

World 571

Chapter 571: Waiting In Hiding

"Still, he is too powerful for us all to take on," Ephiltres spoke. "He is a level 80 rare elite, for heaven's sake."

"Chickening out?" Jonathan took the chance to throw the guy an insult.

"Screw you! You won't last a second against such a being!" Ephiltres retorted.

"I said he is healing, but not yet fully recovered," Arlcard told them. "His current power is still weakened to level 60 special elite."

"Really? Then he is at my level," Sidney said.

"Do not underestimate him though. Even if he is at your level, his skills and abilities as a centuries-old archaic vampire are not something to scoff at. But we should be able to take him on if we all work together. Aside from that..."

Arlcard fished out a sheathed knife for everyone to see. The scabbard was adorned by many precious gems, as was the hilt of the knife.

"Vampire-slaying knife!" Peniel exclaimed.

"Yes, my dear fairy. This is one of those taboo weapons from the Sangrod Empire. Developed by past rebel human mages who wished to overthrow their vampire oppressors. Their rebellion failed miserably, but some of their creations survived to this day. I have gotten one of them and have saved it for this day."

"What can that small knife do?" Jack asked Peniel.

"That small knife is a consumable tool that can kill any vampire below Archaic rank with just one stab. As for Archaic rank, it will incapacitate the victim for a while."

"Yes, once Aubelard is incapacitated by this knife. All you have to do is hit him with all you have got. That should complete our objective," Arlcard said.

"Consumable? So it is a one-time-use weapon?" Jack asked.

"Yes, the knife will crumble to dust after being used on a vampire," Peniel answered.

"I see that you have planned this out. You are quite resourceful to get that kind of instrument," Sidney remarked.

"I have been planning this for almost a century," Arlcard replied. "As for this knife, I get it from my merchant network. It is my old family's connection. My vampire father is not that proficient in my old family's trade business, so he just let me run it. He certainly enjoyed the coins from the business. Little did he know I use the network to also search for artifacts such as this knife. It is also via this network that I found out about you people searching for Aubelard. You are certainly not being subtle about it."

Sidney shifted uncomfortably from the comment. She did use the army to search for whatever information on Aubelard.

"It is also via this network that I spread the rumor that draws you here," Arlcard continued. "It's a good thing you all arrive as you did. Any later and I'm not sure if my father decided to remain in this town, especially if he finds out the army of this country have been actively searching for him."

"All right, let's do it. But we save the kidnapped girl first," Jack said.

Arlcard shook his head. "No, my father will be most vulnerable when he is at the ceremony. He needs my help with the ceremony. I can strike him at that time while you all wait in the shadow. If the girl is gone before that, there will be no ceremony."

Jack struggled with this. He then said, "All right, but I need to say first. When it all starts, my priority will be saving the girl."

Ephiltes gave a disdainful scoff, "as if we are relying on you. You are still too weak to give us any meaningful help!"

Arlcard turned to Sidney and Ephiltes again. "So, are the two of you in?" He asked.

"Fine," Sidney said. "Even if he is a centuries-old vampire, if his power level is the same as mine, I don't believe myself to be inferior!"

Seeing Sidney being so overbearing, Ephiltes didn't want to be left behind. "I will be the one taking his head."

"Great. Then we are all in for this," Arlcard declared. "I will now bring you down to the catacomb via a hidden passage. Both my father and his draugr don't know about this passage. You will be near the hall where the ceremony takes place. Once there, I will cast a spell to mask your presence. Do not leave that place until you see me taking action."

Arlcard went to one of the bookcases by the sidewall. He pulled on a book, which caused the bookcase to slide open, revealing a passage behind.

"This place and its secret passages..." Jack mumbled.

"Come," Arlcard stepped into the passage.

They followed him to a mechanized elevator. Everyone entered the elevator before Arlcard activated it and it started going down. They went down a long way. There were no in-between floors for the elevator, it went all the way to the bottom till it hit the ground.

Arlcard took them further until they came upon a small room overlooking a large hall. Arlcard mentioned that the ceremony would be at the hall below. The opening where they saw the hall was large enough for people to jump through. Arlcard told them to hide here while observing what happened down there. Once they saw him using the Vampire-slaying Knife, they were to jump down and start attacking.

He then cast a spell that lighted up some rune markings on the wall. It seemed that he had prepared this rune diagram beforehand. He told them all to not go out of this room. The rune diagram provided

shrouding so their presences were hidden, but that was only limited to this room. If they stepped outside, they might get hunted by a troublesome monster.

Jack and his two aides had met this monster before, so they needed no warning. Still, thinking about staying inside this room for a whole day prompted him to ask, "Are we to stay here until tonight? You said the ceremony is at night, right? Can't we come back later?"

"We can't. This is the time when my father is not roaming around. Any other time and you will risk getting seen by him. Stay here until you see me down there!" Arlcard replied. "The shrouding spell also masks your voices. But still, try to make as little noise as possible."

With that last warning, Arlcard left.

Sidney and Ephiltres sat on the ground at opposite corners. Sidney took out a tome and started reading while Ephiltres just sat with a bored expression. Jonathan and Harper sat together and started playing cards. Jack couldn't believe that the two actually brought something to play. Peniel went and watched them play.

Jack was thinking about practicing his battle skills, but Sidney and Ephiltres might take offense if his long-range skill accidentally hit them. So he just sat cross-legged and started meditating, sharpening his mana-sensing ability.

It was a long time already since he last did such a long session of mana-sensing meditation. When he was inside the Valley of Tempus, he had the luxury of doing it. But nowadays, he could only spare one hour each day because he was too busy traveling and doing stuff.

With him immersing himself fully in his meditation, he lost track of time. Yet, he could clearly sense everything in the room. From Jonathan and Harper playing the cards, till Sidney reading her tome. He could sense their small movements. He could even slightly make out some of the letters on the paper. The feeling was intoxicating. It was as if he was in a dreamworld except everything was super clear.

He continued to drown himself in the feeling until he felt something outside the room. Something dark and sinister. He reached out of the room. The shrouding spell made his sense limited, but when he concentrated, his sensing took him out of the room. He saw four figures approaching. One was Arlcard as Jack remembered his mana. The other three were a total black.

To have one's mana completely black, Jack had no idea what it meant. One of the three black ones was creeping with four legs. That should be the Deathless Draugr they had encountered yesterday. Since the draugr was linked with Aubelard, one of the other two should be Aubelard. But who was the other one?

While Jack was pondering as he sensed their mana, he felt his body shaking. With difficulty, he snapped his eyes open. Jonathan was the one who was shaking him. Peniel and Harper were staring at him with worried looks.

"You okay, lad?" Jonathan asked. "You are not responding even after we called you a few times. The show has started."

"I'm fine," Jack said as he turned and saw that Sidney and Ephiltres were already by the edge of the opening, looking outside. Jack didn't have to see to know what they were looking at. He already knew Aubelard and Arlcard were down there.

After making sure that Jack was fine, Jonathan and Harper went to peek as well.

"Hey, are you really fine?" Peniel asked, her face was still showing worry.

Jack grinned at her.. "I think my mana sense ability had improved."

Chapter 572: Plan B

Jack went over and peeked as well. As his mana sense had informed him, there were four beings down there. The Deathless Draugr went around the hall randomly, looking for intruders.

Arlcard was beside Count Dante slash Aubelard. The other one with black mana was the Count's butler. He was helping the Count with his preparation. All three men wore long white robes.

'That butler is linked to Aubelard?' Jack thought. Considering his mana, the butler was a similar creation to the draugr that was currently patrolling the hall.

They watched without making any sound as the people down there made their preparation. There was a stone altar in the middle of the hall down there. The butler disappeared into one of the caves around the hall while Arlcard and Aubelard set the altar up.

Not long after, the butler returned, carrying a small girl in his arm. The girl appeared to be sleeping.

Jack deduced that the little girl must be Charlene, the missing girl. Under normal circumstances, Jack would have been worried because the girl could either be unconscious or already dead. But at this time, when he concentrated, he could sense the slight movement of the girl. She was still breathing. But he also sensed strange mana enveloping the girl, he didn't think the girl's unconsciousness was due to any normal means.

The butler brought the girl onto the altar. The altar was wide enough for the little girl to lay on. During their preparation, Aubelard and Arlcard had placed on the altar a large cup, a ceremonial dagger, a small bottle, a red-colored crystal, and two thick tomes, one with white cover and the other was of a sinister black cover.

From their mana, Jack could tell that all the things they put on the altar were not normal, but the mana from those two tomes was exceptionally dense. Especially the white cover one. Whatever they were, they were very special.

'Those books...' Jack heard Peniel utter in his mind.

'You recognize them?' Jack asked.

'Yes, no wonder Aubelard has a way to heal himself. You should try to grab them if you have the chance.'

'I'm not here to steal things. We will deal with those books after we deal with Aubelard and save the girl.'

The butler stood away from the altar after he placed Charlene. Arlcard took the small bottle and sprinkled some sort of liquid all around the altar while Aubelard chanted something he read from the

black book. The liquid that Arlcard sprayed caused a reaction when it touched the ground. Numerous rune diagrams lighted up around the altar.

Aubelard finished chanting and placed the black tome onto the altar. He then picked up the ceremonial dagger and lifted it above the sleeping Charlene.

Jack tensed. Why was Arlcard not yet making any move? Jack couldn't afford to wait any longer. When Jack was about to jump out, Arlcard who had just put the small bottle back to the altar pulled out a short knife from inside his concealed sleeve.

Arlcard was very close to Aubelard at the time, so Aubelard had no time to react. Jack recognized the knife in Arlcard's hand to be the Vampire-slaying Knife that he showed earlier today. The knife plunged into the side of Aubelard's midsection.

