mass Recall Plate was a legendary-grade consumable. It let him leave marks on multiple targets, which he could summon when needed. After returning from the underworld, Master didn't immediately go to the Council of Hybris. Instead, he went around leaving marks on his most powerful servants.

The Mass Recall Plate allowed him to mark a maximum of ten thousand targets. Most of the targets he chose were the demons who had pledged allegiance to him and his zombie army. He chose the strongest ones among them, with Xugguth and Dajja as the leaders. A small portion were players from the World Maker, World Ruler, and the State of Galhana. Mistress and Sizhad led these players.

Honuren and his faction members were surprised to find so many enemies appeared so suddenly. The plan was for them to use their number to gang up on Master, but now the tables had turned. Their enemy had more number now. Although this was their base, their faction had experienced a decline in number after the war with the underworld forces. They numbered less than two thousand. They were outnumbered five to one.

"Bloody hell. That a*shole is truly a cunning prick!" John cursed.

Jack, on the other hand, praised his enemy, "Amazing! Even after becoming a God, you still take precautions. Even so, you will not win...!"

Jack cast Superior Acceleration before using his companion token and king badge to summon Arlcard and his royal agents. He didn't summon Eoranth because the dragon hadn't recovered yet. He then had one of his clones use the Mind-annihilating Gaze on him. A multicolor aura burst out of his body. He turned into Supreme Dragon Form and shot forward. The mass of demons protecting Master came and blocked his path.

He used the Void Demon Sword as he advanced. The giant void sword charged ahead of him. The void sword was covered with a multicolor aura. The demons it cut through were sliced apart without exception. Nothing could stop the sword as it came close to Master.

A black hole suddenly appeared in the void sword's path. The speed of the void sword made it unable to avoid the black hole. It went straight in.

Another black hole appeared down there where the Council of Elpo's members were. The Void Demon Sword burst out of that black hole and cut down several faction members.

"Damn it!" Jack cursed. He forcefully controlled the Void Demon Sword to stop in its tracks to not harm more allies. He couldn't afford to use Time Reverse to save those killed by his void sword. He might need it later. Much was at stake in this battle.

The black hole just now came from the Void Displacement Eye. Jack's augmented sense identified the skill came from Dajja. He used Devil Eye Stare. The two fiery beams discharged from his eyes turned into massive fire pillars under the boost of mana awakening. The two beams weaved through the enemies and struck the zombie eyeball demon.

He then used Void Displacement Eye as well. The black hole he conjured under mana awakening was much larger than the one Dajja conjured. It sucked in all the demons in his path and sent them far away. The path to Master was cleared in an instant.

With Wind Jet, his body shot forward, leaving a multicolor trail. His claw slashed forward with Flame Strike. The flame burst following his claw was like a torrent of explosions. Master himself ignited with a different kind of explosion when Jack arrived. Four different elements assailed Jack when he collided. When the burst of energy subsided, Jack found himself before a being composed of four different elements: fire, wind, ice, and lightning.

Master had activated the Fire God Incarnation, Wind God Incarnation, Ice God Incarnation, and Lightning God Incarnation simultaneously.

Chapter 1992:. Fighting their way to Master

When Jack and the others came out of their hiding, a change happened in the air. Those who happened to look up at the time saw gigantic runic formations flashing

briefly all over the sky. These runic formations lasted only an instant, and everything was normal again. Yet, the

subtle change they felt in the air following the sighting lingered.

This was the world enchantment activated by Chris. As long as the effect lasted, no reviving abilities worked. John had briefed Honuren about this, so they were aware.

After Master survived Jack's attempt to finish him during Time Stop and summoned his legion using the Mass Recall Plate, all hell broke loose. The members of the Council of Elpo charged toward the enemy legion. The demons, zombies, and enemy players also went at them. All the combatants here could fly. The sky was soon filled with chaotic battles.

John and the others charged ahead with the faction members, but the sea of the enemy legion in their way made it hard for them to advance. Only Jack, under his mana awakening state, could penetrate the enemy formation. Even so, they were not going to let him fight Master alone.

Arlcard, Jack's royal agents, and Jack's other clones attempted to follow the real Jack's charge, but the path opened by mana awakened Jack was quickly closed by the enemy legion.

John and the others who had companion tokens also summoned their companions. Everyone cast their available summoning spells to bolster their force. They were outnumbered five to one, after all. Sadly, many enemies also had summoning spells, so the situation didn't change that much.

The summons that made a difference were from the players with the pinnacle classes. John and Badass wasted no time casting one summoning spell after another. Paytowin also called out the colossal Omega Battle Mech, the Mothership Sigma, and activated his Infinity System. The Infinity System summoned one thousand mechs that could be considered immortal during the first half an hour. These mechs spearheaded the charge as they crashed into the enemy legion.

However, only a few seconds after the mechs engaged the enemy, they all fizzled out of existence.

"What...?" Paytowin was bewildered by the occurrence. His skill had been forcefully deactivated.

"Look!" Grace pointed. Everyone followed his gaze and saw another Master there. The Master, who had transformed into an elemental being, was battling Jack deep within the enemy's formation. As for this one, it was in normal form.

"He must have used Magic Clone," John said.

The Necronomicon appeared in Master's hand. It glowed an ominous light. Not long after, a spell formation started forming over his staff.

"Shit...! That is the Greater Dispel!" John exclaimed after recognizing the spell formation.

When Master's spell formation was completed, the Omega Battle Mech fizzled out of existence. The Necronomicon shone again, and Master recast the Greater Dispel.

"F*ck...! His Necronomicon can sacrifice his zombies to refresh his spell! Stop him...!!" John shouted.

The zombies Master sacrificed were not the ones he summoned to this place, but the ones he left behind in Themisphere. So, he didn't reduce his force here.

Master continued to cast the Greater Dispel. Paytowin's Mothership Sigma was the next to get unsummoned. Only John and Badass' summons were immune from the spell.

"Everyone who relies on summons and buffs with duration, stay away from Master!" John commanded. "Let Jet, Badass, and me deal with him!"

"My flame doesn't have a duration!" Leavemealone exclaimed. He was shrouded in intense fire in the shape of a bird as he flew toward Master.

Master didn't know Leavemealone's fire was not a skill. He tried casting the Greater Dispel on Leavemealone and wasted the spell. Despite the unexpected circumstances, he wasn't flustered. This group had already given him the biggest shock by suppressing his divine power. He wouldn't get agitated by this small unanticipated instance.

He knew his divine power was only suppressed, not undone. He could still feel it inside him. He simply couldn't tap into the power. Whatever these people had done, it was only temporary. All he needed to do was survive this encounter.

The Necronomicon disappeared, and a different book appeared in his hand. Arlcard, who was fighting nearby, recognized the book. It was the Book of the Damned which he had given to Jack after they defeated Aubelard.

Master cast a spell from the book. A large hell gate appeared, blocking Leavemealone's advance. Out of the gate, a level 99 mythical daemon burst out. The daemon wasted no time swinging its large flaming cleaver at Leavemealone.

Leavemealone used Cycle of Shade and Shadow, redirecting the daemon's attack and getting past it in one move. When he thought there was no more obstacle between him and Master, a flaming barbed whip coiled around his waist. This flaming whip dragged him and threw him away. The flaming whip was the daemon's other weapon. The daemon chased after Leavemealone.

Everyone nearby tried to get to Master. After Leavemealone, the one who made it the closest was Arlcard. He bypassed the demons blocking his way by turning into a swarm of bats. He only stopped when Master cast Purifying Brilliance. The spell dealt light-element damage and dispelled dark-based enchantments on him, which included his bat form. The demons swarmed at him once he returned to his real body.

Master moved away further when everyone tried to get to him. At the same time, the Book of the Damned in his hand shone with crimson light. The light exploded into countless crimson threads that spread out. These crimson threads were the Book of the Damned's Demonic Contract. They latched onto Master's legion and boosted their power. The Demonic Contract had the extra effect of increasing the levels of demons. Since many in Master's legion were demons, their battle power suddenly multiplied.

The members of the Council of Elpo boasted the most powerful natives in the world. Hence, even when outnumbered five to one, they could still fight on equal ground. Things took a turn when the demonic contract was used. They were having a difficult time standing their ground, much less fighting their way to Master.

Xugguth, who kept being blasted away for trying to get in Honuren's way, could now fight toe-to-toe with Honuren. Honuren even had to use his Lightning Titan Suit to avoid losing to

the demon.

John's four lords were the ones who were still making a steady advance. The four moved under John's instructions. They weaved their way while clearing the path for others to follow.

The Atomic Hydra was at the forefront. Even with the demons boosted by the demonic contract, they were still not powerful enough to stop its raw strength. When the demons gathered to use sheer numbers to stop its advance, John commanded it to use its breath

attack.

Its three heads came together and discharged their breath attacks at close proximity to each other. The discharged breath intertwined with each other. Soul, chaos, and lightning beams crisscrossed into a thick pillar that pierced everything in its path.

