

World 701

Chapter 701: Clash with the Number One Rookie Guild

The audience outside saw the orc team stop every time they encountered the sandstorms or sand whirlpools, but they didn't know that whenever this team stopped, Disco Rain closed her eyes and focused her senses.

All the members of the orc team were not only expert martial artists, they could also sense mana. The most advanced amongst them in this regard was Disco Rain. In this game world, she had continued to train her mana sense and achieved the incorporeal state like Jack.

Every time they stopped and waited, Disco Rain would send her consciousness to scout the area around them.

"Find one!" She said as she opened her eyes.

"One? This means they are still the stupid disjointed team they were before," Four Winds said.

"How can such a team reach the final? It is truly a disgrace!" Violent Blizzard said.

"They were relying solely on that multi-level Blade Dancer, the rest of the team is nothing special," Water Lily said.

"Still, that one Blade Dancer can turn the tide around. We will need to give it our all if we meet him," Purple Mist said.

"The one that I find is that blade dancer...," Disco Rain said.

"... Should we take a detour and search for the other human team member?" Water Lily asked.

"Don't be absurd! That will make it look as if we are afraid of him!" Violent Blizzard uttered.

"That native warlord, Abasi, did ask us to copy what the dwarf team did and took out the other humans first," Water Lily said.

"He also asked us to avoid that Blade Dancer after taking out the other humans, that is even more disgraceful. I will never abide by such cowardice!" Violent Blizzard exclaimed.

"We will not do such a thing," Four Winds uttered. "Whoever our opponent is, we will always give it our all and we won't back down. I'm heading to meet this blade dancer in battle, are you with me?"

"There is no need to ask!" Violent Blizzard exclaimed.

"I am behind you," Disco Rain uttered.

"You know I will have your back," Water Lily added.

"You can count on me," Purple Mist said.

Four Winds gave each of the women a look before nodding. "Let's go meet our opponent then!"

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Jack was still running randomly when another sandstorm hit. He proceeded but took care not to step into a sand whirlpool inside the sandstorm. He didn't find any whirlpools. Instead, he sensed something coming at him at high speed from his back.

He immediately made a roll to dodge. But at the end of his roll, he felt mana buildup on the ground. He jumped away added with Flash Step before Arcane Turbulence appeared. It was the arcane turbulence with the chain fence, Prison Turbulence. During the dodging process, Jack cast Magic Weapon, turning his magic staff into a longsword.

After escaping the spell, he turned around with two arms spread, just as attacks came from two sides. His two swords clashed with something hard.

The sandstorm receded at this time, revealing the two attacks he had blocked were from Four Winds and Violent Blizzard.

"So, it was true that you can sense mana as well," Four Winds said.

"It seemed the same with you people," Jack replied.

Jack sensed an attack coming on his leg, he hurriedly retreated as Magic Bind appeared to lock the place where his leg used to be.

"Don't you think you can flee!" Disco Rain had slipped behind Jack for a backstab.

Jack used Shooting Dash to escape Disco Rain's attack and came to Violent Blizzard's side. He then used Flame Strike, Violent Blizzard countered with her Power Strike. She lost the clash and was pushed away.

Jack then used his second dash to go back to where Disco Rain was and used Swift Stab. Disco Rain was fast and reactive enough to dodge the stab.

Jack then used his last dash to approach Water Lily, who was in the middle of casting her spell. Her spell was completed before Jack arrived, flame erupted around her. She had started casting Flame Shield when Jack started using his Shooting Dash. With how fast Jack was, sooner or later she would be a target.

Water Lily put on Magic Shield once her Flame Shield was completed, right when Jack came and used Devouring Cross. Her magic shield was of a different variant. It was larger and appeared as a solid ice shield. She had used an ice seed to modify her Magic Shield spell.

Even so, her ice magic shield was unable to withstand Jack's Devouring Cross' dark energy. It was shattered upon contact and she suffered huge damage. Her HP bar was down to below half from the impact. She would have been instantly killed if not for her ice magic shield.

Healing light covered her as she reeled backward from the impact. Purple Mist had kept watchful eyes and immediately took action when she saw Water Lily in trouble.

Jack was about to follow up with a killing strike but he sensed an attack coming. He turned back and parried a Jump Assault from Four Winds. Four Winds' body was also covered by crimson tattoos.

After the jump assault, Four Winds' twin axes swung rapidly one after another. Jack met each swing with his two swords. Jack noticed Disco Rain's appeared on his side while her body turned into a shadow. It

was her Deadly Flash Strikes. Jack's body similarly turned into a flash as he used Blitz Slash. The light flash and the shadow flash crossed one another as white and black sword lights crisscrossed in the air filled with sparks. The two skills seemingly negated each other.

When their exchange ended, FourWinds came again accompanied by Violent Blizzard. Disco Rain used Combat Clone, turning into two people. The four circled Jack using Interdependent Poles Formation, Jack's sword art danced around meeting the four's attacks.

The Cipher Flight's team was amazed, this was the first time they had difficulty dealing with a single opponent. Jack was similarly astonished, each of these three was a better martial artist than he expected, their attacks were also very coordinated. It was no wonder this guild was hailed as the number one rookie guild in the past.

To make it worse, Purple Mist cast Words of Prayer where they were fighting, buffing the three, and healing any wounds they suffered in the process. Jack had to activate Life Burning Art to keep up.

Purple Mist also cast Bless on Violent Blizzard who had the slowest movement among the three, increasing all her attributes. Water Lily, in the meantime, was casting a big spell while Jack was pinned down. She completed her spell and a large block of ice materialized above Jack.

Jack had also been casting amid his tussle with the trio. Four Winds and the others sensed the danger once Jack's spell was completed. They hurriedly retreated. Ice Ring radiated out. Four Winds and Disco Rain was fast enough to escape the spell. Violent Blizzard was hit but only slowed, not Frozen.

Jack then moved away as the ice block fell on top of him. He used another Flash Step just as the ice was about to hit, narrowly escaping. The ice hit the sand ground causing an explosion of sand.

After escaping, Jack had finished gauging his opponents and was just about to unleash everything, his Gold Scale Armor, Overlimit, Beast Form, Therras, and Wolf pack to finish this battle. But then he felt the ground under his feet shift. The ice block from Water Lily's spell caused the sand to sink and at the same time, the sand around the point of impact started to swirl.

'What the...! That Ice Fall spell caused a sand whirlpool?' Jack thought in astonishment.

Water Lily was similarly surprised. She thought these sand whirlpools were a random feature of the landscape. She didn't think her spell could trigger this feature.

Jack tried to jump but it was like his feet were firmly glued to the sand. He was slowly getting dragged to the center of the whirlpool. The ice block at this time had mostly sunk. Only a small part of its top was still visible. Jack continued trying to fight the current and forced his feet to move away from the center, but the force was too great.

"Send him range attacks!" Four Winds commanded. They were not going to miss this heaven-sent chance.

Water Lily and Purple Mist sent Mana Bullet and Energy Bolts while Disco Rain threw her dagger. Jack's arms were still free, his left sword created a Magic Shield while his right sword danced around and deflected everything they threw. All the while, he continued getting sucked by the whirlpool.

As the orc team was about to send another torrent of range attacks, they felt something from their back, especially Purple Mist.

Purple Mist whirled back and found a red-haired woman was about to stab her. She parried using Magic Shield. A gunshot was heard and she felt a sharp pain in her thigh.

Water Lily was the closest to Purple Mist, she started casting a spell but a towering figure appeared in front of her. She canceled her spell and erected Magic Shield instead just as Giant Steve's hammer came hammering. She was pushed back several steps, that blow just now had been executed using Power Strike.

The other three melees from Cipher Flight hurriedly returned to aid their healer but Giant Steve stood in their way. He activated Protection Field and Shield Stance. Yellow Death had taken position further away. He used Shooting Stance and shot at the three orc melees and Water Lily to help Giant Steve hinder them.

Jack was still helplessly struggling in the sand whirlpool while the two teams clashed. 'Crap! I have been forgotten by everyone,' he said in his mind.

Chapter 702: A Reprieve in Battle

Princess Purple cast Bless on Red Death, who was now dueling with the enemy's healer, Purple Mist. It should have been a short work but this Purple Mist turned out to be more formidable than Red Death thought.

While Purple Mist used her magic shield to block most of Red Death's attacks, she had caught Red Death's arm on one occasion. Red Death felt that arm of her losing strength instantly.

"Pressure points?!" Red Death uttered. She used her other hand's fingers to stab her forearm that was held, her weakened arm was immediately invigorated. "You are not the only one who knows how to do it!" Red Death uttered.

Red Death's revived hand twisted her dagger into a backhand stab. Purple Mist was caught off-guard when her pressure point attack failed, suffering the stab. At the same time, a phantom dagger struck. Purple mist immediately cast Full Heal and Regenerate on herself back to back, all the while trying to defend against Red Death's relentless assault.

But a Priest was not built for a melee contest, Red Death's movement was much faster. Even though in reality Purple Mist's martial arts might not lose to Red Death, she was still handicapped by the game system.

Purple Mist cast Heal again as a final struggle, but Red Death's unceasing assaults finally claimed her life just as Disco Rain managed to slip past Giant Steve and came to aid.