Aubelard wheeled around in surprise, clutching the hilt of the knife which blade was now deep inside him. Arlcard had jumped away after his successful ambush.

"Now!" Sidney exclaimed.

Everyone jumped out of the opening, Sidney, Jack, Jonathan, Harker, and Ephlites. Ephlites was the last, he waited to make sure everyone had jumped out before he himself made the jump.

The platform they were at was not too high, so they could still land safely with their high-level physique. Everyone had their weapons already brandished. Ready to dish out as much damage as possible once they landed. Jack cast Magic Weapon while falling, his magic staff transformed into a falchion shape.

However, a strange thing occurred. Even before their feet touched the ground, they saw Aubelard's HP bar rapidly drained to zero. When they landed, the vampire had already fallen to the ground. His body was... melting?

"I thought that Vampire-slaying Knife can only incapacitate an archaic-rank vampire?" Harker asked.

"It should be," Peniel answered while she flew above the deforming corpse to study it. The knife had crumbled to dust, meaning it had indeed been used on a vampire.

Jack looked at Arlcard and found that the young vampire was also wearing a confused expression.

"Heh, hehehe..." They heard a chuckle and turned to the source. It was the butler.

"I have a feeling that something was off with you, but I still can't believe you are truly betraying me," the butler said. His voice however was different from the one Jack had heard when he first visited the Count's mansion. It was deeper, similar to the Count's voice.

"You...!" Arlcard had a realization.

"That count was someone I prepare as a cover after I ran from Sangrod. Other than the time I appeared before you in my real look, I have him act as if he is me. Turn out having everyone, including you, believe that the Count is me in disguise does prove to be useful," the butler said. His skinny and hunchbacked aspects transformed right before everyone's eyes into the same appearance as the Aubelard in the pictures carried by the three princes' representatives.

'Damn it! It's the butler again. Maybe next time when there is a case with a butler, I should just go for the butler right from the start,' Jack cursed within while using Inspect.

Aubelard Maxius (Special Elite Vampire, Archaic), level 60

HP: 310,000

Status: Weakened

'He was truly weakened to level 60 Special Elite,' Jack thought after seeing the data.

"You naughty child, you even bring Maxius' agents into our house. Your punishment will be severe," the real Aubelard uttered.

Arlcard removed his robe. Under the robe, he had been wearing silvery light armor. His hand now held a rapier. "Plan B!" He exclaimed.

"What's plan B?" Jack asked, confused. There was never a talk of plan B.

"Everyone, attack!" Arlcard exclaimed.

'F*ck! So it's down to good old-fashioned brawl after all,' Jack cursed.

He sensed something from the back at the same time as he saw a red dot closing in with speed from their back. He quickly swiveled to the back and erected Magic Shield, just as the Deathless Draugr made a jump attack.

The monster slammed onto Jack's shield, sending him reeling back, but his shield held.

"I will handle this draugr! You all deal with Aubelard!" Jack yelled.

Ephiltres gave Jack a disdainful glance as if saying, 'there is nothing you can do against Aubelard anyway.'

The draugr itself was still too strong for Jack to win against. But if it was only to keep it from interfering, Jack believe he could still manage. He fed ten mana cores into his Amulet and summoned a Rock Golem.

All Jack and the golem needed to do was to keep the draugr busy. He didn't even bother landing any attack on it. The monster would simply return to life again if killed, so he just defended and dodged.

On the other side, Aubelard removed his white robe as well. He didn't wear any combat armor, only an aristocratic coat. Yet, his calm demeanor made it seem as if the five combatants in front of him were just simple ants.

Sidney couldn't accept such an arrogant display. She was at the same level and grade as this weakened vampire, she did not believe that she was inferior. She aimed her long staff and cast a spell. Spell formation of five runes formed rapidly.

Uncountable colorful butterflies swarmed out of nowhere. They flew towards Aubelard and covered him. Sparks of energy erupted every time a butterfly touched the Count's body. Damage numbers appeared but were very small.

"Hahaha, your spell is cute. How about I show you a true swarm?" Aubelard uttered.

His body suddenly turned into a shadow. The shadow burst into countless black bats. The bats devoured all the butterflies then headed to the five.

"Spread out!" Arlcard exclaimed as spell formation appeared at the tip of his rapier. The younger vampire could cast a spell using his sword.

A net appeared as if black colored spiderweb spread out and caught all the black bats. It shrunk and forced all the bats into a bundle.

"Attack!" Arlcard yelled. He can't move, he needed to control the net to keep the bats inside.

Jonathan was the next to make a move. His halberd thrust and produced three earth spears that stabbed into the mass of bats held by Arlcard's net. Damage numbers appeared albeit small. Harker had followed Jonathan's lead and stabbed his pike into the net.

Ephiltes didn't slack off anymore after seeing everyone take action. He was wielding a longsword. His body turned into a light and zoomed past the trapped bats, scoring higher damage compared to Jonathan and Harker combined.

"Hahaha. It has been a long time since I have had a good fight!" They heard Aubelard's voice which echoed throughout the hall.

Sharp energies shot out from the mass of bats. Their sharpness shredded Arlcard's black net. The bats didn't come swarming out though. They had coalesced back into Aubelard, the skill had duration and it had ended.

Aubelard didn't appear to wield any weapon. He cast a spell barehanded. His two hands enlarged and deformed into dark scaly claws. Jack who was fighting against the draugr still had some of his attention on the main fight. He recognized Aubelard's spell. It was Demon Hand spell, the same one that was cast by Luther, the vampire he had killed in Travinste.. However, Aubelard's Demon Hands appeared bigger and darker than Luther's.

Chapter 573: The Might Of An Archaic Vampire

Seeing their opponent had now solidified, the three melee combatants sent their attacks. Jonathan swung his halberd fiercely. Each swing was accompanied by a torrent of earth pellets. Harker stayed behind his partner and sent stabs using his long pike whenever possible. Ephiltes thrust his longsword, a mesh met out of light appeared in front of his sword. Anything that came upon this light was cleanly cut.

Aubelard chuckled as he swung both his arms to two sides. His Demon Claw easily swatted Jonathan and Harker's attack. While his other claw grabbed Ephiltes' mesh of light. He clenched and the mesh of light broke apart as if it was a physical thing. Each movement of the demon claws generated a repulsive shockwave. The three melee fighters were pushed back by this wave.

When Aubelard was about to go on the offense, cold energy swept down at him. The energy solidified into a large block of an ice mountain. Aubelard was locked inside this frozen slab. The spell had been cast by Sidney.

Arlcard didn't let go of this chance. He rushed ahead and stabbed his rapier into the ice slab. A drilling force shot out from the tip of his rapier and drilled into the ice and stabbed Aubelard's motionless body.

Jonathan and Ephiltres weren't to be left behind. They stabbed their weapons into the ice as well. A single but larger earth spear pierced through the ice and stabbed Aubelard, while Ephiltres longsword turned into dazzling light and similarly penetrated Aubelard's body deep inside the ice block.

Only Harker couldn't join because he didn't have a skill strong enough to reach Aubelard inside the ice.

Sidney was readying another spell while her comrades were stabbing the trapped Aubelard. The ice didn't hold the old vampire for long, though. The ice block shook heavily as cracks spread rapidly all over the ice. It then shattered into pieces as Aubelard's laughter again filled the hall.

'The guy is still enjoying this?' Jack thought with alarm. That did not bode well, it meant the old vampire still had something up his sleeve.

Aubelard's eyes started to shine an eerie red glow.

"Don't look into his eyes!" Arlcard shouted.

But too late, Jonathan had been mesmerized by the stare. His body refused to move. Aubelard dashed at him. Dark fog swirled around his left claw which was heading at Jonathan.

"Oh no!" Peniel, who recognized the move, exclaimed in alarm.

Jonathan could feel extreme danger from the incoming attack. He struggled for his body to move, but it refused to budge. When the claw almost hit, Harker suddenly came and put himself in front of Jonathan.

The claw hit Harker's body. The dark fog seeped into the sergeant's body. A sound of glass breaking was heard from inside Harker. Jonathan saw in horror as his partner's HP zeroed in an instant.

"Tsk, this skill was wasted on the second weakest person," Aubelard uttered.

Arlcard and Ephiltres sneaked to Aubelard's back attempted a back attack, but Aubelard's one swing with his demon claw repelled the two's attack. The swing was accompanied by an explosive shockwave that pushed them back a great distance.

Jonathan roared as Harper's body fell in front of him. He finally managed to force his body to move again. Earth element wrapped around his halberd, turning it into a giant hammer. He smashed the hammer down at Aubelard's head. The heavy force caused Aubelard to stumble.

Jonathan did not let up. In his rage, he continued to smash his earth hammer against Aubelard's body repeatedly. Aubelard didn't let Jonathan do as he pleased. He clawed in return, causing chaos damage to Jonathan. Jonathan didn't care about his wounds, all he wanted was to destroy this fiend before him. He refused to retreat.

"You lesser vermin, begone!" Aubelard was getting fed up by Jonathan's reckless perseverance. A quick spell was cast and a veil of shadow enveloped Jonathan. The veil then forcefully pulled Jonathan away and up into the air.

"I will send you to the afterlife following your friend!" Aubelard exclaimed. Another spell was cast as a long black spear hovered before the vampire.

But at this time, Sidney who had been focusing herself on casting had finally completed her spell. It was a spell formation consisting of seven runes! This was her strongest spell, but she had not mastered it completely hence it took a long time to cast.