Even when the demons used defensive skills, the intertwined beam still obliterated their defense without slowing down. Those who didn't die from the blast were thrown far away by the force. The beam went a long way and almost hit Master. If Master only relied on the demons' protection, he would have been hit by the beam. Sadly, Master cast teleportation and moved away before the beam hit.

John's sniping attack failed, but the Atomic Hydra still cleared a path with its tri-element breaths. Two fast combatants made use of this chance to charge forward. The two were Jeanny and Tetsuo. Jeanny was under the Dragonflight effect, while Tetsuo was in Insect form and wearing Savage Techno Suit. The two knew Master could take away their buff by using the Greater Dispel, but their priority now was to get to Master.

When they were about to clash with Master, a towering figure suddenly appeared. They were taken aback at first, thinking that somehow Master had summoned Satan. They then realized the one before them was not the devil. It was much smaller, and its aura was not as suffocating as Satan's. It only had an appearance like Satan.

What Master had summoned was the Demon King. It came from a summoning skill available after Master fully leveled up his bloodline, the Satanic Devil Bloodline. Even though the demon king couldn't be compared to Satan, it was still a force to reckon with. A fiery glaive materialized in his hand. With one swing, he blew both Jeanny and Tetsuo away. Tetsuo summoned his battle mantis. He augmented his pet by activating Ultimate Beast and Demonize Pet. With his pet, he charged back at the demon king, trying to keep it busy so Jeanny could get to Master. However, his battle mantis suddenly turned around and attacked

him instead.

The ambush took Tetsuo by surprise. The demon king utilized this chance and struck Tetsuo using its weapon, which had turned into a flaming hammer. The strike sent Tetsuo plunging. The battle mantis chased after its former master to carry on its assaults.

The reason the battle mantis turned on its master was another of Master's bloodline skills. It was the fifth skill from the Satanic Devil Bloodline, Soul Capture.

While everyone was occupied, Master retreated further. He continued to cast one summoning spell after another until he was covered by his summons, and no one could see his position. While under cover, he completed a nine-rune spell.

A huge fireball appeared high above them. Master gained an incredible number of non-standard spells when he hacked the skill page using divine power. The spell he just cast was

the Second Sun.

Chapter 1993:. The Last Time

While the others were trying to fight their way to get to Master, Jack was fighting another Master. This one had turned into an elemental being of fire, ice, lightning, and wind. With all five of Master's classes at peak level 99, combined with the divine

incarnations from four divine treasures, his current power let him contest Jack's under the mana awakening.

The amount of elemental power assailing Jack was insane. Master's standard attack turned into a burst of elemental energy after activating the divine incarnations. With four elements discharged at the same time, his every standard assault dealt combo damage. If Jack wasn't in the mana awakening state, Master could have easily killed him with a few successful hits. Master didn't even need to cast a spell. He left most of the spellcasting to his other self, who fought some distances away.

Jack also didn't use much of his skills and spells. He let his four clones use them. His clones were fighting the enemy legion with his allies.

Jack was amazed by the level of power Master attained even without Godhood. With his current power, Master could fight on equal ground against Satan in final form.

While Jack was filled with amazement, Master was in shock at the power Jack displayed. The only time Jack used mana awakening when Master was present was when Jack used it to flee from Master. That was when Master appeared before the Themisphere army to announce his ascent. So, Master never truly witnessed the power of mana awakening. Master couldn't believe Jack had the power to resist him, who had five peak-level classes with active divine skills.

"What kind of power are you using?" Master asked. Jack was using mana concealment, but Master still had a lingering divine sense even if suppressed. He could faintly detect the anomaly of Jack's condition.

"It's the power of good granted to me for vanquishing evil," Jack replied.

"F*cking Moron," Master scorned.

Seeing that standard attacks got him nowhere, Master cast Force Impact. The result was a powerful burst of elemental impact that sent Jack flying.

Jack cast Invisibility and disappeared mid-flight. In response, Master opened the third eye on his forehead, the Demonic True Eye, which could perceive invisible things. However, he saw nothing.

He was shocked but didn't let this shock freeze his action. He cast magic bombs. The bombs turned into balls with multiple elemental attributes. He spread the bombs all around him and detonated them manually. The detonation formed an elemental sphere wall that lingered around him. Nothing could get to him without passing this elemental sphere wall. If Jack forced himself in, his invisibility would end.

"Hmm...?!" He turned in one direction.

He soon felt a slash hitting him. He reacted by unleashing an elemental burst that spread over a large area. Nothing showed up from his assault. He felt another slash again from behind.

He was bewildered about how Jack maintained the invisibility even after making contact, but he didn't have the time to ponder. He channeled his power. The elemental energies around his body expanded. He was now as if blanketed in a dense layer of elemental field.

He stayed still within this elemental field. Suddenly, he swiveled back while throwing a blast. That blast resulted in an elemental explosion.

Jack's voice was heard soon. "As expected, you can use form manipulation."

Jack ended his invisibility. It was useless now. Master couldn't sense him. But with the elemental field surrounding Master, Master could detect the disturbance within the

elemental field and determine where he was.

"The one who should be surprised is me," Master said. "How do you stay invisible? That goes beyond regular form manipulation."

"Hehe. There are more surprises in stock for you," Jack grinned. The runestone of the Devil King appeared beside him.

"That...!"

Master recognized the runestone. Before he could make any further remark, a runic layer shrouded Jack's body. Jack vanished again. This time, it was not invisibility. He simply became too fast.

Jack was already very fast under mana awakening. Master could keep up due to his insane attributes from five classes plus the boost from the divine incarnations. This time, Jack was too fast even for him. He felt the disturbance on his left. But when he turned, Jack's claw had already struck him.

Master was sent flying. He crashed into several demons on the way. Those demons were stung by the elemental field projected by his body.

Some of the demons came to block Jack's path after seeing their master getting blown away. They didn't interfere before this because Master sent them a mental instruction not to. Master believed he could defeat Jack by himself by relying on the divine incarnations. It didn't seem that way now.

These demons could do nothing to stop Jack. Several rings filled with runic symbols appeared as Jack's claw was coated in flames. With one swing of Flame Strike, the demons blocking him were blown far away by a massive fiery explosion.

When all the demons trying to stop him were blown away, Master was visible again. Master was staring back at him. Master's eyes were glowing an ominous crimson. It was Master's bloodline skill, Demonic Stare, which paralyzed and caused hallucinations.

This eye attack was meaningless to Jack because he easily negated it in his mana awakening state. However, the skill still slowed him down by a second. This small delay was all Master needed. He had already commanded another batch of demons to charge at Jack when Jack blew the first batch away. These demons now swarmed at Jack when he was momentarily stunned. With the demons pressing all over Jack, his speed was non-existent. Jack cast Ice Ring to blow these demons away.

Utilizing the brief instance when Jack's movement was halted, Master made his move. He used the first skill of Earth God Blessing, the Earth Prison Wurm, to imprison Jack and the demons swarming him. The mass of demons turned into a giant boulder. Jack was right in the

middle of it.

Master was not done. While Jack was imprisoned, thirty lightning balls, thirty fireballs, thirty ice balls, and thirty wind blades materialized around Master. He was using all the offensive skills of the divine treasures simultaneously. These elemental balls and blades crashed into the giant boulder in the air. The resulting elemental explosion blew the nearby demons away. The prison boulder itself turned into ashes.

Master's eyes narrowed. The boulder and the demons it imprisoned were completely obliterated. However, Jack was not harmed. A sphere filled with runic symbols was encasing him. This sphere had protected him from the damage. The sphere changed shape and turned into a ring. Jack used form manipulation to turn his Runic Ring of Defense into a sphere shape. "... You are right. You are indeed full of surprises," Master told Jack.

"Don't be modest. You are not bad yourself," Jack returned.

"Heh. Still have the mood to joke... Well, I don't! This will be the last time you get in my way! Today will be your end!!" Master exclaimed.

Several chunks of rocks materialized and covered his body. Using Earth Titan Suit, he turned into a large rock golem. With the divine incarnations still active, the elemental energies blanketed his rocky body. He turned into an elemental giant.

Master's giant body turned into a streak of lightning and came before Jack in the blink of an eye. His huge arm punched in Jack's direction. Violent elemental torrents followed

this punch. Jack didn't dodge using his incredible speed. He also punched. Several rings filled with runic symbols followed that punch. The Runestone of the Devil King augmented his power. The two fists collided. Waves of elemental energies and strings of runes burst from the collision. Master was thrown several meters away, while Jack only jerked back a little. The contest of power had a clear victor.

When Jack was about to press on, he sensed a violent energy from above. He looked up and saw a huge fireball. It was the Second Sun cast by the other Master.

The Second Sun was a sustained spell. The other Master wouldn't be able to do anything while

this spell was active, but there was one very clear advantage when using this spell in a large-scale war. The Second Sun only dealt damage to hostiles. Allies were not affected. All the enemy legion needed to do was to protect the spellcaster, and the Second Sun would finish the

enemies.

Jack saw his allies start receiving fire damage from the Second Sun. He was pondering whether to press on assaulting the Master here or go to disrupt the one casting the Second Sun.