Red Death reviewed the situation as she clashed with Disco Rain. Giant Death was struggling against Four Winds and Violent Blizzard even with the help of Yellow Death's interference. Water Lily's spells were also troubling. He caught a glimpse of Jack, only his head was visible now at the center of the sand Whirlpool.

'Shit!' She cursed within. Her plan was to have Jack initiate the combat while they sneaked behind to ambush the enemy's healer. This plan should be fine since Jack was a freak who won't die even when getting ganged up. It had worked wonderfully, except why did that freak end up getting himself trapped in a sand whirlpool?

If that didn't happen, they should be able to secure victory by pinning the enemies from two sides with the enemies missing their healer.

After a short consideration, Red Death gave the team the command to retreat. They moved back with Red Death and Giant Steve taking the rear while Yellow Death provided support. Princess Purple healed the two from time to time.

Cipher Flight team tried to rush forward to get to the healer at the enemy's backside but since the enemies kept moving away, the attempt was much harder. Only Four Winds and Disco Rain had the speed but Red Death and Yellow Death interferences kept them at bay, while Giant Steve hindered Violent Blizzard and Water Lily. Any damage the human team suffered was easily remedied by Princess Purple while the damage on the orc team kept piling up.

Seeing such a disadvantageous situation, Four Winds instructed everyone to halt and let the human team go. The two teams backed away while keeping their eyes from one another.

After they were out of sight, Violent blizzard said with displeasure, "Why are we letting them go? We should just finish them. We might have lost our healer, but they had lost their strongest member as well."

Four Winds looked in the direction of the sand whirlpool where Jack was, it was quite a distance from them now. Jack was not visible anymore.

He then said to Violent Blizzard, "Without a healer, we can't fight recklessly. Even during the clash just now, we slowly lost our HP while they kept on getting healed. We have to take another approach. Let's move away from here first."

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On the human team's side who was still retreating, Princess Purple similarly expressed discontent, "Why are we retreating? All you three need to do is just fight and I will keep you alive. They will surely lose since they no longer have a healer."

"That may be, but it's a gamble," Red Death uttered. "They still have two big hitters while that assassin of theirs was pretty nimble, it will be difficult to keep any of them from reaching you."

"If this big lump of meat does his job, then I will be fine!" Princess Purple said while pointing at Giant Steve.

"Hey!" Steve uttered.

"There is no need to be hasty," Red Death said. "They have lost their healer. We will sneak on them again and take another one out. Once they only have three, our chance of winning will be higher. We will fight them head-on then."

"How can we sneak up on them again?" Giant Steve asked.

"The same way we sneak up the first time. The difference is that we no longer follow Storm Wind this time," Red Death said. "The skill I used to track them has no cooldown, but can only be used to track one target at a time. When I clashed with their assassin. I have placed my tracking skill on her. I know her position for the duration of this match."

"Good, at least you didn't just give orders carelessly," Yellow Death, who had been silent all this time, said.

Red Death looked at him, who turned away from the look. She never truly interacted much with this fellow teammate of hers, but considering they both carried the Death title, they normally respected one another. Why did she feel animosity from his tone just now? Red Death decided that might just be her feeling. Even if it was true, she attributed it to Yellow Death feeling dissatisfied because she was chosen as the team leader while their position should have been equal.

She didn't give the issue too much thought. She said to them, "Follow me!"

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At the place where the two teams had clashed. Everything had settled down. The whirlpool had just ended and the ground was back to flat sand again.

After a moment of silence, the sand trembled before an arm burst out. The hand grabbed onto the soft sand and made a pulling motion, a head popped out soon.

"Pfft...!" Jack spurted out the sand in his mouth. He then rested his head on the sand while panting.

"Damn, that was close," he uttered.

Peniel hid inside her hidden dimension when Jack's body was submerged in the sand, she just came out again.

"Do you think I would have died if I sink all the way down?" Jack asked her while still resting his head on the sand.

"I figure you would," Peniel answered.

When Jack was pulled down by the sand whirlpool, just as his head was about to disappear inside the sand, he had remembered his Float spell. He didn't know if the spell would be useful in this situation but he thought he might just give it a try.

However, the spell in its first level only lasted thirty seconds. He still had three archmage's free skill points from leveling up two days ago. He never thought he would be using it for this Float spell but he was doing it then. Peniel informed him that leveling up the float spell increased its duration by ten seconds. With the addition of three skill points, the Float spell leveled up to level 4 and last a full one minute.

He was still being pulled down by the sand at the time. After leveling up the spell, he cast the Float spell under the sand and willed himself up. The force of the sand was too strong that he couldn't float up, but at the same time, his body was no longer getting pulled down. So he just hung there in limbo.

He was relieved. If he kept getting dragged down even after casting Float, he would need to ask Peniel to cast Second Life on him just in case.

After what felt like a long time, the sand stopped sinking. His Float spell also ended at the time, though. So, he ended up stuck in the middle.

Since the sand was no longer moving, it felt solid enough for him to maneuver, but not too solid that he couldn't move at all. He thought he should be grateful the sand here was dry sand. He could also feel that he was not too deep, since the pressure from the sand above was not too heavy. With his great strength, he pushed himself up. Finally thrusting one arm free before pulling himself up.

After pulling all his body out of the sand, he looked around. Everybody was gone already. Heck, no one even gave him a glance when he was sinking. Some teammates, he thought.

He was not sure what had happened then. He was too busy struggling against the sand swirl but he thought he might have seen Red Death taking out the enemy's healer. He looked up to the sky. Yep, the healer was gone.

Where had they gone to? If they were still fighting, how come they changed places? He was expecting to see the two teams still in heated combat when he pushed out from the ground, but no soul was in sight. Now, he had to run around searching for them again.

He looked around. Where to go?

"Hell!" He cursed. He then sat down and decided to just do that out-of-body scouting again. He preferred to not do this when he was alone and out in the open. His real body ended up in a vulnerable state since he didn't sense his close vicinity, someone might ambush him then. But there was no visible hiding place around here and he was not fond of running around like a headless chicken.

Chapter 703: The Oasis

The orc team continued staying on the move as Four Winds was thinking of a plan. They stopped once in a while as Disco Rain performed her incorporeal state sensing.

"That's weird," Disco Rain said as she opened her eyes. "That human team is still tailing us."

Disco Rain had found out about Red Death and the others during her previous sessions. Four Winds then instructed them to change direction since he had not thought of a suitable plan. But every time they did, the human team adjusted their directions.

"They probably had a skill that can track us," Water Lily said.

"Like the Track Monster skill but on a person?" Disco Rain asked. She had the Track Monster skill, but she was oblivious about the Track Person skill.

"I think that is a high probability," Water Lily said.

"That means he was tracking one of us?" Violent Blizzard said.

"If that is true, then Disco Rain is most likely the one that they track," Four Winds said.

"Me?" Disco Rain felt liable.

"If this skill is like the Track Monster, then only the red-haired assassin or the gunner possesses it. You are the only one that comes close to any of them," Four Winds said. "Don't feel bad about it. It can't be helped. Furthermore, we might be able to use this to our advantage."

"You mean to set up an ambush?" Water Lily asked.

"Yes," Four Winds said. "This place is too open, it will be difficult to set up an ambush."

"Actually, I found something else during my search," Disco Rain said as she pointed in a direction. "Over there is an oasis. There are some trees and bushes around it. Not much but it should be enough if we want to hide in them. Also, I sense the place to have a rather strong presence of mana."

"There is such a place? Let's head over and have a look first then."

The four then ran over. During their journey, Four Winds and Violent Blizzard's HP had recovered to full due to their body recovery skill, while Disco Rain and Water Lily's lost HP remained lost.

The oasis came into view soon. As they came closer, they sensed what Disco Rain had described. All of them could sense mana. From the sensation this place gave, they suspected it was not just a normal oasis.

As they came to beside the water, they saw the clear freshwater. The unusual mana they felt come from this water.

After gazing at the water for a while, Disco Rain asked, "Should we drink it?"

"We don't know if there will be any effect," Water Lily said. "For all we know, we might get instant death from drinking it."

"It's an oasis in the middle of the desert," Disco Rain said. "I don't think they will put an oasis filled with poison water here. It will be completely out of context, don't you think?"

"I'm just saying we should be prudent," Water Lily shrugged.

"We won't find out just by talking about it. My HP is the highest, I will give it a try," Violent Blizzard uttered.

She came to the water edge equipped with her greatsword. Four Winds didn't say anything to stop her. She squatted down, one hand still holding the greatsword while the other she used to touch the water. The water rippled. Otherwise, nothing happened.

After a while, she stored her greatsword. With two cupped hands, she scooped the clear water and brought it to her mouth. After drinking it, a soft blue glow swirled around her body.

"This...!" She stood up in consternation.

"What happened? Why are you glowing?" Water Lily asked worriedly.

Violent blizzard turned around and told them, "All of you should drink this water. I just get a buff from drinking it."

"A buff?" Water Lily asked, amazed.

Disco Rain didn't wait for instruction, she came to the oasis and drank a scoop as well. Her body soon glowed. Not only that, her HP was instantly filled after drinking the water.