The area around her solidified into three frozen sculptures of giant wyrms. The wyrms came into life with roars as they abruptly shot at Aubelard. The three wyrms slammed into the vampire's body, each bit Aubelard's different body parts.

Aubelard was getting dragged by the wyrms in a circle around the hall before they lifted him high and then slammed him hard into the ground. Ice energy exploded upon the impact.

When the dust settled, they saw Aubelard's aristocratic coat was in tatters. Many ice javelins were protruding from his body. These javelins were embedded deep into Aubelard's body as a remnant of the ice wyrm spell. The expression on the vampire count was no longer at ease, but he was strangely, still half smiling.

Sidney started casting another spell. Aubelard's black spear was still hovering beside him, he had not yet unleashed that spell. Seeing the woman mage as the most dangerous, Aubelard's spear shot forward with a sonic boom.

Sidney, who saw the assault, didn't dare to be careless. She canceled her spell as a large magic shield came up before her for protection. The black spear shattered the shield as if there was nothing there and pierced Sidney's shoulder. The woman mage screamed in pain. The point of impact on her shoulder had tendrils of dark energy creep out and envelop her entire body.

"That was Spear of Corruption. She won't be able to cast any spell if she didn't expel that corrupting force," Peniel informed.

"Can you heal her? Go and aid them! I'm fine here," Jack uttered. He was actually having trouble just to keep from getting hit by the draugr, even with his rock golem's interference. But he knew that the fight with Aubelard would be the deciding factor. If they failed to take down that old vampire, he would also perish.

Peniel nodded her understanding and flew over to Sidney.

In the meantime, Arlcard and Ephiles had arrived at where Aubelard was. The two slashed their swords with extremely fast speed. Aubelard's body was still locked by the countless ice javelins, causing him difficulty in moving. He failed to block all the two swordsmen's assaults, damages continued to pile up. Aubelard had lost almost half of his HP.

Arlcard disengaged and readied a spell. Seeing his partner disengaged, Ephiles doubled his effort to keep the Count occupied. His sword danced as a web of light reappeared. This time the number of light rays were doubled from the previous. The light ray cut through Aubelard's body in succession.

Aubelard roared as his eyes glowed red again. Ephiles had seen the effect of the stare so he quickly looked away, but it caused his attack to pause. Aubelard made a stomp as he gathered his energy. The ice javelins around his body were finally destroyed. He could move freely again.

But when he wanted to attack Ephiltres, he found his body turned rigid. He looked down and saw a curtain of shadow was holding his body. It was Arlcard's spell. Arlcard must have predicted the ice javelins won't last any longer, so he prepared another restraining spell.

Ephiltres didn't let the chance go to waste. His sword slashed swiftly again. Jonathan had also come back. The shadow veil spell was only a restraining spell, it didn't cause any damage to Jonathan. Once the spell expired, he immediately went for offense again. He was determined to avenge Harker.

Sidney had also been cured after Peniel cast Fast Heal on her. The woman mage cast a quick spell and several ice spears shot out and stabbed at Aubelard.

When it appeared that they were in advantage and Aubelard was losing, the Count gave them a wide grin. The two fangs on him made his grin appear extremely sinister.

"Well, playtime is over," he uttered.

Jack, who was still fighting the draugr wasn't aware of the development. The fight with Aubelard had moved to rather far away from him. He was still focusing on using his Eight Diagram Illusory Steps to expertly dodge all the draugr's attacks while his Rock Golem forcefully interrupted the draugr from time to time. His golem's HP currently had only around 30% left. Jack was not sure how much longer he could keep this up.

Suddenly, the draugr stopped moving. Jack was puzzled. He didn't approach the draugr though. He was worried this was just a ruse to draw him close. While he waited in alert, the draugr fell to the ground and started melting. Just like how the fake Aubelard melted.

Jack was astounded. He sensed the entire mana contained within the draugr moved to where the others were fighting. He looked over and sensed the draugr mana merged with Aubelard. The count's aura suddenly rose exponentially.

Jack used Inspect on Aubelard and was dismayed to find his grade had risen to Rare Elite.

Chapter 574: Perpetual Swords Of Death

Although Aubelard's grade had returned to his non-weakened state, his HP and level did not. The health he had lost also remain. His HP was slightly below half at the moment. Yet, the expression on this archaic vampire didn't show any concern. He was still grinning widely.

When his grade returned to Rare Elite, Aubelard emitted a violent shockwave that pushed everyone back. He then floated off the ground.

"Perish before my Perpetual Swords of Death!" Aubelard exclaimed. His figure in the air was like an aloof God disdainfully watching over the lower beings. Seven-runes spell formation was formed swiftly.

Sidney cast her ice spears spell again. The ice spears flew towards the floating Aubelard, but the vampire made no attempt to evade.

A black hole suddenly appeared before him. A sudden burst of sharp energy shot out and cut all the spears before it reached Aubelard.

After that, several of these black holes appeared nearby Aubelard. Everyone looked at the black holes in alarm. Before they could react, each hole shot out the same black sword energy. The sword energies traveled so fast that most of them failed to dodge. They received darkness damage from the sword energies.

Only Ephiltres managed to dodge the sword energy. However, another black hole appeared behind him. He couldn't avoid this time. the black sword energy hit his back and sent him reeling.

The assault didn't stop. Black holes continued to appear and shot out sword energies. Arlcard and the others tried to block and evade as best as they could. But the attacks were unending. They could barely defend themselves, much less go back for the offense. Aubelard's laughter echoed throughout the hall as he watched his opponents struggle for their lives.

Jack was situated further away so none of the black holes appeared near him. But seeing the situation now, he couldn't be happy about him being spared. Once the others were taken out. He would be next.

Jack turned to where Charlene was still lying on the altar. The rune diagram around the altar also served as protection that had kept her from harm from any stray energies. Jack thought about taking her and fled. There was nothing he could do here anyway. But what prevented Aubelard from coming to the surface and taking Charlene away again? Hell, once he no longer think he needed to stay in this town, he might be slaughtering the entire town just to cover his tracks.

No. Defeating Aubelard here was the only chance for this town to survive. Jack decided not to flee. But what could he do? Even the most powerful amongst them, the female mage, Sidney, was struggling to stay alive amongst the sword energies onslaught, she could only use her spells for defense under the circumstances. Ephiltres was the fastest, but even he couldn't continue dodging. Jonathan's HP was down to less than half already, Jack didn't think he can last long.

Arlcard was the only one who received the least damage from the black sword energies. Probably because he had an inherent resistance against the darkness element. But this vampire was too lacking compared to his father. He might possess a promising blood lineage to become a great vampire one day, but it was still too soon for him to go against Aubelard.

Following the thought, Jack remembered something. A strong blood lineage? He fished something out of his bag. It was the Ancient Blood Awakening Potion that could draw the hidden potential of a native vampire.

Jack looked over to Arlcard. He had to get this potion over to the man. He ran forward.

Peniel had been with the group fighting Aubelard. When he saw the native's HP getting lowered to a dangerous level, especially Jonathan, she cast Group Fast Heal, bringing everyone's HP up again.

Aubelard noticed this. He scoffed. "A futile effort, you only delay the inevitable. Still, you need to be punished for that."

A black hole appeared near Peniel. Although she could fly and was fast, the sword energy was faster. It cut through her with deadly precision. Although she didn't have as much defensive stat as Jack, her inherent skill reduced all damage she received by 50%. Her HP dropped to critical but she survived.

A second black sword followed, but Peniel received invulnerability when her HP fell below 30%, allowing her to survive the second sword as well. She quickly retreated into her hidden dimension before her invulnerability ended and the third sword arrived.

'That prick is targeting me, I can't stay in the open!' Peniel said to Jack telepathically.

'It's ok,' Jack replied.

'Hey, why are you approaching? Do you have a death wish?' Peniel asked when he noticed Jack's movement.

'I have a plan,' Jack said.

He was now already within Aubelard's spell's area of effect. A black hole promptly appeared to greet him, but Jack's improved mana sense had sensed it before it appeared. He was even aware of where it was pointing at, thus its trajectory. His footwork honed by the Eight Diagram Illusory State swiftly took him out of harm's way.

Aubelard did not care about a weak outworlder. His spell automatically target any hostiles that came into range. But after Jack dodged the sword energies a few times, Aubelard couldn't help but turn in the outworlder's direction.

He observed as this outworlder dodged one sword energy after another, and frowned. How did this weak outworlder do it? Despite being a powerful native, mana sensing was still a rare ability only a few possessed. That's why Peniel had been so shocked when Domon exhibited the ability.

But even so, what could he do? He was still a dancing ant who couldn't do anything to him. Aubelard removed his attention away. Content to just watch how long these people could endure his skill. With that healing fairy out of the picture, sooner or later they would succumb.

When Jack was close enough to Arlcard, he called out, "Arlcard!"

The young vampire looked back. Slightly annoyed since he was also concentrating on defending against the sword energies.

Jack tossed the Ancient Blood Awakening Potion at him. Arlcard caught the potion reflexively.

"Drink it!" Jack uttered.

Arlcard was not sure what this outworlder was giving him, but the aura from this potion was incredible. He even felt that his vampiric instinct urged him to hurry up drinking the liquid inside this bottle.

Aubelard who had ignored Jack, turned his attention back after Jack tossed the potion. He was wondering what the outworlder was up to. His attention then fell on the bottle in Arlcard's hand. His eyes opened wide in shock. Unlike Arlcard, Aubelard had lived amongst the elites in the Sangrod Empire, so he recognized the potion.

Arlcard had opened the bottle and was about to drink it.