"You seem uncertain. Just to be clear, your opponent is me."

Jack heard Master's voice. When he turned back, Master's appearance had transformed again. This time, he looked like an elemental giant in the shape of a demon. Master had activated the Demonization from his bloodline.

"A nobody like you will never best me. NEVER...!!!" Master exclaimed.

Chapter 1994:. Premature Victory Speech

Jack's four clones fought on four different sides. One of them was accompanied by Terras. Another one was with Spark. The other fought beside the gold dragon summoned from his bloodline. The last one was supported by the archdemon lord.

This battle was a surprise for both sides. Neither had expected a large-scale battle in this confrontation, so there was no plan. It was a chaotic battle all over the place, focusing on only two objectives. The objective of Jack's force was to take Master down while he lost his divine power. The aim of Master's force was to keep him alive until the other side was eliminated.

After learning that Master possessed the Greater Dispel and could cast it repeatedly, John instructed the players with pinnacle classes to spread away from him. They might

achieve their objective easier if they converged on him, but they would be wasting their skills.

The skills from their pinnacle classes could turn the tide of battle. To throw it away for a small chance of defeating Master was too risky. John opted for a safer approach, which was to cut down the enemy force to a manageable number before pushing in on Master.

Sadly, Master revealing that he possessed the Book of the Damned caused that approach to backfire. The enemy force strengthened by the demonic contract was too tough to take down. Even if they could, it wouldn't happen in a short time.

The players had spread. It was too late to reorganize. Everyone was engaging an opponent. All they could do was try their best to take down these opponents before they could reposition.

David was fighting Sizhad with the celestial soldiers he had summoned. Wilted backed him up with her healings. Sizhad had his guild members and Mistress supporting him. Sizhad was empowered by the Demonic Contract, allowing him to contest David, who had a pinnacle class and was higher in level.

Sadly, David and Wilted had not reached level 99, so they didn't have access to their strongest skills. David was level 96, while Wilted was level 97.

"I know you. You are Serpent Boss' apprentice," Sizhad said. "I would love to see his expression when he learns I kill his favorite subordinate."

"Don't lump him in with the likes of you!" David exclaimed. "He sees us as his comrades, not subordinates! What he will learn is the news that I have taken you out!"

"Big talk, little pup!" Sizhad yelled back. He sent Rapid Shot while approaching David. His other hand was ready with a melee weapon, a large bayonet.

Both of Sizhad's weapons were legendary grades, and so was his armor. They were granted to him by Master upon his return from the underworld.

David's Fallen Apostle's Rifle was better, but it was a ranged weapon, so he kept his distance. He split the rifle into a dual gun to increase his shooting rate. With his six magnetic drones, he kited Sizhad. One of the celestial soldiers covered his retreat and engaged Sizhad using its gunspear.

"Move aside, you puppet!" Sizhad roared. He used his bayonet to stop the stab from the celestial soldier before giving it a spin kick to send it away.

Sizhad received several shots from David while doing that. David proved to be better in terms of marksmanship. His magnetic drones also rained fire on Sizhad. Even though

Sizhad was fast, he couldn't dodge all the shots. Sizhad's drone was supporting him, but it was heaven and earth if compared to David's magnetic drones.

Sizhad was not alone, though. His guild members shot at David from multiple directions, which limited David's movements. Together with Master's demonic legion, they outnumbered David's celestial soldiers. Sizhad pressed on despite losing HP.

A wave of light from behind washed over him. Not long after, his lost HP was refilled. That wave of light came from Mistress. It was the level 90 spell from her Envoy of Death. The spell was called Death's Dominion. She sacrificed her soul orb to deal soul damage to all hostiles in an area. The damage depended on how full the soul orb was. The lost HP from enemies was absorbed and transferred to her allies in the same area. At the same time, all allies within the area of effect received the same effect of a sacrificial dummy. Their HP stayed at 1 when they received a fatal hit. This effect lasted for half an hour.

With refilled HP, Sizhad was bolder. He charged ahead while David was dodging the shots from his guild members. He was intent on taking David down.

His singular focus made him open to an ambush. Wilted, who was supporting David from the back, cast her Reaper's Touch. The spell hit him when he got near David. Reaper's Touch dealt high soul damage. If it was not for his legendary-grade armor, which increased his max HP, he might have died from that spell.

The spell took him aback. His awareness returned because of that. He sensed a killing intent from his back. He spun back with a bayonet slash and hit something invisible, which turned out to be David's pet, the Barghest. Another thing took him by surprise. His own pet, a tri-horned boar, which was fighting David's pet earlier, was charging at him.

The tri-horned boar was charmed by the Barghest. It was under control for a short half minute. David set up the timing so his Barghest used its charm monster skill when Sizhad charged at him.

Sizhad failed to dodge the charge. The three horns on the boar's head pierced into him. His HP was already low after suffering the Reaper's Touch. This charge should be fatal. But thanks to Mistress' Death's Dominion, his HP stopped at 1.

He elbowed his tri-horned boar in anger, sending it reeling. But before he could do anything about his critical HP, he found David's six magnetic drones surrounding him.

"Like I said, you are nothing compared to my boss," David uttered.

The six drones released a coalescing magnetic blast that damaged everything within their circumference. No matter where Sizhad dodged, he couldn't escape the blast. His remaining 1 point of HP was zeroed.

Sizhad's guild members were shocked by their leader's demise. This pause allowed the celestial soldiers to gain the upper hand.

"Tsk! Stupid brute! Why insist on charging like that?" Mistress cursed.

"You will be next, viper!"

Mistress heard Wilted's voice. She turned to where the voice came from and was greeted by a gigantic metallic automaton. Chris had the facility to repair the techno golem in his secret garden, so Wilted's Mazin was as good as new in this battle. Mazin was under Gigantify Golem, allowing it to brute force its way through when Sizhad's members were still shocked by his death.

Unlike Sizhad, Mistress preferred not to take a risk. She moved back while summoning Death's Shade and Soul Hounds. She let her summons halt Mazin while she retreated.

"Protect me," she ordered her guild members around her.

Lead Designer and Axelmax came upon her order to cover her. Despite giant Mazin's massive strength, it couldn't barge through all these obstacles.

At this time, the Second Sun was cast. The huge fireball hung in the sky above. Its strong heat washed over everyone on the battlefield. With Master's insane attributes, this spell's damage output was even higher than the one cast by the Herald of Greed inside the ancient

battleground.

David, Wilted, and everyone on their side started receiving fire damage. Mistress and her allies were unaffected.

"Hahaha! Do you see now how futile your struggle is? This is what happens when you choose the losing side. You lose...!" Mistress laughed and ridiculed.

"Aren't you throwing the victory speech a bit too early?"

The voice came from behind. A voice Mistress was familiar with. She turned back and saw several gigantic floating weapons smashing into the guild members around her. All of a sudden, the field around her was empty except for one person who was flying toward her at

high speed.

"You...?!"

The person charging at Mistress was Spring Crown. The gigantic weapons clearing the path were his Armaments of the Gods. He was fighting nearby but kept a close eye on this side. He had been looking for an opportunity and slowly making his way to this position.

"It's me!" Spring Crown said with a grin. He swung the claw weapon in his hand. The image of a giant shadowy wolf claw emerged following his slash. This was one of the weapon skills he stole from Mammon. It was an extremely deadly skill that could easily wound a native. Its damage was not something a non-melee class player could withstand.

The shadow wolf claw sliced into Mistress. Thanks to her Death's Dominion, her HP hung at 1. However, Spring Crown was aware of this. His weapon changed into a dagger. With a spin, he landed a quick slash, taking out that remaining HP.

Mistress didn't have the chance to respond. All she saw before her vision went black was

Spring Crown's playful grin.

Chapter 1995:. Layers of Distraction

The ones closest to Master was John's group, but they couldn't get close to him. Master was protected by his legion of demons, zombies, and summons. They couldn't even determine his exact position when the second sun appeared above them and started burning them with heat. Much less defeating Master to complete their objective, they needed to attack Master to stop him from sustaining the second sun. Or else, that sun would burn them to death.

It was easier said than done. Master was already a summoner who could summon more minions than most before he became a God. After he became one, his hacking gave him even more non-standard summoning spells. Combined with the legion he called using the Mass Recall Plate, the overwhelming number of enemies made approaching Master seem impossible.

The one that continued to brute force its way through was the Atomic Hydra. Nothing seemed able to stop its advance. Not until one of Master's summons barred its way. This summon was not a new one, but one he already showed during the past battle in Hydrurond.

The one that engaged the Atomic Hydra was the Divine Earth Titan. The earth titan was even more powerful than when Master summoned it to break the wall of Messephyria. It was now a level 99 eternal grade.

Both the Atomic Hydra and the Divine Earth Titan had the same level and grade. When the two collided, it was the Atomic Hydra that recoiled from the impact. In terms of raw strength, the Divine Earth Titan was stronger.

The Atomic Hydra's three heads roared with fury. This was the first time it encountered an enemy whose strength was higher than it. It refused to accept defeat. It flapped its wings and charged back at the Divine Earth Titan.