"This water is awesome!" She exclaimed. "All my attributes are boosted by 100%, my defense and resistances by 50%, My HP and Stamina by 30%, and damage by 20%, the cooldown time of all my skills had also been reset. This buff even lasted a long one hour."

"Incredible," Water Lily uttered. She and Four Winds went and drank the water as well.

After the two drank the water, they also got the buff.

"So, should we hide here and wait for them?" Disco Rain asked. She was about to do her incorporeal state again to check their enemies' positions.

"No, we can't let them find out about this oasis!" Four Winds uttered. "Let's lure them somewhere else. With this buff, it doesn't matter anymore if we don't find a hiding place. This buff itself serves as an ambush."

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"Why are we keep on moving zigzagged?" Princess Purple complained.

"We are following our opponents. If they move zigzagged, then we move zigzagged," Red Death replied crudely.

"When are we striking them? We can't keep on following them without end," Yellow Death also complained.

"Then move faster! I can't be blamed if we have two slowpokes with us," Red Death said. Princess Purple was pouting from the words. Giant Steve, on the other hand, didn't give it any mind. "Wait, they are slowing down!"

The four then continued with their chase. After a while, their prey was finally in sight.

"The Elementalist is at the back, good!" Red Death uttered. "Let's close in silently. When we are close enough, I will use Vanish and approach to make the first strike. Yellow, prepare to back me up. Giant, use Share Damage and Urgent Save on me, just in case. Purple, use Bless on me. If everything goes smoothly, I should be able to take down the Elementalist in a short time before the others react. I will then run back. If they chase, we will face them together. It will then be four against three."

"They looked like they can sense mana, won't they find out you are coming at them?" Giant Steve asked.

"What sense mana?" Princess Purple asked.

Red Death didn't bother explaining, she simply replied, "I will be too close by then. Don't worry, she won't escape me."

The four then proceeded forward behind the orc team who were walking normally. When they were close enough and saw that their opponents didn't check their six, they proceeded with what Red Death had instructed before.

After receiving all the skills, Red Death used Vanish. She was teleported randomly, but after that, she ran towards Water Lily who was at the back of the group. The group was even traveling at a decent distance from one another, which boosted Red Death's confidence.

She slowed down a little to allow her Silent Step to fully eliminate her running sound. Silent Step couldn't eliminate all sounds if she went top speed. Each level and star of this skill determined how much speed she needed to reduce to eliminate her footstep sound. She also activated Light Foot, which increased her movement speed but she didn't activate the skill for its movement boost. This skill was so that her running didn't disturb the sand nor create footprints.

When she was getting close, she noticed her four opponents were glowing a strange soft light. The Elementalist and assassin's HP was again full, which was weird considering they had no healer and couldn't use items or tools. Although Red Death felt that something was awry, it was too late to alter the plan.

When she almost reached Water Lily, she saw her opponent react which was not strange considering her opponent had mana sense. Red Death used Back Shift, teleporting to the enemy's back. She then used Phase Strike to teleport again, using the consecutive shift trick to throw her opponent off balance.

Yet, as she was about to stab, she sensed danger incoming. She turned in time and saw Four Winds using Jump Assault. He was almost upon her. She used Roll to dodge. When her Roll ended, Disco Rain was in that position, about to stab her.

She parried the strike but Disco Rain disappeared using Phase Strike. Red Death could only shift her body position a little to avoid being backstabbed. She ended up receiving the attack at her side waist.

The entire sequence had been too fast that the other three humans reacted late. By the time Yellow Death took Shooting Stance and opened fire, Violent Blizzard was in between them, blocking the shot. Giant Steve ran forward to provide backup but a large area spell, Ice Field, from Water Lily hit him, slowing him down.

Red Death who was clashing with Disco Rain was in alarm. The prowess Disco Rain exhibited was very different from their clash earlier. She was much faster and stronger. Every time their dagger collided, she felt her arms tremble from the impact.

Red Death used Combat Clone. Disco Rain countered with the same skill. The fake fought against the fake.

Red Death sensed danger from her back, but as she turned, her vision was covered by unlimited starlights. She parried as best she could but many slashes hit her. Even when her damage was shared with Giant Steve, her HP still went down rapidly.

When her HP fell to 30%, Giant Steve teleported to her side. But before the Sentinel could do anything, the ground he teleported to lightened up, Prison Turbulence came up, locking him inside. Water Lily had predicted the use of Urgent Save skill.

Giant Steve could only watch from inside the Prison Turbulence as Red Death fell, Princess Purple's heal couldn't keep up with the damage she suffered.

Chapter 704: Last Man Standing

With Red Death gone, Giant Steve was alone inside the enemy's formation. He was battered by Four Winds' axe attacks and Water Lily's spells. Disco Rain had disengaged and ran forward with her clone and Violent Blizzard to where Princess Purple and Yellow Death were.

Yellow Death used Snipe and Rapid Shot. Violent Blizzard parried the Snipe and let Rapid Shot hit her, avenging orbs swirled around her.

"Shit!" Yellow Death cursed, he saw no chance of winning under the condition. He decided to flee.

"Hey! Are you leaving me here?" Princess Purple yelled. Yellow Death ignored her.

Yellow Death summoned his pet, Nimble Cat, which was only an elite-grade pet. He preferred not to show it because he was ashamed of its low grade. Everyone else in this tournament had a stronger pet. He never put much attention to pet taming. This pet was an instant pet that he got from exchanging using his limited faction point, thus its low grade. He was only using it now to hinder Disco Rain who was gunning for him.

Disco Rain easily dodge the cat's pounce and sent it to her back with her roundhouse kick. Her clone received the cat and kept it busy. Disco Rain continued forward, the pet hardly slowed her down.

Yellow Death ran as fast as he could. As long as he survived, he could use hit and run to deal with them from afar. When he looked back to check if he had put enough distance, he was shocked to find Disco Rain behind him. He ran again and looked back, Disco Rain was getting closer.

'How is this possible?' He thought in alarm. Their dexterity should not be that far apart. It was true that the dexterity stat an Assassin received when leveling up was higher than a Gunner, but that difference was only one point. Not to mention Yellow Death spent a lot of his free attribute points on his dexterity, his speed should not lose to others. And yet, Disco Rain seemed to have no problem catching up.

Since he saw no chance to flee, he turned back and bet on a direct one-on-one fight. As he was about to shoot, Disco Rain turned into a shadow. The shadow zoomed past Yellow Death and multiple black slashes fell upon him. Disco Rain's Deadly Flash Strikes quickly diminished Yellow Death's HP as well as brought her into melee range.

With Disco Rain's boosted speed and superiority in melee combat, Yellow Death stood no chance. Not long after, the gunner fell.

When Disco Rain returned to her team, Giant Steve and Princess Purple had also fallen.

"Hm...? Why are we not teleported out yet?" Violent Blizzard said.

"Look!" Water Lily pointed to the sky.

"Impossible!" Violent Blizzard said. "Isn't that guy sunk into the sand whirlpool already? Don't the sand whirlpools cause instant death?"

The names of the human team on the sky had everyone greyed out except for Storm Wind.

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Outside in the Roman Theater, Abdu and Abasi wore a smile.

"With this, our team's victory is secured," Abasi said. "I don't know what trick that multi-class human used, but he was very lucky to survive that sand whirlpool. But with only him remaining, as long as our team avoids this human, he won't be able to do anything."

Abdu grunted in agreement. "I also notice our team seems to have the ability to know if anyone approaches. That's how they have caught those four humans off-guard. You are right. As long as they play it smart, victory is ours!"

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"What should we do?" Water Lily turned to Four Winds. "He is alone now. With the others on his team dead, we are sure to win as long as we avoid him. There is no need to fight him, just as how those native orc nobles instructed us to."

Disco Rain added, "With my ability to scout our surroundings, I can keep track if he comes near. We can move accordingly to avoid him."

"That's right. From his match with the dwarf team, he has already proven that he can find people who are hiding. He probably has the same ability as you, Rain," Water Lily said. "But if we keep moving away from him. We should be able to stay ahead of him. Worse come to worse, we can just split and go to four corners of the map. He won't have enough time to hunt all four of us in the remaining time."

Four Winds was silent. Violent Blizzard, who used to be the most vocal, chose to be silent regarding this issue. Under normal circumstances, she would be the first to object to such a cowardly action. But she had personally experienced fighting Jack just now, she knew that Jack had not yet gone all out in the previous battle. That man's power defied common sense. She couldn't bring herself to agree with this evasive tactic, but she won't express any objection as well if Four Winds agreed to such a decision.

After a long while, Four Winds uttered, "How did we get from an unknown guild to one that is feared by the other top guilds? How did we establish ourselves to be the equal of those same guilds? Did we cower? Did we flee when our opponents are clearly superior to us? Tell me!"

Hearing Four Winds' words, the three lowered their heads. They felt ashamed of themselves. But it only lasted a moment, their expressions soon hardened.

After seeing the changes, Four Winds nodded. "Let's go back to the oasis and wait for him there."

"I thought we don't want the enemy to know about the oasis?" Water Lily asked.

"He is the last man standing. Even though he is powerful, we should be able to take control of the battlefield with our number," Four Winds answered.