"Don't even think about it!" Aubelard exclaimed. Since the start of the fight, this was the first time he adopted a serious expression. He made a gripping motion, all the black holes that were still harassing everyone vanished. Following the disappearances, a large black hole appeared in front of Arlcard.

Jack could sense the mana accumulating from that black hole, it sent his hair raising. Although Arlcard didn't have mana sense ability, the vampire could also feel the danger this large black hole exuded. Aubelard had executed the finishing move of his Perpetual Swords of Death, which combined all the darkness energy to unleash a final killing move. If hit, this attack could kill almost anyone, similar to the Soul Annihilator skill he had used before on Harper.

Jack made a split decision and said to Peniel, "Peniel, come out! Give me Invulnerability."

Peniel didn't hesitate, she came out of her hidden dimension and cast her spell.

Arlcard knew that he could not evade Aubelard's attack, so he decided to just proceed and drink the potion. If it was enough to make Aubelard take action, that's mean this potion was not simple. He just hoped he could survive Aubelard's attack.

When the black hole exploded though, he knew such thought was wishful thinking. He never felt such overwhelming darkness energy before. Then another thing took him by surprise. The weak outworlder suddenly put his body in front of him, shielding him.

Arlcard sighed inwardly. This outworlder was too weak, his body would simply be destroyed by the dark energy in an instant and that energy would still hit him.

However, a second had past and the outworlder still stood in front of him. The raging dark energy slammed onto him but he didn't budge.

Arlcard finally emptied the bottle just as the darkness energy dissipated. The outworlder was still standing in front of him.

Jack, who had put himself in harm's way, had his heart beating like crazy throughout the bombardment. He felt as if the force from that tremendous sword energy was enough to cut him to pieces hundreds of times over, but when his surroundings calmed down, he found himself was still standing there.

"This invulnerability rocks!" He exclaimed.

He heard a crashing sound from behind. He looked back and saw broken bottle pieces on the ground.. Arlcard was clutching his chest.

Chapter 575: Exploiting The Opportunity

'Does it not work?' Jack thought worriedly.

Arlcard suddenly made a loud howl. His howl was piercing and deafening. Jack had to move away from him while clutching his ears.

"Ungrateful whelp! I will unmake you!" Aubelard exclaimed as he shot at Arlcard. His Demon Hand's duration had ended. His hands had reverted to their original sizes. But his current hands didn't look less intimidating. His fingers elongated to a sharp claw and were currently about to crush Arlcard's head.

Before it hit though, Arlcard's hand suddenly moved and caught Aubelard's arm. Aubelard tried to pull his arm away but failed. Arlcard had stopped howling and was now staring at Aubelard with very different eyes. His eyes were completely black. The skin on his face also appeared slightly rough.

"He didn't change into a giant bat-face, that should be a good sign, right?" Jack mumbled.

"It is, try inspecting him," Peniel said.

Jack did and was stunned to find that Arlcard had shot up to a level 70 Rare Elite. He was even ten levels higher than Aubelard.

"Today you will pay for your sins!!" Arlcard declared.

His right hand was still holding his rapier. It turned to a blur as it stabbed at Aubelard. Each stab was accompanied by a trail of dark rays.

Aubelard did his best to block using his one free hand. But since he was unarmed, he still received damage even when he successfully blocked. A spell formation appeared on the hand which was still being held by Arlcard. A shadow veil appeared upon the spell completion, the same that had incapacitated Jonathan.

The cloak enveloped and gripped Arlcard's rapier hand tightly. It failed to drag Arlcard away, but it still managed to inhibit Arlcard's stabbing motion.

Aubelard cast another spell, the Spear of Corruption came out again and pierced into Arlcard which was still held by the shadowy veil. Aubelard finally managed to tear his hand away from Arlcard's grip. Aubelard decided to equip a weapon after that, a set of claws made of black metal.

"Is that all you got?" Arlcard uttered. His body then exploded into shadows. The shadows turned into multiple images as each stabbed at Aubelard. Aubelard did his best to block the attacks using his claw weapons.

Jack pulled away once Aubelard and Arlcard clashed. He was not going to risk getting himself hit by a stray attack. Jonathan was resting as he drank a healing potion.

Sidney cast a spell to support Arlcard. Her ice spears shot at Aubelard. The old vampire was already losing to Arlcard, Sidney's intervention tipped the scale further on Arlcard's side. Aubelard's HP kept on decreasing.

Seeing that, Jack gathered his courage and joined in the range attacks. He shot standard ranged attacks, Mana Bullet, and Energy Bolts at Aubelard. The damage he caused was very pitiful though. He felt ashamed, but since he had started, might as well continue.

Aubelard's expression was completely different from before. He was scowling. His HP was less than one-fourth now. "Whelp! Don't think you can win just because you become higher level than me!" Aubelard exclaimed.

A strong sword aura burst out of his body, it forcefully pushed Arlcard back. When Arlcard countered with a strong stab, Aubelard's body split into innumerable bats. The bats flew haphazardly around.

Arlcard cast his dark net spell to capture the bats again, but this time the bats were spread out in a large area, he only managed to capture a small portion. The bats went around and bit on everyone. Each bite not only caused damage but also healed Aubelard's HP.

Jack cast Barrier and kept on moving back, away from the mass of bats. The bats bit on his barrier, but their damage was small so his barrier could still endure. He continued moving away until the bats decided to leave him.

Jonathan stood his ground as his halberd twirled and destroyed the bats that came at him, but the sheer number of the bats was too much. Many grabbed onto his body and started biting. Ephilt's light-speed swordsmanship fared better than Jonathan's, many bats were split in two before they could touch his body, but he was also being forced to continuously retreat. He retreated to where Sidney was.

Sidney cast a spell. Cold wind churned around her. All the bats that came near her were swept by the icy wind and were slowly frozen.

After a while, the bats finally coalesced again at where Sidney was. Aubelard decided he should take care of this troublesome mage first before focusing on Arlcard.

Sidney was not flustered, she aimed her staff. Spell formation started to form, but before it was completed, she felt a strong push from behind. Her concentration was broken. She was shoved in Aubelard's direction.

Aubelard did not let go of this chance. He immediately seized Sidney's body and sunk his teeth onto her neck. Sucking her life. His low HP started going up again.

Sidney was unable to move. Aubelard's bite had a sedative effect on her. Her eyes though were staring unbelievably at the person who had pushed her. It was Ephilt.

"You snake!" Jonathan scolded. He had always known Ephilt couldn't be trusted, but he didn't imagine that the guy would do this during their life and death struggle.

Ephilt didn't feel any guilt. In his opinion, he was simply thinking ahead. Arlcard had proven to be able to handle Aubelard, victory should be certain. But for him, there was still the problem of competing with Sidney to get the proof of Aubelard's demise to be given to Horatio. He was not worried about the weak outworlder. But Sidney, on the other hand, was stronger than him. He knew under a fair fight, he would not win. Hence, he exploited the opportunity when Aubelard was targeting Sidney.

Jonathan attacked Ephilt in rage but was easily repelled by Ephilt.

"Jonathan, focus on Aubelard first! We will deal with him later," Jack ordered.

Ephilt scoffed at Jack's words, but he agreed about dealing with Aubelard first.

Arlcard attempted to attack Aubelard who was feeding on Sidney, but Aubelard cast a spell and his body flew up, carrying Sidney with him. Arlcard couldn't fly so he could only attack from range. He thrust his rapier as multiple sharp energies shot out. Aubelard turned his body so Sidney was facing the attackers. Arlcard's attack hit Sidney instead.

Arlcard became reserved due to that. Ephilt was not so, he swung his swords sending sword light after sword light which landed on Sidney's body. He couldn't care less, both were his targets.

While Aubelard was facing the duo, he didn't pay attention to his back. Those duos were the two remaining most dangerous opponents, after all. Hence, he didn't see a bottle flying at him from his back. The bottle hit his body and broke apart, spilling liquid all over him. Fume appeared where it touched his body and a hissing sound was heard.

The pain caused him to stop his feeding on Sidney. His HP that was regenerating now stopped, he also received another Weakened status. Aubelard looked back in rage. His eyes landed on Jack, who had just thrown a bottle of holy water at him.

"You again!" Aubelard roared. "I should have roasted you first!"

He cast the Demon Hand spell which had gone off cooldown. He clawed his two hands onto Sidney's body. Since he couldn't heal by sucking blood anymore, the woman no longer served a purpose. Sidney's HP was already low, Aubelard pulled his two claws and the poor woman's body was violently torn apart.

Aubelard then came down at Jack. His attack created a reversed shockwave that prevented Jack from moving away. But Jonathan came in front of him. His halberd had again transformed into a giant hammer. The giant hammer smashed Aubelard's demon claw. An explosion erupted and both Jack and Jonathan were thrown away.

Ephiltes struck Aubelard's back. Since the vampire had returned to the ground, he had more leeway in attacking. Several thin sword lights stabbed into different parts of Aubelard's body. Aubelard endured the wound and forcefully turned around and swiped his claws, shattering all the sword lights and hitting Ephiltes.

The Knight Captain was wounded but didn't retreat. His body turned into light as he zipped around Aubelard, slashing the vampire every time he went past. Aubelard cast a spell and the Shadow Veil caught Ephiltes mid-flight, stopping him. Aubelard then slammed him into the ground.

As Aubelard lifted his claw to deal a high-damage hit, he realized Arlcard had not been attacking. He looked over and saw his vampire son was being enveloped by numerous runes all around his body.

"That's... a rune technique," Peniel uttered.

"What's that?" Jack asked.

"It sort of like the equivalent of a Mega Spell for the physical class. It took time to gather the energy before the technique can be unleashed," Peniel replied.