The Divine Earth Titan was not originally a being that could fly. On its back was a pair of wings made of light. The wings came from a spell. Master cast Angelic Wings, which gave a target the ability to fly.

Angelic Wings was a spell with six runes. Any spellcaster who possessed Dispel or Cancel Magic could theoretically cast the spell to take out the Divine Earth Titan's ability to fly. John already did but failed. This was because an intelligence modifier was calculated to determine the success rate. No one could rival Master's intelligence stat. Even after John empowered his spell using mana manipulation, he still failed to dispel the angelic wings on the Divine Earth Titan.

Fiery energy burst from the Atomic Hydra's claws. The right one was silver, and the other one was dark purple. This soul and chaos-infused fist increased the Atomic Hydra's damage output and impact strength. The fiery claw collided again with the stone fist. This time, the two seemed equally strong.

The draw didn't last, though. Layers of rock materialized and merged with the Divine Earth Titan's stone fists, enlarging them to a bizarre proportion. When the enlarged stone fist punched again, the Atomic Hydra recoiled an even longer distance than before.

The Atomic Hydra didn't give up. It charged back again. But this time, it was not alone. John commanded his other lords to ignore the other enemies and focus on the divine earth Titan. The Mutated Saurian charged in from the side when the Atomic Hydra clashed for the third time with the Divine Earth Titan. The Mutated Saurian crashed into the Divine Earth Titan and bit one of its arms. It used its heavy mass to hold the titan down. The two ice wings on its back reformed into a layer of ice protecting its body. The Divine Earth Titan couldn't use its other hand to yank the Mutated Saurian away because of this protective layer.

The Atomic Hydra never let up its aggression. It pounced on the Divine Earth Titan. With only one arm, the Divine Earth Titan couldn't drive the Atomic Hydra away.

While the Divine Earth Titan was occupied, a third assailant hit it from above. It was the Mighty Ape. It had activated its Flame Incarnation. Its entire body was burning. Two fiery wings were on its back. Together with the Atomic Hydra, the Might Ape rained punches on the Divine Earth Titan.

Master's other minions, who originally fought the Mutated Saurian and the Mighty Ape, redirected their attentions to John, who rode atop the Celestial Moth. The Celestial Moth had prepared a spell that spread light dust around it. It also cast a spell that formed walls of light. Together with its buff spell that turned its standard attacks into exploding starlights, these minions were having trouble approaching John.

John intentionally put himself as a target. While the enemy's attention was on him, Badass' archdemon lord sneaked by under cover of invisibility. It seemed able to sneak its way through the horde of enemies and locate Master, but its invisibility ended when a flaming boomerang accurately struck it.

When the archdemon lord came out of invisibility, it located the one who had struck it. It was its kind, an archdemon. This archdemon came from the level 90 spell of Master's Prime Demonologist. This archdemon had the Demonic True Eye like Master's, so it could see invisible enemies.

Badass' archdemon lord was a stronger demon than the archdemon. However, its level was 96 following Badass' level. The archdemon was level 99 following Master's level. The archdemon also had the support of Master's other summons. The archdemon lord was soon swarmed without being able to advance further.

While Jack's side continued to suffer the fire damage from the Second Sun, healing numbers appeared above them. These healing numbers couldn't negate the damage they suffered, but it slowed the rate of their HPS going down. Additionally, damage numbers started popping up above the heads of Master's legion, even when they suffered no attacks.

While Master's legion was confused about these damage numbers, they noticed a strange sound. The demons and zombies might consider it a strange sound, but the players identified it as music.

This healing music came from Will Corner. His music affected all the allies currently battling above Sky Haven. Normal Bard's Play Music didn't have that large AOE. The reason his music did was because of the starting skill of his pinnacle class, the Angelic Conductor. The skill was Angelic Chorus. It boosted the effect of the user's Play Music and let it cover the entire battlefield.

Additionally, it was able to link with another ally's Play Music, giving it the same benefits. On maximum level, Angelic Chorus could link with two allies' Play Music.

The healing effect benefiting Jack's side was Will's music. One that Chris gave him. The damaging effect on Master's force came from Elayne's Melody of Death, who will linked with. For the last slot, Will linked with one of the Council of Elpo's members who possessed the Play Music skill. This member's music boosted allies' attributes. The boosted attributes allowed their force to better contest the enemies buffed by the Demonic Contract.

The three copied Master's strategy. Since their music could affect the entire battlefield, they retreated to where they were most protected and played their music from there. If enemies wanted to stop their music, they had to charge through many obstacles.

With the healing, damage, and stat boost the music provided, Jack's force could better endure under the heat bombardment from the second sun. Even so, this was only a delay. The second sun dealt more damage. To make it worse, the fire damage it dispensed increased with time. They still needed to stop Master from maintaining the spell if they wanted a chance to win

this battle.

Everyone was seemingly occupied by the enemies without making progress in approaching Master. That was until a powerful beam of light crashed through the horde of Master's minions. Following this beam, a huge golden dragon charged through.

This golden dragon was the gold dragon from Jack's bloodline. Following the dragon's charge was one of Jack's clones. This clone was encased in a burning dark purple sphere, the Sphere of Tiamat. No enemies could stop his forceful charge. The gold dragon further supported Jack by casting a spell that fired numerous starlights that struck the enemies in Jack's path.

Jack's clone with the gold dragon was John's second layer of distraction. While John acted as a distraction for the advance of Badass' archdemon lord, the archdemon lord turned into a distraction for Jack's advance after it was discovered.

With Jack's forceful charge, he finally pierced through the enemy's layered defense. He saw Master then. Master had one arm holding his staff high to sustain the second sun. His other arm was holding the Book of the Damned, which showed uncountable thin crimson threads

coming out of the book.

The two locked eyes. Their real bodies were fighting elsewhere. But here, their clones were going to duke it out as well.

Master narrowed his eyes. He swore he would defeat his nemesis on both fronts!

Chapter 1996:. Reinforcements

Master let go of the Book of the Damned. Despite doing that, the book didn't return to his inventory. It also didn't stop the Demonic Contract. The crimson threads from the book continued to channel energies to his legion. The book floated beside him.

Another magic staff appeared in his hand that was originally holding the book. Spell formation started to form from this magic staff.

Jack charged forward. Under the Sphere of Tiamat, his already incredible speed was boosted. Even so, he failed to reach Master before Master completed the casting. Master's speed of casting was simply inhuman.

The spell was, of course, the Greater Dispel. The Sphere of Tiamat encasing Jack's body vanished.

Jack was prepared. As soon as the sphere was gone, the blood veins in his body bulged. They emitted crimson fog. This was the Devil Blood ability from his Ring of Devil Incarnate.

Master could again undo this transformation using the Greater Dispel. But to do that, he needed to take out the Necronomicon to use the reduced cooldown ability. While maintaining an active ability from the Book of the Damned didn't require him to use a hand, activating an ability did. He needed to let go of his staff, use the Necronomicon, re-equip his staff, and cast the Greater Dispel. Even with his insane spellcasting speed, he could not complete the spell before Jack arrived.

Hence, he forwent casting another Greater Dispel. Another spell formation formed when Jack was charging at him under the Devil Blood.

Master's minions never stopped trying to halt Jack, but their effort was largely ineffective. Jack used Soul Asura after activating Devil Blood. With six blades, his sword art danced through the enemies, stopping them while getting past them simultaneously. The gold dragon followed closely behind him, preventing enemies from ambushing Jack from the flanks.

Master's decision to chain-cast his spell instead of refreshing the Greater Dispel let him complete his spell before Jack reached him. The space directly before him turned into a world filled with elemental tempest. Jack was locked inside this elemental turmoil.

The spell was called the Domain of Elemental Pandemonium. It came from level 90 Elemental Master. It was an AOE offensive spell that covered an extremely large area, but Master used Form Manipulation to shrink its area. As a result, the elemental turmoil within its AOE became much denser. Even with his buff, Jack couldn't fly out of the tempest. He was helpless as he was rocked by the elemental force.

The gold dragon flying behind Jack didn't get caught by the tempest. It didn't try to save Jack. It flew to the side, avoiding the tempest, and charged at Master.

However, Master was already prepared. He cast another spell immediately after casting the Domain of Elemental Pandemonium. His next spell, the Elemental Singularity, was completed. This single-target spell struck the incoming gold dragon and sent it sprawling. Master's other summons immediately swarmed at the dragon once its momentum was stopped.

Master didn't let up. He resumed casting another spell, in preparation for Jack somehow freeing himself from the Domain of Elemental Pandemonium. He could see Jack inside the dense tempest. Jack didn't seem to show any sign of escaping the tempest. However, his mana sense suddenly picked up on an incoming danger.

He couldn't detect the source. He was about to change his spellcasting into a defensive spell when he realized it was of no use. The attack happened right where he was. He activated Soul Armor to tank the attack, but his mana sense quickly warned him that the Soul Armor was not enough.