"What if he can't find us?" Water Lily asked again.

"Then it's his fate to lose. It has nothing to do with us," Four Winds replied.

The four then headed back to the oasis. They drank the water again, refilling their HP as well as resetting their skills. The buffs' duration was also refreshed. Afterward, Disco Rain sat cross-legged and started surveying her surroundings.

After some time, she found Jack who was sitting cross-legged as well. Jack's eyes opened when she saw him. Jack then stood up and ran at high speed in their direction.

Disco Rain opened her eyes. "He is coming," she said.

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Jack had seen his comrades' names getting greyed out in the sky. He knew he was the only one left. He had been cursing his heart out, what he feared when he left his teammates had come true. He was worried at first that he couldn't find the opponents, he was very glad when he finally found them after using his incorporeal state mana sense. The four were at some kind of an oasis. The mana there was rather peculiar, he knew the place should be providing some sort of benefit.

One thing he was worried about was that the orc team would move away from this place. It took some time to find the enemies using the incorporeal state. If the enemies kept on moving, he would be in trouble.

As he marched, he thought about why Red Death and the others got wiped out without taking down even one enemy? The enemies had the same number as Red Death's team and even without a healer. In theory, Red Death's team should be in a better situation. Red Death herself was not a normal expert. Even if the enemies proved stronger, they should at least take down one more opponent with them.

With this thought, he was even sure he couldn't underestimate this orc team. He would go all out right from the start this time.

The oasis was in sight now. His opponents were seen waiting for them a distance away from the oasis.

"Good! They are still there," Jack exclaimed. Then he saw their ready pose. "They are expecting me? They know I'm coming?"

"It appears so," Peniel replied. She was flying beside Jack.

"All right! Let's end this!" Jack uttered as he summoned Therras. The majestic beast appeared beside Jack. Jack immediately used Combination Assault. His body and Therras became one as they zoomed forward to the center of the four orcs.

The four split to avoid the attack. When the Combination Assault ended, Jack jumped to the right while Therras went to the left. Jack called his Wolf Pack as well as used Beast Form and Gold Scale Armor in the middle of his jump. Therras ran towards Disco Rain while the wolf pack pounced at Water Lily.

Water Lily cast Flame Shield for protection as well as hurting any wolves that came near. She also used her staff to knock and throw any wolf that approached. Her performance showed that she was very good with martial art using a long staff.

Disco Rain used her Deadly Flash Strikes. Multiple dark slashes wounded Therras, but since Therras had very high HP, it was not a problem. When the Deadly Flash Strikes ended, Disco Rain became two persons using Combat Clone. The two assassins utilized their speed to pin Therras at the center.

Therras used Imperious Pressure. A gravity field radiated out. When Disco Rain felt her weight multiply, she used Vanish. She appeared outside the gravity field and was invisible. She let her clone fight Therras inside the gravity field while she headed elsewhere.

Jack landed close to four Winds and Violent Blizzard. He started clashing with them using his claws. Four Winds activated Berserk while Violent Blizzard used Thorn Vest.

Four Winds two axes turned to starlights as he unleashed uncountable slashes. Violent Blizzard used wide and strong strikes harnessing her great strength.

As Jack's claws clashed with them, he was puzzled. The two were even stronger and faster than before. He thought he would be able to easily overcome them with his Beast Form, but it turned out it was not so.

Suddenly, he felt danger coming from behind. He used Whirlwind Slash, forcing back Four Winds, Violent Blizzard, and his backstabber who turned out to be Disco Rain.

At that time, an ice block formed above him.

Chapter 705: Overwhelming

Water Lily who was fighting against the wolf pack, could still cast spells. Her concentration was solid enough, the same as Jack who used to cast spells while fighting melee.

She cast Chain Lightning. This spell of hers was the same as Selena's, max-leveled. The lightning from this spell jumped ten times, hitting all ten of Jack's wolves, wounding as well as paralyzing them. She then used the reprieve to cast a big spell, Ice Fall.

When Jack saw the ice block above him, he uttered, "You are using the same trick again?!"

As the large ice block fell, Jack jumped upward.

"Don't think that I will fall for the second time!" Jack's right claw was ablaze with flame. This flaming claw then struck the ice block. Jack suffered a little damage, which meant the Ice Fall damage was more than three times higher than his Flame Strike, but the ice block was knocked aside.

Jack hit the ice block so it now fell near where Water Lily was. Water Lily was stunned by such a crude counter to her spell. She hurriedly ran away. The ice block fell to the sand and created a whirlpool. Jack's wolves had come out of their paralyzation, they also ran away from there, escaping the whirlpool.

When Jack landed back down, Four Winds, Violent Blizzard, and Disco Rain came at him. Jack used his burst slashes, keeping them at bay. He then followed with Drilling Thrust, Devouring Cross, Penta Slash. Each skill for each of his opponents.

The three were reeling back, even with the oasis' buffs, they still suffered damage when clashing directly with Jack's skill.

Jack followed up with spells as they were pushed back. The three fought back with their skills and martial arts as well as perfect coordination. They tried their best to dodge Jack's attacks. They had

learned that even when they used attacks to block, Jack could still damage them amply. A direct hit from Jack's skills might even take out their life completely.

As the heated fighting continued, it was clear that the three were at disadvantage. Disco Rain's HP had gone critical. Four Winds and Violent Blizzard's HP was also down to half. Jack, on the other hand, had his life still almost full even without Peniel's healing. His opponents' attack failed to cause any significant damage due to his Gold Scale Armor, coupled with his astonishing body recovery, he was as if an unkillable beast.

"Go!" Four Winds said to Disco Rain. She then disengaged.

To Violent Blizzard, Four Winds said, "Hang in there. His skill won't last forever, we will counter when its duration ended."

What Four Winds said wasn't wrong, Jack's Gold Scale Armor lasted only three minutes, it had only one minute left now. Jack didn't expect these orc players to be this good. Their martial arts and coordination prevented him from landing a clean hit. Even for Violent Blizzard who was the slowest, she used her large greatsword to redirect Jack's attack without directly clashing.

Violent Blizzard also had ten avenging orbs swirling around her already, but she hadn't used them yet. She must be waiting for Jack's golden fur to turn back to normal. They knew Jack's defense was abnormally high during this gold transformation.

Water Lily, in the meantime, had defeated six of Jack's ten wolves with her spells. But at this time, Therras had defeated Disco Rain's clone. It now used its Tyrannical Charge at Water Lily. She defended using her Magic Shield but it was shattered and she was thrown far away while suffering large damage.

She was not without wounds after fighting Jack's wolves for that long. Therras came over attempting to finish her, but a shadow slammed into it. Familiar black slashes wounded it again while pushing it back.

Disco Rain who was now back to full life had come to Water Lily's aid. "Go!" She said to Water Lily before turning into two again.

'What?!' Jack was fighting against Four Winds and Violent Blizzard but he still had attention on the other part of the battlefield, courtesy of his Hundred Synchronous Thoughts. 'That assassin woman is fully healed and using skills that are supposed to be still in cooldown!'

Jack then saw Water Lily running towards the oasis.

'It's that oasis! That's the source of their buffs as well!' Jack came to a realization. He immediately sent a thought command to his remaining four wolves. They ran at high speed chasing after Water Lily.

Disco Rain saw it and intercepted the wolves while having her clone fight Therras again.

Jack couldn't let them continue using the Oasis effect, he cast Myriad Ensnaring Chains. The crimson chains came out around his two opponents. However, instead of getting entangling, Four Winds two hands blurred and created uncountable starlights around him. Every chain that approached was smacked aside. Violent Blizzard hid within Four Winds' starlight field.

Jack had no time to be impressed by that. He used Shooting Dash to disengage from them. Shooting Dash didn't bring him to where Water Lily was but it was close enough for his Wind Slash. Three green energies shot out from his claw.

Water Lily who sensed the attacks coming, used her long staff as a prop to let her jump high, dodging all three wind energies.

Jack was amazed, he never thought there will be another person who could dodge his fast Wind Slash aside from his grandfather. But after seeing his grandfather do it last time, Jack had been prepared for the next time he used this skill. He used a follow-up attack, Sword of Light, while Water Lily was still in the air.

Disco Rain had come to Jack's back before Jack executed Sword of Light, attempting to disrupt Jack's attack, but Jack just tanked the backstab. His Gold Scale Armor was not yet over.

Water Lily had no footing to escape the Sword of Light. The fast crescent light cut her body and depleted the few HP she had left.

"Rain, move away!" Violent Blizzard yelled. She was still protected by Four Winds' starlight field. Her sword was alighted with a blue aura that formed a gigantic sword with wings image. She slashed down her Blue Wing Slash.

Disco Rain had used Vanish to teleport away. Jack was fast enough to dodge a direct hit but the wings' wave aura still hit him. He suffered damage from it. His remaining wolves were also hit by this wave and they were all taken out.

As Jack regained his bearing, Four Winds used Jump Assault to reach him, his Myriad Ensnaing Chains' duration had ended. Jack parried the assault. Disco Rain wanted to come aid but Four Winds said to her, "Finish his pet! We will take turns wearing him down after."