Arlcard seemed to have finished accumulating the energy.. He glared at Aubelard with a grin.

Chapter 576: Reversal Back Assault

"How do you know a rune technique?" Aubelard asked.

"The memory of my blood lineage," Arlcard answered. "The lineage which you admired enough to turn me into your kind. Now you will reap what you had sown!"

The runes around Arlcard sipped into his body as he turned into a black shadow. The shadow turned into a giant sword and zoomed towards Aubelard. Aubelard dodged to the side, but the shadow followed. It stabbed into Aubelard and disappeared inside him.

Aubelard was motionless briefly before numerous sharp shadows stabbed out of his body. He screamed in pain as one sharp shadow erupted after another. These sharp shadows made a turn in the air and stabbed right back into his body, the cycle repeated endless time. His HP which had been largely recovered went back down again rapidly.

Jack watched the scene in fascination. That skill was terrifying. Aubelard was helpless while his inside was being ravaged.

When the skill ended, Aubelard's life was already around 10%. The shadow that had ravaged him came out and solidified behind Aubelard. The shadow turned into Arlcard who bit into Aubelard's neck from behind. Aubelard was not affected by the bite sedative effect. Yet, he couldn't get Arlcard off his back. Arlcard sucked the older vampire's blood without ceremony, reducing Aubelard's HP even further.

While Arlcard was sucking, several threads of reddish energy were seen coming out of Aubelard and entering Arlcard.

Everyone was fascinated by what they saw that no one sent any attack to Aubelard to finish him. The threads of red energy were getting thicker. Suddenly Arlcard released Aubelard and made another howl. The red energy swirled around his head. He fell to the ground while clutching his head.

"What happens to him?" Jack asked Peniel.

"He shouldn't have sucked a much older vampire's blood so recklessly. The blood is too potent. His body should be struggling to adjust against that excessive power."

Aubelard looked back at Arlcard who was defenseless on the ground. This was the perfect time for him to deal with his traitorous son. He readied his demon claw to strike, but a fleeting shadow went past him and Arlcard was gone.

Aubelard looked over and saw Jack holding Arlcard by Jonathan's side. Jack had used Shooting Dash to pull Arlcard away.

Aubelard felt a stab at his back. Before he could react, a torrent of light pierced in all directions from the point of impact, causing large damage. Aubelard whirled and saw Ephlites behind him.

"All you abhorred vermins, I will destroy you all!" His two hands caused multiple shadows as they clawed at Ephlites.

Ephlites didn't back away. Victory was too close. He only needed to deal a few more hits on this vampire who had one foot in the grave. His sword created innumerable sword-light that clashed with Aubelard's claws. Ephlites were getting pushed and suffered more damage, but Aubelard was having his health chipped as well.

While the two were clashing. They suddenly felt pressure from one side. They turned and saw what's heading to them were twenty balls of raw lightning energy.

Ephiltes reacted faster as he saw Jack's Lightning God Barrage first, his body turned into light and sped away. Aubelard was slower as his back was facing Jack, when he looked back and realized the danger, the balls were already close. Additionally, several crimson chains came out from underneath and hindered him from moving.

He broke the chains in an instant, but that one instant was enough for the twenty balls to arrive upon him. The twenty balls detonated with devastating force.

Jack had activated his Storm Breaker's Overlimit as well as other buff skills to maximize his damage. Aubelard's HP was only a little bit above 20,000 at the time. Even if Aubelard had very high defense and resistance, he shouldn't be able to survive this full-powered divine skill. Not to mention the vampire was still in a weakened condition.

Jack had summoned his Runestone of Luck when the Lightning God Barrage hit. He was hoping at first that Ephiltres would get hit as well. That Knight Captain's HP was also low already, but unfortunately, the guy was not that careless despite having an intense battle with Aubelard.

When the dust settle, Aubelard was still standing there.

'It fails...?!' Jack exclaimed inside. He was ready to bolt again.

But Aubelard was not moving. His facial expression was blank. He then slowly fell to the ground.

"Oh, right. He is a native," Jack muttered. For a minute there he thought that Aubelard's body disintegrated upon death like monsters.

Jack checked again the vampire's HP to make sure. It was zero. He exhaled a relief breath.

"Kill-steal success!" He exclaimed. When he was about to head over to check what Aubelard had dropped, he suddenly felt an incoming danger from behind.

"Look out!" Jack heard Jonathan's warning shout.

Jack didn't even manage to turn around when a penetrating light pierced out from his chest. After the light dissipated, he saw a blade protruding out from his chest. He recognized the blade. It was the blade of Ephiltres' sword.

That one stab had taken away almost half of his 3740 HP. But then a series of sword-light radiated from the sword, causing damage after damage. Jack recognized this skill as one Ephiltres had used on Aubelard as well.

Jack was helpless as his HP fell to zero.

Ephiltres pulled his sword out and let Jack's body fell.

"You fiend!" Jonathan exclaimed with rage. His halberd headed to Ephiltres' back, but Ephiltres turned and easily fended off the attack.

Ephiltres laughed. "Even if I am low on health already, I can still easily defeat you," he said to Jonathan. He then glanced at Arlcard, the vampire was still struggling with the red energy. He wondered if he

should use this chance to eliminate this vampire as well. This place seemed to have many treasures. He would be able to loot this place more freely if everyone here perished.

Jonathan activated his earth hammer. He was about to head over when he paused.

Ephiltes saw that pause and thought that it was because his opponent realized that he would surely lose. Perhaps his opponent was thinking of running away now. But when Ephiltes saw where his opponent was staring, he was confused. Because Jonathan seemed to be staring behind him.

Right at the moment, he felt an infinite amount of slashes hitting his body. The damages he felt were piercing. It was raw energy that felt chaotic.

His HP dropped a significant amount as he staggered forward. He stumbled as he reeled around and saw Jack standing there.

"How...?!"

He didn't manage to ask a second time because he felt a strong force smashing his head. He was slammed to the ground. Still dizzy from the severe impact, he looked up and saw Jonathan lifting his earth hammer up high.

He heard Jonathan say, "This is the end of your pathetic treacherous life!"

The earth hammer then came down to his head again.

SPLAT

Jack jumped from the scene. Ephiltes' head had been crushed flat by Jonathan's merciless hammer. His brain matter scattered around the floor. Jack knew Ephiltes' HP was low already, he just didn't expect there would be such a fatality from the killing blow. But then he remembered then such a thing also happened to Sidney and several of the monsters he had defeated in the past.

"How did you survive?" Jonathan asked. He came over and studied Jack, making sure he was truly still alive.

Jack appreciated the concern. Jack pointed to Peniel. "She had a spell that called Second Life. I have her cast just before I used the move to kill Aubelard. The skill allowed me to come back to life within three minutes after the spell was cast."

"Cast it before? Did you mean that you have expected Ephiltes to turn on you once the battle is over?" Jonathan asked.

"Of course," Jack replied. "The dude turned on Sidney even when the battle is still ongoing. What do you think he will do to his last remaining competitor once the battle is over?"

Jack knew if he fought squarely against Ephiltes, he would have no chance of winning. He was hoping to ambush Ephiltes when the knight captain thought he had won. Jonathan had been helpful as he caused Ephiltes to turn his back to Jack, allowing Jack to return the back assault Ephiltes had given him.

Storm Breaker's Overlimit state was still active, so Jack unleashed his forty-eight burst slashes. The combo multiplier further improved the Chaos damage by Storm Breaker, dealing massive damage

despite his opponent's much higher level. Luckily Ephiltres' HP was also already low after the fight with Aubelard, hence Jonathan only needed another two good strikes to finish the treacherous knight-captain.

The two looked around. Five had waited together in the room above, only two survived. Jonathan walked over to Harker's body. Jack felt sorry for the soldier.

Jack then looked at Arlcard. The vampire had recovered. There was no longer any red energy affecting him.. The vampire was currently looking at Jack with a strange stare.

Chapter 577: The Two Tomes

Jack suddenly worried that the danger might not have passed. There was very little they know about this young vampire Count. They had heard his side of the story, but how much of them were true? He could probably be planning to end everyone here to cover his secret as a member of the Vampire race.

Jack gripped his Storm Breaker. One thing reassuring was his sword was still in the Overlimit state. The four minutes duration was quite long.

Jack also used Inspect on Arlcard.

Arlcard Maxius (Rare Elite Vampire, Mature), level 45

HP: 410,000

The Ancient Blood Awakening Potion's effect had ended, Arlcard's level had gone down, but why was it higher than before he took the potion? Not to mention his rare elite grade remained.

'That should be the effect of him sucking Aubelard's blood,' Jack heard Peniel's voice in his mind.

Arlcard stood up. Jack instinctively took a step back. The vampire noticed Jack's cautious act. He didn't make any response. He walked towards the altar.

Jack realized Charlene was still sleeping on the stone altar. He hurriedly ran over there before Arlcard. He used one hand to gently pick Charlene up while his other hand was still having Storm Breaker at the ready.

"How is she still sleeping throughout the noise of our battle? Was she drugged or under a spell?" Jack asked Peniel.

"She was under a spell," it was Arlcard who answered. "Lie her back down. I will remove the spell that lulls her."

Jack didn't immediately put her down.

"Don't worry. I won't cause her harm," Arlcard said.

"Really? How many times have you tasted human blood?" Jack asked.

"Never," Arlcard replied.

Jack was taken aback by the answer. He said, "Dude, if you say you have only tasted human blood once a year or only a few times since you turn, it is more believable. Do you truly expect me to believe you have never tasted one for almost a century as a vampire?"

"Believe what you want, I care not," Arlcard replied.