He had no choice but to let go of the Second Sun. Demon wings spread on his back. He was about to shoot away when a strong sucking force kept him tethered. The Soul Armor lessened the sucking force, but it was not strong enough to resist the force from keeping him there. He speed-cast Teleportation but reappeared where he was. He soon found himself covered in a world of white.

The second sun in the upper sky slowly dimmed before fizzling out. In the lower altitude, where the battle was raging, another much smaller sun materialized. This one was entirely white, and it didn't burn those on the outside, but the ones inside it were another matter. Those caught within its radiance could no longer escape, and Master was right in the middle.

This white sun was Hope's Light.

Jack and his gold dragon's charge was the third layer of distraction in John's tactic. Even if Jack couldn't reach Master, he successfully laid eyes on him. With that information, they had Master's coordinates.

Under John's instruction, those with Hope's Sanctification gathered around him. Jeanny, Paytown, Grace, and another of Jack's clones came to the Celestial Moth. The Archdemon Lord and the Celestial Moth cast defensive spells to protect the five while they readied their assault.

Under concealment, they successfully launched their artillery assault. Master didn't know what hit him until it was too late.

"Grgghh...!"

Master was enduring tremendous pressure within Hope's Light. His attributes were high enough that Hope's Light couldn't dispel the Soul Armor protecting him, but there was nothing he could do while under the light's pressure. He tried casting a spell but kept failing. He couldn't form a clear thought. It was like the light was also assailing his mind.

Despite possessing the highest HP bar among players, Master's HP still could not be compared to a native. His soul armor reduced the damage he received, but the damage was still substantial. He roared in frustration when his HP was depleted.

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"What kind of enchantment did you people place here?"

The other Master, who was fighting mana-awakened Jack, asked Jack after his other self's demise. That other self was under an enchantment cast by a High Angel, which he summoned using a spell from the High Priest class. The enchantment allowed him to come back to life if killed within half an hour of the spell being cast. Yet, his other self didn't return to life.

"I have no idea what you are asking," Jack replied. "Shouldn't you be worried about your condition? Your divine incarnations will end soon."

After activating Demonization, Master was slightly stronger in terms of raw power. Jack was the one getting pushed in each clash. However, the divine incarnations had a short duration. They would end soon, and Master was nowhere close to defeating Jack.

Without the harassment from the Second Sun, Jack's force was no longer in a hurry. With Will's and Elayne's music, they could even take it easy despite the enemies outnumbering them. Furthermore, after Hope's Light defeated one Master, the Demonic Contract ended. The Book of the Damned vanished as it returned to the inventory of the still-living Master. Without the buff, the members of the Council of Elpo were stronger on average.

The scale tipped further following an earsplitting screech from the sky. Those who turned to the screech saw a giant white eagle diving toward them. This giant white eagle came because of John's Summon Apex Monster. The white eagle was not alone. Accompanying it were many other flying monsters, which came due to John's Call Monster Horde.

These monsters were not the only reinforcements.

"Jeanny!"

Jeanny turned when her name was called. The one who called her was her companion, Garuda. He was not alone. Flying with him was a horde of eaglefolk who lived nearby.

Jeanny used her companion token when Master summoned his legion. She didn't use the token to call Garuda. She used it to communicate, requesting Garuda to bring reinforcement. The Council of Elpo had a good relationship with the nearby eaglefolk. Hence, the eaglefolk didn't hesitate to help when they learned of the trouble befalling the divine faction.

These reinforcements removed the advantage of Master's legion. They no longer outnumbered their opponents.

Master looked around. His situation was not good. To make matters worse, his divine incarnations ended. He only had the Earth Titan Suit and Demonization. His power level decreased drastically.

Jack didn't let the chance go. He slashed using One-word Slash. A multi-color line shot out and sliced Master's head. The attack broke the stone mask covering Master's face.

"You lose! Our fight ends here!" Jack exclaimed. He was prepared to use a big skill to deal the finishing blow, but he paused when he saw Master's expression.

His attack had broken the stone mask covering Master's head so he could see Master's face. Master was grinning.

"Thank you," Master said.

After uttering the words, different elemental energies erupted from his body. Fire, ice, lightning, and the last was a fierce wind sphere that encapsulated his body.

Jack recognized those skills. They were the Fire God Suit, Ice God Suit, Lightning God Suit, and Wind God Rage. Together with the still-active Earth Titan Suit, Master had activated all the second skills from the divine treasures.

Jack wondered what the point was for Master to do that. Those skills were more for a defensive purpose. Did Master use it to prolong his survival? But that didn't explain his grin.

When Jack was still bewildered, an astonishing sight greeted him. All the elements shrouding Master's body were replaced by a multi-color aura like the one shrouding Jack's body.

Chapter 1997:. God Mode

"How...? How do you...?" Jack was lost for words seeing the scene.

Master didn't respond. He was admiring himself. The Earth Titan Suit no longer covered his body. A layer of multi-color aura instead cloaked him.

"How do you learn to enter the mana awakening state?" Jack finally asked.

"Mana awakening? Is that what this is called?" Master asked.

"Impossible!" Peniel stated. "You need to empty your mind while retaining awareness to invite mana into your body and merge with it. We didn't see you lose consciousness..."

"Is that how you achieve your state? So troublesome," Master chuckled. "My method is different from yours. Still, if I hadn't studied your energy during our battle, I wouldn't be able to achieve this."

"You studied mine...?" Jack couldn't believe what he was hearing.

"That's why I thanked you, didn't I?" Master replied. "I tried mimicking your condition after sensing your energy. But unlike you, I didn't invite mana in. I simply tap into the mana within me, my divine mana that you lot somehow suppress. I used all the second skills from the divine treasures. Those five elemental divine buffs are compatible with each other. Their perfect fusion, adding the technique I learned from studying you, allowed me to draw the divine mana. It's only a fraction of my divine power, but it is enough. Well, since our method is different, I shouldn't give mine the same name as yours. No..., I shall call this power... God mode."

Finished speaking, a spell formation appeared on Master's staff. It was completed almost as abruptly as it appeared. Jack also acted. His hand went up as his runic ring of defense appeared in the form of a ball encapsulating Peniel. An intense flame ignited as it tried to burn through the defensive ball. Master was trying to take out the fairy the same way he did during their first encounter.

'Hide inside your dimension,' Jack sent Peniel a message.

Peniel didn't argue. She phased out.

Master was grinning. He wasn't upset that his attempt failed. Another spell formation was cast speedily.

The winds churned with Jack at the center as a hurricane formed. The hurricane's speed and power were augmented under Master's God Mode. The hurricane was composed of uncountable sharp blades that ground whatever was within its AOE.

Jack moved the instant the hurricane appeared. He used War God's Stride and phased out of the raging winds right into Master's position.

Master zoomed away before Jack landed any attack. Jack gave chase. Before, when Master was using divine incarnations, he almost matched Jack's strength but not his speed. This time, his speed was not that far off from Jack. The two moved at high speed in a game of cat-and-mouse. The two flew higher in altitude, leaving the battling armies.

Master repeatedly cast spells while he kited Jack. Jack either dodged the spell or broke through it using brute force. He had his runic ring of defense active as he gave chase.

Jack used Devil Eye Flare. The two beams turned into two fiery pillars that split. The two beams raced to Master's flanks to block his escape path.

Master's eyes also flared. The same fiery pillars emerged from those eyes. The two fire pillars intercepted Jack's. Their collisions resulted in fiery explosions.

Master's eyes flared again, this time with black light. A black hole appeared within Jack's path. Jack pulled away before he was caught by the black hole's sucking force.

When Master was a God, Devil Eye Flare and Void-displacement Eye were among the skills he acquired by hacking.

A gigantic earth hand materialized when Jack dodged the Void-displacement eye. At the same time, Master cast Flame Wrath. The fireballs he produced were much larger, and their number

was more numerous.

Jack used Flame Strike to destroy the earth hand. When the fireballs arrived, his runic ring of defense turned into a sphere that protected him. Explosions after explosions shook the sky as the fireballs battered Jack's defensive sphere.

Master already cast another spell even before his Flame Wrath was exhausted. The spell he cast was the Sea of the Elementals. The spell under God Mode conjured a massive tidal wave of multi-color elements. This tidal wave washed into the sphere like a waterfall.

Master continued casting one spell after another. All were offensive elemental spells. Some of these spells were ones no one ever witnessed before. Some had been seen cast by a different caster. Among them were the Sky Tsunami and Primal Storm once cast by Broidrireg. Some others were Lightning Turbulence from Asmodeus, Dark Plaguing Spears from the Eldritch Beholder, Flame Bloom from the Herald of Greed, and many more.

Master's library of spells was otherworldly. Even without using Necronomicon's power to reduce cooldown, he would still not run out of spells to cast.

"This is odd...," Jack said. He was using his Runic Ring of Defense to tank through Master's offensive spells. Cracks started to be visible from all those punishments. He was channeling his mana awakening power to help the ring endure. "He is casting all these powerful spells. He should have gone into a blackout with this much expenditure."