Disco followed the command and went over to help her clone fight Therras, while Violent Blizzard ran over to help Four Winds. Four Winds used his Starlight Field martial arts to keep Jack on his toes. Jack returned in kind using his sword art.

Jack glanced and saw his Therras' HP was getting less and less. The two Disco Rains attacked from two sides and took turns in attacking. That assassin was too expert and fast for Therras to keep up.

Jack sent his pet a command. It used its Overbearing Stomp on the soft sand. Jack had consciously been preventing Therras from using this skill, until now. The result was what Jack was hoping for. The stomp upset the sandy ground enough that it caused a sand whirlpool. Disco Rain was too close to Therras and she had already used her Vanish not long ago. She screamed as both Therras and her clone got dragged down into the sand.

"Rain...!" Violent Blizzard yelled.

"Keep your head in the game!" Four Winds reprimanded. They couldn't afford to get distracted. Jack's attacks were too deadly.

Jack's golden fur turned back to black at this time. His Gold Scale Armor was over already.

"Blizzard, it's time!" Four Winds exclaimed.

Violent Blizzard's HP was at thirty percent already at the time. She activated Last Stand, Righteous Fury, and then sent a heavy slash using Raging Strike.

Four Winds also used some sort of unusual skill, his body turned large to almost two times his original size. Jack felt Four Wind's aura spiked. Four Wind's HP was also refilled and even doubled. The giant orc used Heavy Cleave as his two axes came at Jack.

"That's Titan Strength!" Jack heard Peniel yell after seeing Four Winds' transformation.

But Jack wasn't paying attention, he had been waiting for the two to go on a full offensive. The two had been focusing on evasion and defense that Jack found it difficult to hit them. He activated Overlimit. As his two opponent's attacks came, his body split into shadows.

Four Winds and Violent Blizzard were taken aback by Jack's sudden disappearance. Multiple of Jack's shadows appeared around them. It was the Hundred Shadow Strikes skill from Commander Quintus.

*

Hundred Shadow Strikes, level 1/20 (Active skill, range, requires melee weapon)

Split into ten shadows, each shadow deals 200% darkness damage, 10% added Critical Chance, 30% chance to cause Cursed effect.

Range: 10 meters

Cooldown: 2 hours

Stamina: 150

*

Ten shadows slashed at Jack's two adversaries. Jack had waited until the enemies went for full attacks before using this skill to make sure it hit, but Jack had underestimated this skill. The shadows were so fast that the two hardly had the time to react. Violent Blizzard whose HP was already low was taken out by a single slash even when she had the damage reduction buff from Last Stand and Righteous Fury.

Four Winds was fast and reactive enough to take defensive maneuvers but when his weapon clanged with Jack's shadowy slash, Jack could feel a portion of his attack phased through the defense. The description of the skill didn't mention any ignored defense effect, but it seemed there was this secret effect to the skill.

Furthermore, the Overlimit also boosted the damage. Four Winds increased size backfired and caused him difficulty to perform evasive maneuvers. His HP which had been refilled by Titan's Strength was rapidly cut down.

By the end of the hundred Shadow Strikes, Four Winds and Violent Blizzard had fallen to the ground. The unique-grade skill was too overwhelming to resist.

Chapter 706: Prize-giving Ceremony

Jack looked up to the sky. His opponents' names were all greyed out, including Disco Rain, which proved falling completely into the sand whirlpool was considered instant death. Pallas' voice boomed from the sky announcing the Human team's victory.

"By the way, what's that Titan Strength you mentioned? You sound pretty surprised by it," Jack asked Peniel. Four Winds' aura did increase exponentially when he became giant size, but Jack didn't clash directly with him so Jack didn't know how impressive that transformation was.

"It's the first active skill from a unique-grade bloodline, the Titan bloodline," Peniel explained.

"Unique grade? Ain't that the same grade as my Gold Dragon bloodline?" Jack asked, impressed.

As he was speaking, he saw his environment transformed. He found himself back outside in the arena again. Red Death, Four Winds, and the others had been revived.

Jack turned to his five opponents, who were also looking back at him.

"Congratulations on winning," Four Winds said to him. His tone didn't carry any bitterness. Jack's impression of this guild leader became even better.

"We win?" Giant Steve asked in confusion. He thought for sure they had lost already.

Red Death and the others were similarly confused by the result. Red Death noticed that Four Winds only congratulated Jack. She asked Jack, "You didn't die in that sand whirlpool?"

"You people didn't check the names on the sky?" Jack asked back. He then turned back to Four Winds, "If you people have chosen to run around and avoid me, you will be the victor instead."

"If we do such cowardly acts, we don't deserve to be the victors," Four Winds uttered.

"You have my admiration," Jack said with a salute.

The audience clapped. They were also impressed by the orc team's unyielding spirit. One team was pouting, though.

"Damn those young show-offs, did he just call me a coward then?" Jett uttered.

"Haha," Domon laughed. Jet was still sitting beside him. "People said that there is a fine line between smart and cowardice, bravery and stupidity. If you prefer, you can just pretend that you have acted smart while they acted with stupidity."

"Why do you say pretend? It is indeed the smart play to hide. It's just too bad the result didn't turn out as I intended," Jet protested.

One group among the natives did think the orc team had been extremely stupid. It was Abdu and Abasi. They were gritting their teeth. It was difficult for them to conceal their feelings. The two stood up. The aide that followed them asked, "where will you be going, my chief?"

"Back to Verremor," Abdu replied. "Now that the human team has won, many works will need to be done to influence the council. You stayed here as our representative until the ceremony is over. I won't waste any more time here."

The orc chief then gave the orc team in the arena one more disgusted glance before he left with Abasi.

Prince Alonzo saw the orc chief and warlord left. He didn't give them much thought. He was grinning widely at the moment. Although the team was composed more of Rhemos supporters, they had all been wiped out. The sole reason for the victory was his champion. The merit of winning this team tournament was all his.

While many might have had the same thought and considered the orc team's decision as stupid, Callan and Pallas didn't think so. The two came to the teams who were still standing in the arena, but instead of coming to congratulate the winning team, they came first to the orc team instead.

"You and your team have displayed exceptional bravery," Callan said to Four Winds and his team. "You have our respect."

"Good resolve!" Pallas uttered.

After talking for a bit with the orc team, Callan and Pallas then came to congratulate the human team. Callan then announced that the prize-giving ceremony would be carried out after lunch. The void shield around the Roman Theater dissolved and revealed several arranged tables and chairs in a garden not far away.

Callan invited everyone to head over to enjoy a meal.

Four Winds came to Jack when everyone started leaving. He said, "You are very strong. Are you interested in joining Cipher Flight?"

"I'm flattered," Jack said. "However, I'm already in a guild. Thanks for your offer anyway."

"I see. Too bad. What is your guild's name? I can't use Inspect on you."

"My guild is called Everlasting Heavenly Legends."

"The number one guild in Themisphere? With you as its member, it's no wonder."

"You know about our guild?"

"You have some members in Verremor as well. Naturally, we collect as much information about the existing guilds. I hope our two guilds can build a good relationship."

"I would like that," Jack said. He then looked around, saw the person he was looking for, and called out, "Jeanny! Jeanny! Come here!"

Jack then introduced Jeanny as the guild leader and said that for any formal discussion about guild matters, Four Winds could discuss them with her. Jeanny rolled her eyes at Jack. 'Isn't you one of the leaders as well?' She thought.

Jack sent Four Winds a friend request which the orc accepted. He then left the orc with Jeanny.

He looked around again, searching for someone else. He found the person. He went and asked the person for a talk. The person refused at first, but Jack insisted. Jack had to practically drag her to a secluded corner for a talk. They talked for a long time.

After quite some time, Jack and Red Death returned to the tables that catered the lunch. They didn't notice two pairs of eyes were staring at them as they returned. One was from Yellow Death, the other was from Grace.

During lunch, Prince Alonzo and the others came by and congratulated Jack for winning the tournament. Prince Alonzo repeatedly expressed his gratitude while Jack was having his lunch, making him unable to fully enjoy it.

When everyone had finished their meals, the council priests invited everyone to the courtyard in front of the Temple of Courage. At that place, a stage with a podium had been arranged. Callan was behind the podium.

After he saw everyone arrive, he started giving a speech. Thanking the participants as well as congratulating the winners. He then went into another lengthy prayer. By now, everyone was used to it. They had even expected it to happen before the ceremony started.

When the ceremony did start, it was those with the lowest rankings that were called, which were those who lost their first matches. Each of these individuals received 30 gold coins and a level 50 super rare chest armor corresponding to their classes.

Super rare grade equipment was still very rare. Even for top players, many still had only one or two such equipment. Only Jack, who had the transformation prism, could afford to give away such equipment to his friends. Additionally, the given super rare armor was at level 50, which was higher than the current player's average level. At this stage, one needed a high-level blacksmith and lots of rare materials to get their equipment to that level. So, for these players who lost their first matches to receive such a prize had already made their day.

They at first thought they would only get a complimentary reward like a healing potion or a useless medal or something like that. They were clearly gleeful at such a surprise. After they received the chest armor, they even found out that this armor could be considered top class among other super rare armor. This Council of Virtus truly showed that it was a top faction in this world.