"How do you survive without human blood?" Jack asked again.

"Animal blood," Arlcard replied.

Jack still found it hard to believe, but his instinct somehow tell him that the vampire was telling the truth. Perhaps that was also the reason why Arlcard's mana was not as black as Aubelard and his other creations. If this was true, Jack had found a new respect for this vampire.

Jack laid Charlene back onto the altar. Arlcard cast a spell with four runes spell formation. Jack sensed the strange mana affecting Charlene dispersed after Arlcard's spell.

"That is Dispel," Peniel explained. "Very useful spell. You should be able to get this spell from Order of Magi."

Charlene slowly opened her eyes. She blinked a few times before looking around in confusion.

"Who are you, misters? Where am I?" She asked with an innocent expression.

Jack thought the girl was going to cry. Probably Aubelard had placed her under enchantment the whole time, making it easier for the girl to be managed.

Since the girl was oblivious of her situation, Jack didn't want to give her a scare. "You are lost, little girl. But no need to worry. Big brother here will take you back to your parents. Come," Jack said with the friendliest possible manner.

The girl seemed to have a long thought before replying, "My mom told me to not follow strangers. Although uncle looked nice, I'm afraid I can't go with you."

"Uncle, hahaha...", Peniel laughed at Charlene's comment. Jack was irritated by it. 'I am so young, how can you call me uncle?'

"A fairy!" Charlene beamed when she noticed Peniel. "Sister fairy, can I play with you?"

"Hey, I'm not a toy!" Peniel replied.

"Haha, look! It's a fairy toy!" Jack returned the laugh, which earned Peniel's deadly stare.

"Sister, are you angry? I didn't mean to make you mad. I'm sorry," Charlene said to Peniel.

Peniel, hearing the girl, turned gentle and said to her, "That's okay. I'm not angry. How about this? I will play with you once you are back at your house. This uncle might seem scary but he is a good man. You can trust him."

"And I am not a stranger," Jack joined in. "See, I know your name. You are Charlene, aren't you? Your father and mother asked me to look for you. So you can trust me."

"That's true," Peniel said. "We will bring you back to your father and mother. You want to see them again, right?"

Charlene nodded. "Okay. I trust you, sister fairy," she said sweetly.

Jack was morose. 'What about me?' He thought.

Charlene continued to chat with Peniel. Jack sent her a thought telling her to watch over the girl first. He had a few more things to discuss with Arlcard before leaving. But first, he went to where Aubelard and Ephiltres had fallen. They had dropped a few loots. Sidney and Harper didn't drop any because they were killed by Aubelard and Jack didn't attack them at all.

Aside from coins and mana cores, loots from Aubelard consisted of one super rare armor, one super-rare material, one unique-grade seed, and an insignia. The super-rare material was a Magic Crystal, one of the materials he needed to upgrade his Lightning God Blessing and Orb of disguise. Drops from Ephiltres was a super rare sword.

Jack pocketed the coins, mana cores, super rare equipment, and the magic crystal. He took a better look at the seed, sword, and insignia.

Vampiric Seed (Super rare consumable)

Evolve a skill

Blood Count Insignia (Unique Insignia, for guild purpose only)

Allow the training of Blood Count

Spatha of Light, level 36/66 (super rare one-handed sword)

Physical damage 250

Attack speed 2

Durability: 70

Dexterity +12

Attack speed increased by 50% for 5 seconds every 20 seconds interval

Each swing created a trace of light that lingers for 1 second. Anyone who came into contact with the light receives 70% light damage.

The previous two seeds he received were only rare grades, which meant this was a better one. He would need to ponder deeply about what skill to use this seed on. The insignia sounded like a strong unit, probably a vampire-type unit? As for the sword, this is better than his Whirlwind Falchion. He would imprint it for his magic weapon once he had access to the magic furnace.

Jack returned to the altar after storing the loots. Arlcard tidied up the altar after Charlene woke up. He had taken away the sacrificial dagger, cup, bottle, and the red-colored crystal. But the two most valuable items, the black and white tomes, were still on the altar. Arlcard made no attempt to take them away. He simply stood there beside them.

"You are not taking those away?" Jack asked him.

"You are a weird outworlder. I heard your kind will do anything for treasures. Even turning on their trusted ones if needed. I would have expected you to try getting your hands on these two tomes even if it means risking your life."

Jack had sensed the abnormal mana from the tomes. Arlcard's words caused him to become even more curious. He used inspect on the two tomes.

Book of the Damned (Legendary Artifact)

Required soul link to use

Restriction class: Warlock

Book of Creation (Divine Treasure)

Required soul link to use

Jack was stunned after reading the two tomes' data. He just stared at them unblinking.

"Want to make your move now?" Arlcard asked.

Jack only blinked after the question. He laughed at the question, thought for a bit, before asking, "Do you truly never drink human blood?"

"I'm not going to answer the same question twice," Arlcard replied.

"What about the other children that were kidnapped? I know you said they didn't survive. But are their remains still here? I want to bring them back to their parents. At least it will bring them closure."

Arlcard made a gesture with his head telling Jack to follow him. He then walked to one of the cave openings by the side, leaving the two tomes just like that. Jack glanced at the tomes briefly before following him. Jonathan came along as well. Jack wondered if this old soldier knew what those two tomes were.

When they arrived at the openings, Jack saw that there was a door further in. Arlcard opened the door and led Jack and Jonathan in. Inside, the two were shocked to find the room filled with numerous bodies of children.

"I asked my vampire father to allow me to dispose of the bodies after... he was done with them," Arlcard said. "I placed a spell on them to preserve their condition. I meant to return them to the town once I successfully dealt with that vampire father of mine. I am powerless to stop him, this is the least I can do."

Jack and Jonathan were speechless at the sight. The children here were so small, so full of the promise of life, and yet their journey had been so cruelly stolen from them. Jack gritted his teeth. He somehow wished Aubelard can return to life so he could kill him again.

"I will take care of them," Jonathan said.

Jack turned to him. He continued before Jack uttered anything, "I was being given the responsibility to guard this town. Although it is not my will, it is still my responsibility. I am ashamed for not having put in more effort all this time... I will bring each of them back to their parents. You take that live one back. You are a hero who has ended the tragedy of this town, so you deserve this town's gratitude. I will be the one that bears their sorrow, as it is my failure."

"As with me," Arlcard said. "We will do that together."

Jack closed his eyes. When he opened it, he said to them, "I'm proud to make friends with the two of you."

Jonathan clasped Jack's shoulder for a reply. Arlcard simply glanced at him. Jack was expecting the vampire to say, 'since when am I your friend?' But Arlcard was silent.

He gestured for Jack to follow him again, back to the altar where the two tomes were.

"Take those two," the vampire said to Jack, which left Jack stunned again.

Chapter 578: Express Level-up

"Are you sure?" Jack asked. "I don't believe if you said you have no desire for those tomes."

"If I don't have enough power, these will just bring misfortunes," Arlcard replied. "Do you know the reason why the Maxius family was so keen on chasing after my vampire father after even a century had passed?"

"Because of these tomes?"

"The black one, to be exact. My vampire father stole it from the Maxius patriarch. They never explained what sin he had committed, did they?"

"No," Jack shook his head.

Arlcard touched his fingers on the Book of the Damned, "The ceremony my vampire father used to heal his wound came from this book. The ceremony required innocent blood, which was why the children were targeted. However, there was another crucial ingredient that my father lack to carry out the ceremony often, a blood-infused crystal."

Arlcard took out the red-colored crystal that was on the altar before, indicating that this was the blood-infused crystal he was talking about. "Each ceremony will consume one of these stones. The method to create this crystal is also recorded in this tome, but he needs one magic crystal to create one blood-infused crystal, and magic crystal is not something that comes easy."

Jack knew the rarity. After all this time, he had only got himself on one, not including the ones given freely by Wilted Tree.

"That all changes when this divine tome arrives into this town," Arlcard pointed to the Book of Creation.

Arlcard had mentioned a fool who came to this town two months ago, bringing something that ended up in Aubelard's hands, which sped up his healing process. So Arlcard was talking about this Book of

Creation. Jack also remembered Wilted Tree's story about an outworlder who found this book but had carelessly allowed a native to steal it before the outworlder linked with the book. So this was where the Divine Treasure ended up.

"I have seen how treasures caused suffering to the people around them," Arlcard continued. "Unless I am powerful enough, I do not wish to get entangled with the mess. Take them away. I know you outworlders craved treasures more than anything else."

Jack picked up the Book of the Damned. He observed it for a while then said, "I will bring this back to the Maxius."

"Why? That tome will surely be a valuable asset for you outworlders," Arlcard said. "You just need proof of my vampire father's location to complete your quest, right? You can bring back a lock of his hair or the ornamental crest he always carries with him. You will find it if you search his body. You can even bring back his whole body for that matter. Why do you want to throw away such a valuable treasure?"

"If I do that, the Maxius family will never stop searching for this tome. Which meant they will come to this town to search for it. They will find out about you and they will hunt you down. Giving them this tome meant peace for you and this town."

Arlcard's eyes flashed a surprised glint, which turned to gratitude. He was silent as he stared at this outworlder. He did think about such a possibility. In fact, after finishing returning the deceased children to their families, he planned to leave this town for good and find asylum somewhere else. He never thought this outworlder would be willing to let go of a treasure for something that brought himself no benefit.

Jack stored the Book of the Damned. He then picked up the Book of Creation. "Are you really sure about this?" Jack asked again.

Arlcard didn't reply. He instead pointed to one of the openings on the wall. "That way will lead you to the secret exit at the graveyard, which you entered partway before encountering the draugr. You can go back to town via there."