"Perhaps it is like he said. The state you two are in is different even if they look the same," Peniel offered her opinion from inside her hidden dimension. "He is drawing from the divine power within him. Perhaps that allowed his body to tolerate it."

"Damn it!" Jack cursed. This meant he couldn't rely on outlasting Master. To make it worse, he was already in this state for some time. It was the runic suit from the

Runestone of the Devil King and his conservative usage of skills that allowed him to last this long.

The sounds of screams drew Jack's attention. He looked back and saw the armies fighting below were assailed by the overflows of Master's spells. He descended little by little from the knockback force of Master's assaults until he was close to the battling armies. The overflowing spells hit both the members of the Council of Elpo and Master's legion.

Master didn't care even if his spells harmed his allies. He continued to dispense spells without reservation. Jack was now pushed until he was among the battling armies. Everyone in the vicinity, except for the zombies, moved away to avoid getting hit. Not only did the zombies stay, but they also grabbed the nearest enemies to prevent them from leaving.

Master's next spell was a powerful non-standard elite spell from the Priest class, the Hand of God. A massive hand made of light stormed down from heaven. Under the bombardments, Jack could only take it when this hand of light slammed into him.

The hand forced its way down until it smashed into the floor of Sky Haven. Cracks spread from the point of impact. The floating island itself jerked down from the impact before returning to its original position.

When the Hand of God vanished, Jack was seen deep in a crater. He was unharmed, but his Runic Ring of Defense was full of cracks.

Jack gritted his teeth. If he remained conservative in using his skills, he couldn't compete with Master's God Mode. But if he stopped reserving, he would go into a blackout faster. Both

options were bad.

Jack didn't have the time to ponder. Master already cast his next spell, Hail of Ice Calamity. The ice swords that rained from the sky were coated with multi-color auras. These ice swords didn't fall in straight lines as they should. They flew as if alive, weaving through those in their paths as they made their way to Jack.

Jack used the Scourge of the Demon Swords. One hundred demonic swords materialized. They quickly charged at the incoming ice swords. The Scourge of the Demon Swords was a stronger skill than the Hail of Ice Calamity. With both skills augmented by the multi-color aura, the demonic swords won the encounter. The ice swords shattered when they made contact.

The ice swords had more numbers, but none reached Jack. The demonic swords destroyed each incoming ice sword while spreading out. Once all the ice swords were gone, these demonic swords headed toward Master.

None of the swords hit Master, though. Master cast Extreme Telekinesis, another non-standard spell he hacked. He modified the spell so that it could affect targets way more than it should. All one hundred demonic swords stopped in their tracks. Not long after, all of them

were broken to pieces.

Master then cast Mirror Image. Under God Mode, each mirror image had Master's mana signature. The multiple Masters went their separate ways. Jack used Gold Dragon Sight to identify which one was the real Master.

Some of Master's copies rushed at him. He originally thought the real one was among these copies. He was surprised to learn that the real Master was heading in another direction. He soon noticed Master's target.

Red Death wasn't aware that Master had come behind her. Like Jack, Master had mana concealment. Master shoved his hand into the unsuspecting woman. His hand was glowing with an eerie light. His hand was like that because of a spell he had cast before arriving. The spell was Hand of Death, a spell with an instant-death effect.

The glowing hand slammed into Red Death's back. She didn't even know what had happened when her HP dropped to zero. She, who was supposed to possess the best class for assassination, had been assassinated by an ambush.

Chapter 1998:. Targeting Others

Master noticed Jack, who was charging toward him. He grinned at Jack before turning away. "F*ck! He is intentionally avoiding me," Jack realized.

That was indeed Master's intention. Although he seemingly had no trouble casting big spells under God Mode, he could sense that his time in this state was limited. He couldn't tell whether he could outlast Jack. He had tried defeating Jack using this new power. Even though he seemed to be winning, Jack was nowhere near defeated. Thus, he needed to increase his chance of winning in case his God Mode ended before Jack's mana awakening.

The method he chose was securing a winning chance for his legion. Despite his fierce battle with Jack, he was still aware of his surroundings. The biggest advantage the enemy had was the twenty-two players who came with Jack. They were the only players on the enemy's side, but each showcased skills and abilities that were not only powerful but also foreign to him. He suspected they were like Jack, possessing unidentified classes.

His legion had lost the buffs from the Demonic Contract. He could use the Necronomicon to reduce the cooldown of his Magic Clone spell and reactivate the

Demonic Contract. But with those twenty-two players still around, his clone could be disrupted again. If he was to secure an advantage for his legion, he must first take out these players.

Master cast Extreme Teleportation, moving a great distance away from Jack. This extreme teleportation also brought him directly to his next target, Will Corner. This player with a bard-like class was the reason for the mass buff, healing, and damage affecting everyone on the battlefield. Master couldn't let this continue.

Will was shocked when Master suddenly appeared before him. He instinctively erected Sound Shield and used the strongest skill in his arsenal, the level 90 skill of Angelic Conductor, the Voice of God.

The space around Will boomed with a transparent explosion. Everything in his vicinity was blown away, including Elayne, who was playing music nearby. Though it seemed this skill discharged energy in all directions, the majority of its force could be directed. The target Will was aiming at was, of course, Master.

The transparent energy from the Voice of God assailed Master. If this energy was visible, it would seem like a huge tornado. Master wasn't blown away, though. In front of him was an oversized magic shield with a multi-color aura.

After the power of the Voice of God subsided, Master shot forward. His hand slammed into Will without giving him the chance to make another move. The hand that slammed into Will was a hand of ice. It was the Ice Death, which also inflicted the instant death ability.

Will turned into ice. Master used Force Impact, and Will shattered into small ice cubes. "Coward! Are you afraid to face me?!" Jack exclaimed. He was shooting over at high speed. Master sneered at the taunt. He again moved in a different direction from Jack.

Jack couldn't let Master continue this. He cast Time Reverse. Time started to rewind.

"Hm...?" As time started to rewind, he felt something. He was casting Time Reverse while under the effect of mana awakening and the Runestone of the Devil King. He felt he could do more under this state.

While he was pondering, time moved back to before Master cast Extreme Teleportation. At this time, Master was not that far away from Jack. Jack was going to continue letting the time rewind until before Master slew Red Death. But before the time rewound to that part, something caught his attention.

He looked over and realized that Master was staring back at him. He remembered now. Master had the Chrono Guard. Master was helpless to resist the time going backward, but he was aware of it. Like Jack, he could see the time rewinding. Unlike before, when he was oblivious to what happened.

As Jack's eyes met Master's, something hit him. It was not something physical. It's more like something slammed into his mind. The pain in his head was unbearable. When his mind cleared, he understood he had been assaulted by the ethereal's race skill, Mind Blast.

Master's mind blast not only knocked the wind out of him but also caused the Time Reverse to stop midway. The spell ended without returning to the time before Red Death was killed. Master cast Waves of Hellfire. He then shot away again. The fire waves prevented Jack from approaching while he put more distance. He looked over in Will's direction. Will was still alive because time had been reversed. His Extreme Teleportation was on cooldown even though he hadn't cast the spell in this timeline. The Chrono Guard protected him from time tampering, so he was considered to have already cast the spell.

He took out the Necronomicon to refresh the Extreme Teleportation, but he didn't cast it immediately. He moved in another direction, choosing a nearer target.

His target was Leavemealone, still fighting the daemon he summoned earlier. The daemon was low in health. It was not Leavemealone's opponent, but it was supported by other demons and zombies.

"Behind you!" Suzaki warned Leavemealone in his mind.

Leavemealone turned in time to see Master complete a dual casting. The first spell was the Greater Dispel, which Master refreshed using the Necronomicon while on his way. Leavemealone, who was in the White Tiger Emperor form, reverted to his original form. Not only that, Suzaki's flame, which was burning his body, was doused. The Greater Dispel augmented by God Mode was powerful enough to disrupt the internal link between Leavemealone and Suzaki. Leavemealone heard Suzaki's pained cry when that happened. Master's second spell was the Gravity Weight Hammer. The pressure coming from Master's spell was immense. After losing his buffs, Leavemealone was powerless to resist the pressure. He couldn't move a muscle as the dark hammer slammed into him.

Leavemealone was brought into the ground. Master cast another spell, Lurking Spears. Multiple spears pierced from the ground, impaling Leavemealone as the hammer squashed him. Both spells had multi-color aura augmenting them, Leavemealone didn't stand a chance. His HP zeroed.

Master shot away in another direction. He mentally commanded the daemon and his minions to bar Jack, who was chasing from behind.

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Not far from there, a massive tornado swept a large area. Inside this tornado, a shadow moved at light speed, hitting the demons and zombies tumbling within while sparing the

Council of Elpo's members. This Tornado was the product of Four Winds' Tornado Cross. Outside the raging tornado, Purple Mist cast her healing spells to support her allies. The angelic host she summoned was around her, battling the enemies who tried to get to her. Suddenly, the angelic host all around her dispersed. She was shocked by this. She was still wondering what had happened when she sensed a sudden burst of mana right next to her. She tried to move away but was too late. A black hole covered in a multi-color aura appeared

there, engulfing her.