The next ones being called were those who had won one time. They were given 50 gold coins and the chance to select a level 50 super rare grade weapon of their choice. The selection was made from a holographic interface that appeared from a golden orb held by Callan. The chest armor prizes that were given were also pulled out from this golden orb. Jack figured this golden orb functioned much like players' inventory bags.

After that were the ones who had won two times. They were given 70 gold coins and a full set of seven pieces of level 50 super rare equipment, from headgear to boots.

Those who had taken their prizes before were jealous of them. They had also realized that the ones that had been granted free wins before, might not have been lucky. Because they could only either win one time or become the champion. Two-time winnings were only available for those who had to fight three matches to become the champions.

When it came to the orc team, they received an extra reward compared to the other individuals that had won two times. They received a super rare grade ring called Mark of Valor. Callan declared that it

was a reward for showing valor instead of taking the safe path. Several people disagreed, but none dared to show objection.

After the two-time winning players received their prizes, it was time for the champions. The first one being called was the champion of the Knight section.

"Arthur Bagrat of the Draconian race, Please come forward!" Callan called.

Arthur came up to the stage. Callan presented him with the rewards. It was 100 gold coins and level 50 super rare grade seven-piece set equipment for Avenger. Set equipment was inherently more powerful than standard equipment. It provided additional bonuses based on how many pieces of the set were being equipped. And seven-piece set equipment was the best there was. The one Arthur received was even one that catered especially to the Avenger class.

Additionally, Arthur could also choose one level 50 super rare grade weapon of his choice. His choice was, unsurprisingly, a katana.

Arthur equipped the set equipment on the spot. Since they were set equipment, their visuals matched one another. His appearance now resembled that of an ancient samurai.

"I think this tournament is rigged. How can they prepare a prize that so suited that old swordsman," Jack joked.

Paytowin gave him a side-eye. "You know. Even if you are a champion, you can still be thrown out of this mountain for saying things that dishonor this faction."

After Arthur walked down the stage, Callan called the next champion, "Champion of the Warrior section. Domon Fei of the Human race, come forward!"

Chapter 707: Forfei

Domon came forward. But before Callan could present the rewards for the elder martial artist, Domon said, "I would like to forfeit the prize and request for this council's elite force aid."

The audiences were surprised and confused by Domon's request. Didn't he see how good the rewards were? Who in the right mind chose to forfeit them? And what the hell was this about the elite force aid?

Callan was similarly surprised. His eyebrows were lifted. He never expected an outworlder to know this ancient rule to their tradition. Almost no one ever use it even for the native tournaments, but there was indeed such a rule. How did this outworlder know about it?

"If you know about this rule, then you know we need more than just your forfeit," Callan said.

"I do," Domon replied.

"In that case, stand aside. We will wait for the others before we deal with your request," Callan said. He then called, "Champion of the Rogue section, Wong of the Orc race, come forward!"

Wong walked out to the stage. He was looking at Domon who was standing by the side. His expression showed that he was also wondering why Domon knew about the secret feature and why he asked for it.

Was he asking the elite force for the Themisphere kingdom? He did hear that the Themisphere was embroiled in the power struggle between the three princes, although not an open conflict as it was in Liguritutum.

He didn't spend too much time thinking about it. He had a job here. He only cared about completing his. He said after arriving before Callan, "I want to forfeit my reward and request for an item from this council's vault!"

The audiences were murmuring now. What was this? Two champions had forfeited their prizes. This was completely unconventional.

Callan's brows were creasing now. "Item request from our vault this time, eh? Well, in your case, you should know that we need another champion to forfeit, don't you?"

"I do," Wong replied.

Ronald came out from the crowd at this time without being called. "I am with him in forfeiting my prize as the champion of the Archer section. We request an item from your vault," he declared.

Callan looked at the two of them back and forth. He then sighed. "A rule is a rule. What do you wish from our vault? Since you know this rule, I understand you should know the limit of the items you can ask for."

"We understand," Wong replied. "We would like to have the Draconic Suppression Crystal."

Callan's eyes narrowed. These outworlders even know what was inside their vault? He wondered what else did they know?

He nodded. "All right. If that is what you wish, we will honor it."

"It is," Wong confirmed.

Callan looked at Ronald, who nodded. He then called for Myson who was standing by his side. After speaking a few words, Myson bowed and went inside the temple behind the stage. Jack was expecting the vault to be the golden orb Callan was holding. It appeared it was not so.

"You can wait for the item you requested. We will proceed with the remaining champions," Callan said. Wong and Ronald stood to the side, opposite Domon.

"Champion of the Mage section, Blackhole of the Ethereal race, come forward!"

After coming forward, Blackhole said, "I'm joining the champion of the Warrior section to claim the council's elite force aid."

Callan nodded, he seemed to have expected it. The audience, on the other hand, couldn't stop gaping. Aside from Arthur, all the first-place winners had been forfeiting their rewards one after another. What the hell was going on here? Did they think super rare grade weapons and set equipment were cheap things to be thrown away?

Blackhole stood next to Domon.

Before the team match, Jack had gone to speak with Anotherday about this. Anotherday then took Jack to discuss with Blackhole. Blackhole found it weird at first why the human winners wanted to forfeit their winnings.

He was also wondering why they didn't just go for the item that had first come for, the Draconic Revival Blood. Jack explained that since they had failed to stop the heavenly enforcers from getting the Draconic Suppression Crystal. Getting this Draconic Revival Blood would only bring the matter to a stalemate. It won't improve the situation on Wilted's side. Hence, they should go for the big gun.

Blackhole was at first skeptical of Jack's claim. They already bagged the human and the mage sections. The team section, on the other hand, had not yet started at the time. Although he saw how powerful Jack was, his team was very messy. The orc team, on the contrary, had very good teamwork. After the dwarf team showed how it was possible to win the match without clashing directly, Blackhole actually thought the orc team had a better chance of winning. He was pleasantly surprised to be proved otherwise. Thought the reason was simply that the orc team chose an honorable, yet in his opinion was also a foolish, decision.

Callan called out the last winners, "Winner of the team section, the human team, come forward!"

As Jack and the others approached, Callan asked, "Considering the circumstances, I believe your team wants to forfeit your prizes as well?"

The elite force aid required three winners to forfeit, one of them needed to be the team section. So, it was not unforeseen for Callan to guess.

"Forfeit? Hell no!" Yellow Death uttered. "Why would we want to do that?"

Callan's eyebrows were lifted again. 'Well, this is surprising, again,' he thought.

But Jack soon said, "The human team would like to forfeit our rewards to claim the council's elite force aid."

Yellow Death turned to Jack, "Is this supposed to be a joke?"

Jack turned to him and said, "This is for the greater good. I'm doing this for all of us. You will have to trust me."

"Trust my ass! I don't have to do anything you ask." Yellow Death then turned to the divine priest and exclaimed, "I disagree with the forfeit. I want my prize!"

"Well, ain't this a turn of an event?" Callan muttered. He then told the five humans before him, "Forfeiting the team's prize can be done but you will need the majority of the team members to agree to do that."

"What? Majority? Shouldn't it be a unanimous decision?" Yellow Death said with surprise.

Jack was not so. During his talk with Anotherday, he had asked him the condition required for the team to forfeit, whether they needed all members to agree to it. He was glad to find out that it was not so. It would be a headache to convince everyone on his team. He might need to resort to killing some if so. He was extremely glad he didn't need to go that far.

"So? I can see one who agrees and one who doesn't," Callan said. "What about the three of you?"

"I forfeit," Giant Steve declared.

"I do not!" Princess Purple uttered. "I didn't go through all these troubles to go back empty-handed!"

Jack gave her a side-eye. 'The heck, you almost didn't do anything!' He said in his mind.

All of them now turned to the only remaining member of the team, Red Death, who stayed silent.

"Well?" Callan was also staring at her.

Princess Purple was confident that Red Death would say no. She was after all part of their camp. Jack's request was doomed from the start. He only had Giant Steve as an ally in this team.

Yellow Death, on the other hand, wore a worried look. Jack and Red Death had gone away for a talk before this. He didn't pay attention at the time. When he was about to use his Drone to search for her, she had come back. So, he was not aware of what the two were talking about.

"Red, if you say forfeit, you will be openly betraying us," Yellow Death said to her. "Think carefully before you act."

Jack turned to him, "There is a reason why we need that elite force aid. I've said that to you before. This is for the good of all of us. I'm sure your guild leaders will understand after knowing the reason."

"Reason my ass! Whatever it is, I won't agree to it! Let me tell you now, if you..."

"I choose to forfeit," Red Death declared.

Yellow Death's words stopped abruptly after hearing. Princess Purple was gaping wide. "What... Why...?" She couldn't bring herself to understand.

"All right, if that is your will," Callan said. At this time, Myson came back out bringing a large crystal with a dragon carving. It gave off an ominous shine.

Callan motioned for Wong to approach. He then handed the crystal to the orc monk. "This is the Draconic Suppression Crystal."

Wong accepted the crystal with a nod. After storing it in his storage bag, he asked the divine priest, "We wish to leave now. Is that all right?"

"Once the team match ended, you are free to leave if you wish," Callan answered. "However, we have a special event after this ceremony. An event that was available to those who won first place. You can get additional rewards if you join. Can you stay for this special event?"