Jack nodded and asked, "By the way, what are you going to say to the villagers when you bring back the deceased children?"

"The truth," Arlcard replied.

"If you don't mind, I advise against that," Jack said.

Arlcard gave Jack a questioning look.

"While it might be noble to let everyone know the truth. It serves no purpose. Even if you tell them that you helped in taking Aubelard down, they will still hold you responsible for being related to Aubelard. People in grief and rage hardly listen to reason. I propose you tell them that these were all done by a beast or an outsider vampire. You can show the townsfolk Aubelard's body, they don't recognize him anyway, just don't tell them he is Count Dante, your father. Inform them instead that Count Dante fell in the effort of taking down this vampire. It's a good thing Charlene is unconscious the whole time, so the only one who knows the truth is only me, you, and Jonathan."

Arlcard made a frown hearing that, "I find it a bit much to let this vile devil receive the honor of being remembered as a good man in this town."

"Count Dante is, Aubelard is not. Since count Dante is not real, it makes no difference," Jack said. "It's up to you. I'm just saying my piece. Whatever you decide is up to you. If you agree with me, I can persuade Jonathan to go along with this story."

"No, I will talk to him myself if I decided so," Arlcard said. He then turned and headed to the room with the deceased children. Jonathan was still inside there.

Peniel came to Jack after Arlcard left, Charlene trailing behind. "That is a beautiful book," the little girl said.

"He gave you the book?" Peniel asked with surprise.

"Yeah... I can't link with this, right?" Jack asked.

"You can if you have a death wish," Peniel replied.

"I guess I will give this to Jeanny or John. What does this book do anyway? This is one of the two divine treasures that you say bestow no combat ability, right? Like the Chalice of Space possessed by Master."

"Yes. This is the divine treasure of the light element. The one who has this book can copy anything as long as they are not an artifact or another divine treasure."

"Copy? Anything?"

"Yes."

"Even legendary grade items?"

"As long as they are not categorized as an artifact. Of course, you still have to give something in return. This Book of Creation accepts payment in the form of mana cores. The higher the grade the more mana cores required. In other words, if you have a ton load of mana cores, you can copy almost anything."

"Even legendary weapons?"

"I'm not going to repeat myself!" Peniel rebuked.

"This means that if I get any high-grade equipment. I can copy them. Hey, if I copy enough numbers of super rare equipment, I can then fuse them with my Transformation Prism. With these two items, I have a sure way to get unique equipment without having to rely on lucky drops!"

"I must applaud you for figuring that out. However, although your theory is wonderful, it is not applicable. Do you think it is cheap to use this Book of Creation's ability? I did say if you have a ton load of mana cores. How many do you have at this moment?"

"Um... Four hundred twenty..."

"Well, with that number, I say you can copy one piece of super rare grade equipment."

"O—One...?"

"One," Peniel affirmed. "Now, do you see how farcical your idea is?"

"Well, that just means I need to collect more mana cores," Jack did not let go of the idea.

"I praise your optimism," Peniel said. "There is a better use of that book other than copying equipment, you know."

Jack thought for a second before saying, "the magic crystal?" Aubelard had been using the book to copy the same thing and Jack just got one himself. If he used the book, he didn't need to run around hoping more of this material to drop.

"Yes. The number of mana cores required to copy materials is generally less than equipment. Still, even with your current mana cores, you can only copy two magic crystals."

Jack nodded. He stored the Book of Creation. He would discuss with Jeanny and John later about how best to use this divine treasure.

Arlcard and Jonathan were still in the other room. Jack decided to take Charlene and leave first through the way Arlcard mentioned earlier.

On the way, Jack studied his exp bar. He had received a huge exp after killing both Aubelard and Ephiltres. Although a large portion of Aubelard's HP was not dealt by Jack, he had dealt the killing blow, so he still got a large portion of the exp. While for Ephiltres, he didn't deliver the killing blow, but Jonathan who did was under his command, so he still got the exp benefit.. His Archer class which was set to receive all exp had jumped up seven levels to level 24.

Chapter 579: Leaving Thesylvania

Jack asked Peniel, "Once I delivered Charlene, I believe my quest Thesylvania's missing children will be completed. I will get three million exp. This is the same amount needed last time for Lightning God Blessing. I remembered you mentioned at that time it was roughly the same amount as I level up ten times when I am level 28, right?"

"Why do you ask?" Peniel returned his inquiry.

"If all that three million exp goes into my level 24 Archer, I reckon it will shoot up past level 30?"

Peniel made a rough calculation. "I suppose it might," she said.

"Well, what proportion do you think I should set to let the class increase only to level 30?"

"Hm..." She appeared to calculate again. "Probably 80%?" She said after.

The fairy did not sound too convincing, so Jack decided to set it to 70% instead. The other 30% he gave to his Blade Dancer class. Even if his Archer only level up to 29, he could spend a bit more time in exp farming to change class to Beastmaster before he left to farm Draconic essences.

He planned to postpone his chain faction quest first while increasing his battle power. He believed this quest would regularly pit him against beings such as Aubelard. He was not strong enough to continue the quest.

Once Jack came out from the count's family crypt and into the graveyard, he brought Charlene directly to her house. When he arrived, Mirian was seen sitting by the front door's steps with a blank and sad look. Charlene called out when she saw her mom. Mirian looked over with wide eyes. Her eyes turned teary as she cried and ran over to hug the little girl.

Ted, who heard her wife's cry, ran out. He wore a disbelief expression when he saw his girl in his wife's embrace. He ran over as well and hugged the two of them.

Jack couldn't help but smile widely from seeing the family's reunion. It took them a while to realize Jack's presence there. They showered him with praises and gratitude. Jack kept on telling them that it was not his own effort. The Count's son and the two soldiers, Jonathan and Harker, also helped in saving the girl.

Jack heard the notification that his quest had been completed, he received 80 gold coins and exp. With the 70% exp portion, his Archer jumped to level 30. Jack was amazed, Peniel's calculation was not bad. He glanced at the fairy with pride.

Peniel detected Jack's glance and asked, "What?"

"Nothing," Jack said with a smile and patted her little head.

"Hey! What is that for?" She complained.

The remaining 30% exp that was sent to his Blade Dancer class pushed that class to level up one time to level 37.

Jack opened his status window to study the progress on the exp bar. When he looked at it, he was given a jump. The Ranger's exp bar was at 98% of level 30. If he followed Peniel's suggestion to use 80% instead of 70%, he would be a level 31 Archer already. He grumbled within as he glanced at the fairy.

Peniel saw Jack's glance again. "What now?"

"Nothing," Jack said, not as gentle as previous.

Jack hurriedly set all his exp to 50:50 for Blade Dancer and Archmage again, leaving Archer class at 0%. This would ensure his Archer won't level up until he became a Beastmaster.

Mirian and Ted invited Jack to stay a night at their house. Jack saw that Charlene kept on asking Peniel to play with her, the fairy seemed to be fond of the little girl as well, so Jack agreed to their offer.

In the night, Jack reviewed his gains. His stats had all increased greatly after his third class reached a sufficiently high level. They were even more augmented with the 10% increase from his bloodline's, but he knew he was still much lacking compared to Master. Probably the only attributes he had the advantage over Master were his Dexterity and Reflex, because all the classes Master chose were slow ones.

He had a whopping 33 free attribute points, 3 free Blade Dancer skill points, and 45 free Archer skill points. He had not used any of the free skill points since he started ranger class. He was saving it for Beastmaster elite skills.

The only Ranger or Archer's skills below elite grade that Jack wanted to upgrade were only Silent Step and Tame Pet skills. He left those basic and advanced skills to be upgraded using souls from the Container of Souls, so he left the 45 Archer skill points alone.

For the 33 free attribute points, he decided to throw them all into the Intelligence stat. His two physical classes gave a decent boost to both Strength and Dexterity stats, leaving his Intelligence stat lacking. He didn't want this stat to lag too far behind the others. Even though there was no way for him to catch up to Master in the magic department, his Archmage class was still very useful against any other opponents.

Jack had received a bountiful of souls from today's fallen natives. One rare elite, two special elites, and one elite, all high levels. His Container of Souls currently contained 231,000 souls. It was enough for him to level-up two elite skills. But as he previously planned, he used 209,000 souls to max his Silent Step and Tame Pet skill to level 20.

He could not yet use the Tame Pet skill on the Therras Beast Egg, since the beast was classified as medium-sized. He needed to wait till he became a Beastmaster first.

Jack then took out the Vampiric Seed. He gazed at it for a while. The seed was completely black and there was greyish fog enveloping it. He had thought rather long about what to use it on. Peniel had informed Jack that as the name suggested, this Vampiric Seed most likely provided ability with HP-draining effect.

Jack decided such an ability should be most suitable for a skill that dealt high damage but with low cooldown. If he could drain HP from enemies often, the skill would become a supplement to healing potions and Peniel's heals, increasing his survivability. The most ideal one should be Power Strike, but he already used fire seed on that skill, so he chose what he thought was the next ideal choice.

He activated the seed and used it on Cross Slash. As with previous seeds, the skill the seed was used on transformed into a similar yet different skill. It was now called Devouring Cross. Jack proceeded to use his 3 free Blade Dancer skill points to level the skill up.

Devouring Cross, level 13/20 (Active skill, melee, requires dual-wield swords)

Slash at the area in front with two swords, dealing 540% darkness damage to all within the area. Recovers HP equal to 20% damage dealt.

Cooldown: 1 minute

Stamina: 60

Not only did it add a life-stealing ability, but the seed also increased the damage dealt and changed its type to darkness.