"Purple...!" Four Winds shouted when he saw the scene. He saw Master behind Purple Mist. The Chaos Black Hole was Master's. Master was casting another spell.

Four Winds was about to dash over when several energy rings appeared around him. The rings coated with multi-color aura were very fast and flexible. They elongated to follow Four Winds' movements before shrinking and tightening after touching his body. In a short instant, Four Winds was already bound by Master's Repeating Magic Bind.

Master had the magic binds drag Four Winds to where the Chaos Black Hole was still holding Purple Mist. He then commanded the black hole to end. The imploding black hole triggered the instant death effects. Both Four Winds and Purple Mist died from the implosion.

*

"Damn that a*shole...! He is evading me on purpose," Jack cursed.

The daemon and Master's other minions couldn't stop him, but they still slowed him down. However, Master was also fast. Under God Mode, the movement speed granted by Master's

demonic wings was substantial.

Players with the pinnacle classes were like the pillars of their force in this battle. The areas where these pillars were lost started to see a shift in the flow of battle. Jack couldn't stay to support these areas. He needed to stop Master from taking out more of his friends. Master continued to move about like a demon, reaping the lives of the low-HP players with great precision. He only stopped when his target was Giant Steve. Jack warned Steve using a message when Master approached Steve under mana concealment. Steve used Eternal Wall just as Master's spell hit him.

The Eternal Wall lasted ten seconds. This forced Master to use the Greater Dispel again, but the act required a few precious seconds. Jack finally caught up when Master finished slaying

Giant Steve.

Jack immediately attacked once he arrived. He used the Void-tearing Slash. He modified the produced void and made it expanded. The void was so large it encapsulated Master. Master wasn't afraid of the instant death effect from the void. He was immune to this effect

while under God Mode. However, the gravity produced by the void kept him from escaping.

Jack came at him while he was tethered.

"We will end this here, villain!" Jack exclaimed.

Chapter 1999:. Battle Inside the Time Dimension

"Hah! In this new world's history, I will ensure you are the one being remembered as the villain!" Master returned. He was casting a spell.

When Jack's claws came, Master's body turned into liquid. The spell Master used was Liquid Form. It was similar to Jack's Ghost Form, but Ghost Form was only learnable by an Archmage.

Jack continued slashing, but all his slashes had no effect. His claws just went through the liquid. He even used Flame Strike, but the liquid resisted the heat. Just as he was invulnerable during Ghost Form, Master was the same.

Like Ghost Form, Master couldn't attack in this state. But using the power of God Mode, Master could cast spells. He used the already refreshed Extreme Teleportation. Jack's mana awakening-empowered void should have a pull that could stop even the Teleportation spell, but Master had God Mode, so their powers neutralized one another. The Extreme Teleportation brought Master far away from there.

"F*ck...!" Jack cursed.

Master again used the Extreme Teleportation to come before Will Corner. He immediately cast a spell to strike the sailor, but Jack came before him.

"What...?" Master was surprised Jack could arrive here instantly like him, but then he realized this Jack had a different aura shrouding him. The aura was golden instead of multi-color. This was one of Jack's clones.

After Master's previous attempt to take out Will, Jack sent one of his clones here. This clone's brilliant golden aura came from the War God Manifestation.

Master cast the Hellish Black Drill. Augmented by the God Mode, this drill should take out Will in one hit, but Jack took the hit in Will's place. Jack's ten golden orbs from the

aureole combined into one giant golden shield. This golden shield blocked the incoming black drill.

The black drill had a multi-color aura coating it. The golden shield did not. The golden shield lasted only two seconds before it broke to pieces. The drill continued and bore into Jack. Jack activated War God's Suit, but the black drill easily penetrated the suit. His HP went down rapidly. He activated War God's Recovery when his HP almost reached zero. The black drill finally exhausted its power before Jack's HP went near depletion a second time.

Will took the same action against Master as before Jack reversed the time. He used the Voice of God. Jack's intervention also allowed Elayne to react. She resisted the pushback force from the Voice of God and fired a Sound Cannon at Master.

Master was battered by the Sound Cannon and the concentrated force of the Voice of God. Master erected an augmented magic shield that blocked the sound assaults. He cast Telekinesis at the same time. The Telekinesis caught Jack's clone, Will, Elayne, and two nearby members of the Council of Elpo. Master brought the five together before casting two spells consecutively, Final Explosion and Elemental Turbulence.

Jack, already low in HP, died from the Final Explosion. Will was defeated by the Elemental Turbulence. Elayne and the two members of the Council of Elpo survived, but Master didn't bother with them. Using the Telekinesis, he slammed them down into the ground below before flying away.

By the time mana-awakened Jack came over, Master was already on his way to another target. "Ugh! This can't go on...," Jack said.

"He is too powerful for the others in God Mode. They can't hold him long enough," Peniel uttered.

Jack stopped his flight.

"Hey! Why do you stop? I know things are bleak, but you can't give up!" Peniel exclaimed.

"I'm not giving up," Jack said. "I'm thinking about taking a gamble."

"A gamble?" Peniel asked.

"... The last time I reversed time, I felt something. After Master hit me with the Mind Blast, an idea came up inside my mind, but I didn't have the chance to test it. I can only use Time Reverse another time after using Reset, so I only have one chance. If it doesn't go as I hope, I would have wasted the skill."

"Things won't go worse than this, will it? I say we give it a try," Peniel encouraged.

With that encouragement, Jack made up his mind. "All right. Let's give it a go!" Jack exclaimed.

He saw Master approaching the place where John, Jeanny, Grace, and Paytown were. The four saw Master's approach. The Celestial Moth and Jeanny's battle dragon tried to block Master's path, but Master cast Greater Dispel to unsummon the battle dragon before casting Wind Jet and dashed past the Celestial Moth.

Jack used Reset, then. Once he did, he started casting Time Reverse. While casting, he focused his willpower on the Runestone of the Devil King to crank it up to the max. Several runic rings appeared around his spell formation, turning the spell formation into a complex chart.

The spell was cast, and time started to rewind. He saw everything moving back in time. Master was also aware of what was happening because of the Chrono Guard. He had refreshed Telekinesis using Necronomicon. He was just about to cast it to incapacitate the four players when his body started moving backward in time against his will. The Chrono Guard protected his mind, but his body still moved following the reverse of time.

Under the power of mana awakening and the Runestone of the Devil King, Time Reverse could turn back time much further back than one minute. Time continued to rewind until Jack and Master crossed paths when Jack used the Void-tearing Slash to trap Master.

"You don't give up, do you?" Jack heard Master's words.

They couldn't talk while time was rewinding. The words were sent directly into Jack's mind using Telepathy.

Under mana awakening, Jack could do the same. "After all this time, you should know by now the answer to that question," Jack said.

"Hmph! It doesn't matter." Master used Mind Blast. He had refreshed this skill earlier using the Necronomicon, in preparation when Jack used Time Reverse again.

Jack was prepared this time. He modified the Ring of Runic Defense into a helmet that covered his head. Empowered by mana awakening power, even the God Mode mind blast couldn't penetrate his mental defense.

"This time, it's I who thank you," Jack told Master. "It is because of your mind attack that I know assaults that don't rely on physical movements are still possible in this time dimension."

A spell formation appeared on Jack's hand while their bodies moved backward in time. Jack cast Tracing Light Beams. The thirty pillars of light shot out of the completed spell formation and rushed at Master.

Master couldn't dodge the beams. His body was not in his control. It was moving backward following the actions he made in the past. He, however, could also use skills or cast spells that didn't require body movements. Five celestial shields from the Valiant Paladin class came out to protect him. These five shields were enlarged and reformed into a sphere by stacking side

by side.

The thirty pillars of light slammed into the sphere. They couldn't penetrate it. While protected by the sphere, Master cast his mega spell, the Tri Elemental Dragons.

Jack also did. He cast Storm Wrath. His Storm Wrath hit a large area. However, only Master was affected. While time was rewinding, everything was being undone. Even when Jack's Storm Wrath hit the others, those people returned to the condition before they were hit in real-time, so any damage they suffered during this time reversal was meaningless. Only Jack and Master, who were detached from time, could suffer damage.

Storm Wrath still couldn't destroy the defense of Master's Celestial Shields. As for Jack's Ring of Runic Defense, it already suffered too many punishments in the past. It had many cracks on its surface. When the three elemental dragons struck it, it finally gave in. It shattered with a

bang.

Jack wasn't defenseless even when his defensive skill was gone. He activated Void Defense. The three elemental dragons hovered close by but couldn't touch him. He was not in danger. Jack and Master separated again as time continued to rewind. The three elemental dragons finally dissipated after running out of energy without being able to reach their target. "Are you okay?" Peniel asked. Jack wasn't hurt. But if he was, she couldn't come out to heal Jack. She was inside her hidden dimension most of the time in the battle. During this period of the time reversal, she was hiding. Like Jack, she was aware of the time rewinding but not in

control of her movements.

"I'm okay," Jack assured her.