Chapter 708: Liguritudum's Gratitude

"We are not interested," Wong replied.

"If that is your wish. It's fine, we won't compel," Callan said. He then called one of the priests that stood by the side. "Follow him to the teleportation chamber. He will help you activate the portal device."

Wong and Ronald followed the priest. A few of the ethereal native representatives followed the two, while the rest remained. Jack figured the one who left and the one who stayed must be from the two opposing forces in the current civil war of Liguritutum, just as Prince Alonzo and prince Rhemos here.

Spring Crown came to speak with Domon before leaving, "I can see where this elite force you people asked for will be sent. It seemed that I will have to stay by that crazy man's side for a little longer."

"You can always break your words," Domon said to him.

"Hahaha," Spring Crown simply laughed. "Well, see you around, old man."

"See you around, youngster," Domon replied.

The number one gamer then went away following his fellow Heavenly Enforcers.

"Now, let's get back to you lots," Callan said to the two individual champions and the team. "Who amongst you will be the spokesperson?"

Most turned to Jack. Jack came forward and said, "It will be me."

Callan nodded. "About your request for elite force aid. Where do you want us to send this force? The elite force will stay inside the country for half a year, helping with whatever the country ruler required."

Callan had asked this question because there was an ethereal race amongst these six humans. Otherwise, he would just assume the force to be sent to Themisphere. He still thought so, considering there were more humans present. What made him wonder was why different race champions requested this aid. This aid was usually requested by representatives from the same race, considering that only one country would get the benefit. That's why this aid was so rarely requested. The chance of one race winning so many sections was low.

"We would like you to send the elite force to the Liguritutum realm," Jack uttered. "To assist its rightful ruler, Galva, from the attempt of his son, Igneos, in seizing his throne."

Most of the crowds, except for the natives and ethereal outworlders, were lost on what Jack was asking. But almost all of them were confused about why this group of outworlder champions would forfeit their rewards for the matter of a native country's conflict. Almost all of these champions were not even living in that said country.

The most bewildered one was the Liguritutum's native representative that was still present there. He was shocked and awed after hearing Jack's request.

"If that is your will, so be it. We will make the arrangement," Callan informed. "Our elite force will leave for that country first thing tomorrow."

"Yes!" Handsome Joe uttered within the crowd.

Anotherday was similarly relieved. He thought for sure they had failed when they lost in the tournament. He looked over to Jack. He thought maybe Wilted had made the right choice in asking for this man's aid.

Callan continued, "Well, then. As I said, we have a special event after this ceremony. We hope to invite everyone back to the arena where the tournament took place before. Especially the champions who have placed first in the tournament. You might get additional rewards in this event."

"What reward? I didn't get anything!" Princess Purple was still pouting.

"Well, you will have another chance then," Callan said. Not at all bothered by Princess Purple's tone. "The rewards that you get in this event, if you are successful, were not any less than the main prizes of the tournament. We will wait for you over at the arena."

That might be the special event Paytowin mentioned, Jack thought. So, he was not talking about this prize-giving ceremony. Jack wondered what the event was about. Callan mentioned they could get a reward equal to the tournament's first prizes? Jack became excited about it.

As everyone started walking, Jack saw Blackhole and the others walking the other way. Jack called Anotherday and asked. Anotherday said their only interest was to get the Draconic Revival Blood. Since they got one even better, their task here was done, they needed to get back to aid the war effort.

Jack didn't stop them. He wished them luck and Anotherday thanked him before leaving.

As they left, another person came to him. Jack didn't recognize the person. The person was a native and an ethereal.

"Greetings, young outworlder. My name is Geod," The native ethereal introduced himself. "I was tasked by our great ruler, Galva, as his representative in this tournament since he cannot join. For a reason that I am sure you are aware of."

"What can I do for you, sir Geod?" Jack asked politely.

"I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the assistance you have offered my country today. I won't deny how badly we need that aid. But I must admit that I am extremely shocked to find a human, a race with which our country had traditionally been at odds, to be the one that provides such assistance. Nevertheless, I am very grateful. If you don't mind, on behalf of my ruler, I want to offer you and the other humans who have forfeited your rewards here an official title as the Liguritudum's honored guest."

Jack and the others received the system notification of the title. Jack checked the title. It was basically similar to the Sangrod honored guest title he had received from Horatio.

Yellow Death and Princess Purple were still scowling. They lost super rare weapons and set equipment for a friggin title that had no use whatsoever to them?

Jack, on the other hand, understands this title better. 'Hey, Peniel. Does this mean I am free to walk around Liguritudum now?'

'You are,' Peniel replied, before hurriedly adding, 'Unless you are planning to go traipsing around the ethereal prince's territory.'

Geod continued speaking, "If any of you find your way into the Liguritudum Realm, please come find me in our capital, Dritzuut. I will try to give you something in exchange for what you have done for us. Now,

if you will excuse me, I will need to leave and give this news to our great ruler. We will need to adjust our forces to accommodate the elite force from this council."

Jack was about to bid him farewell when he thought of something. "If you don't mind, I'll like to introduce you to someone first."

Geod was puzzled but he was not going to deny the request from someone who had done his country such a huge favor, so he followed Jack.

After wading through the traveling crowd, Jack found the one he was looking for. "There you are! My prince, I would like to introduce you to someone."

Prince Alonzo, Duchess Isabelle, and Gruff stopped walking after hearing Jack's call.

"My prince, this is Sir Geod, representative of the great ruler of Liguritutum realm. Sir Geod, this is Prince Alonzo, the third prince of Themisphere, I serve under him," Jack introduced the two.

Hearing that, Geod gave Prince Alonzo a polite bow, "Prince Alonzo, I've heard of you. I thank you for the aid that your subject had granted us. Our Liguritutum realm is in your debt."

Prince Alonzo himself was actually rather surprised by Jack's request to aid the Liguritutum realm just now. He had heard Jack mention the outworlder guild, World Maker, who meddled in Liguritutum's politics and the possibility of that country coming to invade if the World Maker won, but he could not afford to concern himself in those foreign matters yet. He had enough issues to deal with in his own kingdom. He could only presume Jack's action just now had something to do with that guild Jack had mentioned. He didn't mind what Jack had done, the fact that Jack and Domon had become the champions was already a boon to him. He couldn't wait to go back and used this momentum to gather more supporters.

"I am glad that our country can be of help," Prince Alonzo replied politely to Geod. "I have heard the report about your country. I hope the civil war can be resolved soon."

"With the help your champion has just given us, it might be," Geod said. He then sighed, "our two countries had always been on bad terms for something our ancestors did. If we somehow settle the tribulation my country is experiencing now, I will try to persuade our great ruler to open communication with Themisphere. I think it's time for our two countries to mend our relationship. At that time, I hope you can be our go-to-noble for such an endeavor."

"I will look forward to that. Cooperation is always more productive than conflict. I will also strive for peace between us if that is what your country wishes."

"I'm glad to hear that." Geod then turned to Jack. "I'm happy that you introduce me to your prince. I am now looking forward to the future once we settle our civil war."

Jack heard a notification again. He was informed that he had again completed a hidden part of his chain quest. He was awarded 800 merit points. The merit points were less than when he gained the support of Healer Society, but he thought probably because this relationship built with Liguritutum was not something that give much effect to Themisphere's politics. After all, not many parties in Themisphere had dealings with the Liguritutum realm.

Geod excused himself again. He looked very eager to return to his country. Jack didn't stop him this time.

Jack walked with Prince Alonzo, Duchess Isabelle, and Gruff. Prince Rhemos and Garland Thunderhand were nowhere in sight. Garland had probably stormed off back to Themisphere after the tournament ended since none of the first prince's representatives become a champion. In Rhemos' case, he didn't consider Red Death and the others as victorious considering they died in the match and Jack had single-handedly turned the situation around.

"Do any of you know what this special event is about?" Jack asked the three natives.

The three shook their heads.

Chapter 709: The Special Even

As they gathered back at the Roman Theater, they saw Callan and Pallas standing at the center of the arena accompanied by a young draconian in bright golden color full plate armor. At the front of his chest plate was an impressive lion-head carving. The demeanor of this draconian youth was not any less than Pallas who stood beside him.

After everyone had gathered and re-took their seats in the spectators' seats, Callan called out the first place winners. Out of the ten champions, only seven people came out. Jack, Domon, Arthur, Giant Steve, Red Death, Yellow Death, and Princess Purple. The other three champions, Wong, Ronald, and Blackhole had left.

"Thank you, everyone, for joining us back here again," Callan said. "The outworlder tournament has ended. You can leave now if that is what you wish and we thank you for your participation. There is, however, an extra event that we like to host. We would like to put to test the best outworlders have to offer against our own best rising generation."

Everyone's eyes landed on the young draconian in the golden plate armor. It was pretty obvious this person was the one Callan mentioned.

"This is Mihos, the best young warrior that we have nurtured," Callan continued. "He is a level 49 champion and a talent that we rarely find even amongst the ones we trained here. It will be a great experience for him to put his skills to the test against current best outworlders."