Finished with the skills and attributes, he took out the Spatha of Light. He had to go back to a main city before he could imprint the weapon, but he could level it up first using his rare blacksmith tool.

He spent a decent number of ores to level the sword up. After level 45, each level up required 5 iron ores, 3 steel ores, 2 copper ores, and 1 silver ore. He only had a limited number of silver ores. His

Blacksmith level of Intermediate Expert had reduced the failure rate, hence he still managed to bring the sword's level up to level 47.

Its damage was now 360 points, 5 points more than his Storm Breaker which was still at level 44. He was tempted to just feed this sword to Storm Breaker, but wasting a super rare sword for just a three-level increase felt like a waste. So he kept his original plan to imprint this Spatha of Light to become his off-hand weapon.

The next morning, Jack learned that the entire town had learned about the deceased children. There was much mourning. Cries of the parents filled the small town. Some, however, felt relief instead to have finally had a confirmation of their child's fate.

Arlcard and Jonathan went along with Jack's suggestion. Aubelard's body was shown to the townsfolk as the perpetrator, while Count Dante was regarded as one of the heroes who joined Jack, Arlcard, Jonathan, and Harker in defeating this foreigner vampire.

The town would be erecting a monument to commemorate these heroes. Especially the fallen one. Jack hoped Arlcard won't vandalize the monument for having Count Dante's name on it.

Jack was invited to the tavern to celebrate the end of this tragedy. Jonathan was there but Arlcard was not.

Before noon, Jack said goodbye to everyone. It was time for him to leave this town. Charlene came over and asked him to come back again in the future because she wanted to play with Peniel again. Jack said he would do so if he had some time to spare.

Jack told Jonathan that he would try his best to get Commander Quintus to arrange Jonathan's transfer back to the capital. Surprisingly, Jonathan said there was no need anymore. He had decided to stay in this town and protect it properly this time. To honor Harker and the children that had passed away.

Jack respected his decision and said that he hoped they meet again. Jonathan replied with the same response.

On his way out of the town, Jack saw someone was waiting at the edge of town. When Jack got closer, Jack recognized the person to be Arlcard.. The vampire was without disguise and he was wearing a noble coat.

Chapter 580: Extraordinary Companion

"Are you waiting for me?" Jack asked, he didn't peg the vampire as one who bothered to say farewell. He then realized it was noon, the rare moment when sunlight hit the town. "Are you not bothered by the sunlight?"

"It discomforts me a little," Arlcard replied. "But not as before, it seemed my vampire father's archaic blood had boosted my resistance against sunlight."

"Good for you," Jack said. "I hope peace returned to this town. It's good knowing you but I'm afraid I have to leave this fine town."

"I can see that," Arlcard said. He then took out something small. Jack wondered what it was but then he realized that he recognized the thing.

"That..."

"I have been thinking a lot about this since yesterday," Arlcard said. "If you have decided to keep that Book of the Damned, this thought wouldn't have even crossed my mind. But since you didn't, I figure you are someone that can be trusted. Seeing you hold your own during our fight against my vampire father also proved your prowess."

Arlcard held out the small thing to Jack. It was his Companion Token.

"Are you sure about this? You can finally live a peaceful life here. Being my companion will be far from peaceful," Jack said.

Arlcard smiled. "Ever since I was turned, I have no illusion that my life will be peaceful. I still have some things I need to do and I will require power for that. The saying is that being an outworlder's companion gives us the ability to grow faster. I might have looked for one after dealing with my vampire father, you simply come at the right time."

"Well, since that is the case, I won't be courteous," Jack said. He went ahead with the process of sealing the token with himself. After the process was done, he accepted the token.

"I will depend on you from now on," Jack said.

"As with me," Arlcard replied.

Jack summoned Pandora and rode off.

"You are very lucky, you know," Peniel said after they left.

"I know," Jack replied without any expression.

Peniel gave him an annoyed look. She said, "What I meant is, that Arlcard might not stay as rare elite for long."

"Oh? You mean his grade will increase?" He finally turned to Peniel.

"For a vampire like him to grow to a special elite grade without drinking any human blood is exceptional. Perhaps Aubelard truly saw something in his blood lineage that prompted him to turn Arlcard into a vampire. He had drunk quite an amount of Aubelard's blood while under the effect of Ancient Blood Awakening Potion. I don't think his sudden rise to a rare elite is simply because of Aubelard's blood, it could simply be a trigger over his hidden potential. Anyway, I won't be surprised if his grade is higher the next time we see him."

A mythical-grade vampire companion? Perhaps this was some sort of hidden reward of that SS quest, Jack thought excitedly.

It took Jack three days to arrive at a town with a zone portal. From there, he teleported to Tranviste. He headed directly to the City Hall. After going through the same procedure as last time, he was brought to

Caleb Lucien. Horatio Maxius was also there again. This time they were inside a smaller office room instead of the large main hall where they first met.

Horatio was sitting behind a large desk which Jack supposed should be Caleb's. Caleb instead sat at a large sofa by the side.

"Seeing you return here, I presume you come with good news, I hope?" Horatio said with a smile.

"I do," Jack replied. "Can't say so for the first and second prince's representatives, thought."

"You met them?" Horatio asked, his smile never waned. Caleb, on the other hand, had his eyebrows raised hearing Jack's words.

"More than met. You can say they will never be able to come here anymore, or anywhere else for that matter."

Caleb gave a mocking laugh, "Are you trying to tell us you defeated them? You, who is only level 37?"

'Hm? He knows my exact level?' Jack asked in his mind.

'There should be an enchantment that unveils all illusion or camouflage effect in this city hall,' Peniel replied silently.

Jack did feel strange mana-flow in this building, he thought it was only for a defensive purpose.

"Let's say I am more than meet the eyes," Jack replied to Caleb's mocking with a not so humble manner.

"You certainly are," Horatio said. "Now, can you show us that you are successful when your two competitors have not?"

Jack saw that Horatio was unfazed by the fact that Jack knew he was playing all three sides of Themisphere's power struggle. He guessed this type of scheme was considered normal in politics.

"I found Aubelard's location, but there is no need for you to go look for him anymore," Jack said.

Caleb frowned, "We will be the ones to decide what we need or don't. What you need to do is just tell us his location."

"I said you no need to go look for him because he is no longer alive," Jack said.

It was Horatio who frowned now, breaking his cool expression since Jack first came into the room.

"Where is his body? We will still need to go check."

"There is no need to. I know what you after," Jack pull out the Book of the Damned.

Both Horation and Caleb stood up.

"I see from your reactions that this is indeed the thing you want?" Jack said.

"Give it to us!" Caleb commanded.

Horatio signaled for Caleb to calm down. The vampire prince's charming smile returned. He said to Jack, "That is indeed what we want. That book belongs to the Maxius family. It was stolen by that traitor

Aubelard. The fact that you come back to us revealing that book means that you are willing to give it back to us? Or do you want something else in return?"

The book was still in Jack's hand. Horatio knew that unless Jack was taken by surprise when the book was exposed, he would not be able to use force to get it from Jack. Jack could return the book into his storage bag with a thought. Even if he killed Jack, the book would either stay with him if he wore Amulet of Rebirth or would be gone for good if he didn't. The chance of the book dropping was slim. Horatio was not willing to take the chance.

There was one thing Horatio found reassuring, the book was not yet linked to anyone. He could sense it.

"You are right, I don't mind giving it to you. This means I have accomplished my objective and your cooperation with Prince Alonzo is secured, correct?" Jack asked.

"You have my word. I will show full support to the third prince of Themisphere," Horatio replied.

Jack nodded, then added, "still, I did more than I was asked. I suppose I deserve a bit extra, don't you say?"

Horatio laughed. "It certainly is. Come with me."

Jack stored the Book of the Damned and followed after Horatio. Caleb was trailing behind, Jack felt as if the guy was there to make sure that he didn't escape. They arrived in front of a double door that had a rune diagram etched on it.

Horatio made a gesture to Caleb who then unlocked the door. When the door opened, Horatio said, "This is the city hall treasury. You may choose one item inside."

"What is the highest grade of the items inside?" Jack asked.

"Super rare," Caleb answered.

"I'm going to give you a Legendary grade item. It seemed like such an unfair trade, don't you think?" Jack said.

"It's not a trade, it's a reward," Horatio said. "Fine, you can choose two items."

"How about three?" Jack asked.

Horatio gave Jack a cold stare without replying.

"Okay, okay, two then," Jack said. He brought the Book of the Damned back out and handed it to Horatio.

The vampire prince was confounded. He thought Jack would only give him the book after getting the items inside. In Jack's mind though, he would still hand over the book even if Horatio didn't reward him anything extra. Jack was bringing the book here for Arlcard's sake, after all, not for a reward. If he wanted a reward, the legendary book itself was the most valuable item. So, whatever he got inside the treasury would just be a bonus.

Jack went into the treasury, followed by Caleb. There were a whole lot of items inside. If he had to use Inspect on every single one, he might need to spend a night here.

He was about to say, "Okay, Peniel. Work your magic," but the words failed from coming out of his mouth when his eyes noticed something he recognized.

He came over to where the thing was and used Inspect to make sure. It was indeed the Ancient Blood Awakening Potion. He wouldn't need this item normally but now that he had a vampire companion, this item could boost his companion's power during a critical situation.

"I will take this one!" Jack declared.

He then went to another item close to the potion, which he also recognized. He used Inspect as well to make sure.

Vampire-slaying knife (Unique consumable)

Only usable on vampire race.

Kill any vampire below the archaic rank

Incapacitate archaic vampire for 30 seconds

Useless against ancient vampires