Time continued to rewind. Jack and Master came into each other's vicinity again at the time when Jack was hit by the Hand of God. They reexperienced their battle backward, all the time throwing spells at one another. In terms of spells, Master was at an advantage. He had an inexhaustible list of spells to use.

As for Jack, his library of spells was limited. Soon, Jack could only defend as Master's spells barraged him. He even used the Elemental God Barrier from his cloak. He negated spells with targeting mechanics using the Nine Yin Phantom Swords. As for

AOE and spells that hit directly, he could only rely on the runic suit from his runestone of the devil king. Master's telepathic voice entered Jack's mind and taunted him. "You think you can defeat me by forcing me into a fight in this time dimension? You are more foolish than I thought! Give it up! No matter your struggle, you are not my match! You will never win against me, no matter how many times you try!"

When Master expected to hear words of despair from Jack, he instead heard a chuckle.

"Hehe. This is it. Our fight is going to end soon."

Chapter 2000:.. The End of Rivalry

Master was having a difficult time understanding Jack's telepathic message. He thought perhaps the fool had lost his mind and was being delusional.

"You know, before this fight ends, I want to express my admiration," Master heard Jack's voice in his mind again. "Make no mistake, I still think you are an a*shole. You are a selfish, narcissistic dude who does not care for the suffering of others at the expense of your goal. The world will be a better place without a person like you. That said, you are also a very capable and determined individual."

"I care not for your praise," Master replied.

"It's not praise. I'm simply getting my opinion off my chest before our rivalry ends."

"You keep saying things will end. Stop trying this cheap rattling tactic. It's meaningless. You have run out of spells. You can only defend against my spells. By the time this time reversal ends, I will still be at an advantage. There is nothing you can do. If things are ending, they will end with your defeat!"

"Hehe, for all your intellect. You seem to be missing one fact," Jack chuckled.

"Hmph! I said stop trying the rattling tactic. You won't rattle me with nonsense. There is nothing I..."

Master's words stopped. He seemed to be realizing something. Their bodies continued to move back in time. At this period, the two of them battled for quite a while as they tested whether it was mana awakening or God Mode that was superior.

"You realize it now, don't you?" Jack asked.

"... How much farther can you turn back time?" Master asked. A hint of unease was in his telepathic voice.

"I don't know. This is the longest I have ever pushed this spell, but it will be farther than that point in time," Jack answered.

Master thought hard on a solution. He needed to stop this Time Reversal. He couldn't do anything here except cast spells that didn't require movements and didn't affect his physical self. Greater Dispel could stop this Time Reverse, but it was on cooldown. He needed to take out the Necronomicon to refresh its cooldown but couldn't do that within this time dimension.

The point of time Jack mentioned came soon. It was the point where Master activated God Mode. He reverted to the giant golem from the Earth Titan Suit. The elemental suits from the divine treasures went off one by one as he returned to the time when he was still using divine incarnations.

While Master could cast spells inside this time dimension, he couldn't use buff skills. Just like how they couldn't use skills that relied on body movements, they also couldn't use buff skills that altered the physical body. To activate God Mode, Master needed to merge all the second skills from the divine treasures. Something that he couldn't do when time was reversing. He had the divine incarnations that gave divine buffs, but those four divine incarnations were too strong for his Earth Titan Suit. They were not compatible.

Master was pondering hard to think of a solution, but he couldn't think of any in such a short time. He was so troubled he failed to notice Jack was casting a spell. By the time he noticed, Jack had completed the spell. It was a mega spell. Jack used up his spells but saved this one.

Out of the completed spell formation, seven gigantic eastern dragons embodying seven different elements emerged. The seven dragons rushed over with extreme speed.

The celestial shields Master conjured earlier were still floating around him. The five shields positioned themselves to protect Master. However, at this current time frame, Jack had the mana awakening while Master was without God Mode. The normal celestial shields, even when powered by Master's mana manipulation, were nowhere near enough to resist the Wrath of the Ancient Dragons powered by mana awakening.

The celestial shields shattered the instant the elemental dragons touched them. The seven dragons converged onto Master. In this time dimension, Master couldn't move as he liked. The seven dragons hit him without him being able to do anything. The dragons turned into an intense light of seven colors that shrouded his body. This light persisted as time continued to rewind.

Jack could reverse time further back, but he chose to stop the spell. Magic Clone should not have the same feature as his Double Clone, but he didn't know for sure if Master's Magic Clone was the normal version. He didn't want to take the chance. If Master's clone was like his, the clone could become the real body when the real Master was defeated. Hence, he stopped the Time Reverse at the point when Master's clone had just been defeated by Hope's Light.

As soon as time returned to normal, Jack heard a piercing scream from inside the colorful light shrouding Master's body. The colorful light erupted into a spectacular blast. Even when the divine incarnations reduced much damage, the mana awakening-empowered mega spell was still too much. The Wrath of the Ancient Dragons ravaged the target from the inside. Under Jack's control, they bypassed a large portion of the damage reduction.

When the blast subsided, a body fell to Sky Haven below. Those nearby turned and recognized the falling body to be Master. His HP bar was zero.

The zombies among Master's legion turned into dust. This proved Master had died a wilderness death. Neither Rebirth nor the immortal soul worked under Chris' world enchantment. A few things dropped beside Master's body. The Necronomicon and the Book of the Damned were not among those things. Since they didn't drop, those legendary artifacts vanished. The world system would transfer them to become the rewards for random SSS- difficulty quests.

The demons also stopped their aggression. Master had replaced Lucifer as their spiritual anchor. Losing such an anchor twice within a short period was a significant blow to their psyche. They had a mental breakdown and were at a loss about what to do.

Even a high-level demon like Xugguth froze mid-fight.

Honuren didn't waste the chance. He cast Soul Lightning and focused his mana manipulation to reshape the silver lightning into a drilling spear. The lightning spear pierced into Xugguth's head without resistance. The lightning took out the demon's head. Xugguth's headless body fell.

Xugguth's death was the last straw that broke the camel's back. The other demons turned around and fled. They fled in different directions without any sense of organization. The members of the Council of Elpo let them leave. The fleeing demons were, however, harassed by the eaglefolk who were on their way here. At this moment in time, this reinforcement was just about to arrive.

The ones left from Master's legion were just the players. These players soon turned around and fled as well. They were few, to start with. With most of their forces gone and their leaders defeated, staying would simply be suicide. This time, the Council of Elpo's members didn't remain idle. They attacked these players. Most failed to escape.

The battle ended. The players on Master's side, who had died, came back to life where their bodies were. Mistress and Sizhad were among them. Their level was 1. They also lost all their equipment. Aside from disabling all resurrection abilities, Chris' world enchantment also forced the dead to revive at the same spot. They didn't even have to go through the half-an- hour waiting period in limbo.

It was the same case with Master. He was now a level 1 ethereal. He lost all his equipment and tools, including the divine treasures. He stood there with a blank stare, unable to accept what

had happened.

Jack landed before him.

The two stared at one another for a long time. Master didn't utter a word. In the end, he slumped to the floor and remained like that. In a way, Jack pitied the guy. Jack decided not to

say anything, either.

Jack saw Sizhad, Mistress, and other revived players try to run. The Council of Elpo's members stopped them. They were easily apprehended. Some faction members came and took Master.

Master didn't resist.

Jack saw Master being taken away. Jack sighed at the sight.

"No need to feel sorry for him. His machination has caused too much suffering to the people of this world," Honuren told Jack. John and the others came with Honuren.

"What exactly happened?" Jeanny asked. "The way I saw it, the two of you weren't close to defeating one another. All of a sudden, Master was blanketed by dense multi-color light."

Jack chuckled. He told them what he did to defeat Master.

"God mode...?" The others were flabbergasted by what would have happened if Jack didn't

turn back time.

"Wow... That was a close one," Paytowin said. "If your idea didn't work, Master could have

been the victor here."

"That's true," Jack didn't disagree. He also thought this was a narrow win. He was glad everything turned out well.

"What will happen to him?" Jack asked Honuren. He was talking about Master.

"We will detain him here. His sins are too heavy. He has not only wiped out many divine factions and is the reason for countless natives' deaths, but he is also the reason for our God's

demise."

"He is also the reason behind the other Gods' demise," John said. None of the Gods showed up when Master declared himself the only God in this world. They could only assume the other Gods had met their ends.

"I know you have a history with him, but I demand we are given his custody," Honuren told Jack. "I will ensure he never sees the light of day anymore."

Considering this faction boasted the strongest natives, Jack did not doubt Honuren's claim. No one sane enough would dare to come rescue Master from this faction. Not that anyone would. After losing everything, Master no longer had anything to offer.

Jack had the mind to tell Honuren that even without imprisoning Master, Master already suffered the worst punishment possible. He had to live with the fact that all his efforts and plans had failed. Seeing Master's expression when he was taken away, Jack believed Master preferred to have died a true death instead of coming back to life and had to live with this

reality.

Jack sighed again. Though he pitied the man, he also remembered the suffering Master's selfishness had caused everyone. Master reaped what he sowed.