"We extend this challenge to the champions of the tournaments. This is, of course, fully optional. You are free to accept or reject. Do know, however, that we are willing to provide you rewards equal to the tournament's first prize if you can fulfill a certain condition in this bonus match."

"What condition?" Giant Steve asked.

"Reduce Mihos' life to at least half," Callan answered.

"Half? You want us to reduce a level 49' HP to half? That's all?" Yellow Death asked. His tone carried contempt. "Great. Maybe I have the chance to claim the rightful prize someone has stolen from me."

"Come on, dude. We have all lost to the orc team that time. It was Storm who won that team match. Are you going to continue to be bitter about it?" Giant Steve said.

"You bet your giant ass I am!" Yellow Death replied. "I will take this challenge first!" He said to Callan.

"I'm afraid you have misunderstood, all of you will be fighting together," Callan said. "If the condition is fulfilled, all of you will receive the rewards. If failed, none of you will."

"All of us just to bring down a level 49's life to half? Is this a joke?" Yellow Death asked.

"Dude, have you used your Inspect?" Jack asked.

Yellow Death didn't reply. He didn't even want to look at Jack. He was indeed as Steve said, still bitter about Jack who have forfeited the tournament prize. But after Jack's words, he used his Inspect. His Inspect skill was enough to scan someone who was three levels higher than him.

*

Mihos (Mythical draconian, champion), level 49

HP: 780,000

*

'Mythical?' Yellow Death thought. He had not met any native nor monster with this grade. The highest he had met was a rare elite, even that grade would require him to be with a squad to take down. Death Associates' researchers in the library, however, had gathered information that mentioned the mythical grade was above the rare elite. Now he understood why Callan told them to fight together.

Jack and the others who could do mana sense, were warier. They could sense the suffocating aura from this young draconian that was not dimmed even when the youth was standing next to Callan and Pallas. Especially Jack, who sensed this Mihos' aura was actually similar to the level 50 mythical blonde female knight in the ancient battleground. He had personally experienced how fearsome these mythical beings were. Even Mihos' HP alone was almost as high as Gruff's who was much higher in level.

"Don't worry, none of you will die for real even if you died," Callan said. "You will fight inside a constructed dimension. The time limit for this match is thirty minutes. You have to bring Mihos' HP down to half within that time limit to be eligible for the rewards. Are you all interested in this bonus match?"

"I will fight," Jack answered without hesitation. Although he was wary, this was a friendly fight. He could safely gauge his limit. The fight in the ancient battleground had been too messy for that.

"I'm in," Red Death was not going to turn this challenge down if Jack was not.

"Let's do it," Domon replied.

"Interesting," Arthur added.

The others also agreed.

Callan nodded, "Good." He then turned to the audience. "We originally expected ten combatants for this bonus match. But since three of the tournament champions had left, we are three people short. We extend the invitation to the one who fought those missing champions in the final match. Leavemealone, David, and Selena. Are the three of you willing to join this bonus match?"

Jack and the others looked back at the audience. Leavemealone, seeing the chance to fight together with Domon, immediately agreed, "I'll fight!"

David and Selena also came down to the arena. Who was going to refuse a chance to get additional rewards?

After the ten outworlders gathered down at the arena, Callan nodded. "Unlike the tournament matches, this bonus match won't be broadcasted to the world. Only the ones who stayed here have the privilege of that."

Callan then gave the sign to Pallas, who opened a portal.

"This portal will bring you to the constructed dimension where the match will take place," Pallas informed. "If you need to discuss your fight plan first, you can do so."

"I will be waiting for you all inside," Mihos said. He then walked towards the portal. But before he entered, he stopped and turned back. "You two!" He pointed at Jack and Leavemealone. "Don't hesitate to use your divine skills," he said and then entered the portal.

'He knows?' Jack thought in surprise.

Giant Steve turned to Jack, "So, what's the strategy?"

Domon did the same, "Yeah, how should we do this?"

"Oh? You will listen to me?" Jack asked his grandfather.

"You are more familiar with this game world. Just let me know the arrangement," Domon replied.

"If master Domon follows your words, I will do so as well," Leavemealone said. Jack rolled his eyes at him.

"I'm also not experienced in a coordinated fight," Arthur said. "I am more used to fighting against many enemies compared to ganging up against one, so I will follow your arrangement as well."

David chimed in, "A squad with a bad leader is still better than one who had none. Awaiting your order, chief."

'What the f*ck do you mean by a bad leader?' Jack cursed within.

He then turned to the remaining four who should be more troublesome.

"I don't mind listening to you for this match," Selena said.

"Fine," Red Death uttered a simple one word.

Yellow Death and Princess Purple both turned away with a harrumph.

"Are you two going to be this difficult throughout the match?" Jack asked.

"Yes," Yellow Death replied curtly.

"Don't expect any of my heals on you," Princess Purple said.

"Doesn't matter. Just make sure you heal the others," Jack said to Princess Purple. He had Peniel for healings anyway. To Yellow Death, Jack said, "And you! As long as you don't try any accidental friendly fire, we will be fine."

"I can't promise that," Yellow Death replied.

Jack gave him a sharp glare. He then said, "Before anything, let's us form a party first."

He created the party and invited everyone. Everyone accepted, including Yellow Death and Princess Purple. The latter two took a few seconds more than the others before they accept, though.

"All right. Our standard arrangement will have us four," he pointed to himself, Giant Steve, Domon, and Arthur. "To clash directly with our opponent. Giant Steve will take the frontal clash. Arthur and Domon will take the sides, I will take the rear. Our objective is to limit his movements as much as possible."

"Why do you take the rear? Are you trying to get the easy part?" Princess Purple asked with disdain.

"My damage is the highest, are you going to question every single command I give?" Jack answered and asked at the same time. "I should be given the most chance to hit the opponent among the front line. This match is not being determined by who caused the highest damage. You heard Callan already, if we achieve the objective, we all win the rewards. If we don't, we all lose. It doesn't matter who lands more damage in this match. There is no score. We all have the same aim."

Princess Purple turned away and didn't utter any more argument.

"Moving on, Red Death and Leavemealone should stay out of range," Jack continued. "You two should attack only when you see an opportunity. Use hit and run tactic. Don't linger around. If our opponent breaks through the four of us at the frontline, it is your job to disrupt him from getting to our range attackers. You two need to note one thing, don't let your guard down just because you are attacking him from the blindside."

"Why is that?" Red Death asked.

"If my hunch is right, he can sense mana as well," Jack answered.

"Mana what?" Selena asked.

"He means that our opponent is aware of all that happens around him, even when he does not see it," Red Death explained.

Selena had seen some contestants in this tournament exhibit such a trait, so she sort of understood what Red Death meant.

"Also, I think he can do mana manipulation as well," Jack added. He had seen the mythical-grade knights in the ancient battleground use the technique. If this Mihos was the same as them, he most likely could as well.

"What the hell is that now?" Yellow Death uttered.

"It means if he uses this technique. Even his standard hit has the chance to one-shot you," Jack replied.

Chapter 710: Ganging up on a Mythical Opponen

Jack turned to David, Selena, and Yellow Death, "The three of you, range attackers, land as much damage as you can. Don't even think about coming near our opponent. While for you," Jack pointed at Princess Purple. "I don't need your healing. Just make sure you heal the others who do."

Jack then approached Leavemealone and said, "The fact that he knows about our divine skills and requests us to use them might mean that he has a way to defend against it."

"His HP is too high. We can only wound him even if we use the divine skill," Leavemealone reminded.

"That's true. But just in case, don't use it unless you see a good chance," Jack said. "We can only use it once in this match. Those skills are our chance for the highest damage count, need to make sure they hit."

"Don't worry, I don't use my skills at random."

The others had started gathering around the portal while Jack and Paytowin talked. Seeing them grouped like that, Pallas said, "Just enter. Mihos won't attack unless you are all ready."

Pallas then made a gesture and a projection appeared in the sky, similar to when it was the team match. The projection showed Mihos inside a void. He was currently standing in wait with his eyes closed. His two hands were gripping the hilt of a golden greatsword with its tip on the ground. The cross-guard of the greatsword had the shape of wings.

"Damn! He knows how to look cool," Jack remarked.

The ten started to enter the portal. They came out into a void that Jack found to be very similar to the challenge spaces in the League of Champions.

Once the ten entered, Mihos opened his eyes and asked, "Are you ready?"

"Wait! Let us get into positions first!" Jack uttered. If the opponent was asking, then might as well take advantage of it, Jack thought.

Jack asked the range attackers to spread out while keeping a safe distance. Would be easier to hit from different angles. The exception was Princess Purple who Jack asked to stay next to David, because out of the other range attackers, he was the most proficient in melee in case of the opponent breaking through.

Red Death and Leavemealone also placed themselves on opposite sides while Domon, Arthur, Giant Steve, and Jack surrounded Mihos from four different sides.

"Are you ready now?" Mihos asked after seeing their positionings.

"Let's start," Jack said and cast Magic Weapon.

Mihos pulled his greatsword from the ground just as the four at the frontline rushed forward. Mihos made a circular swing. The wind of its swing radiated out.

"Whirlwind slash!" Jack recognized the skill while slashing forward with his swords. His two swords collided with the energy wind. The impact felt like his swords had collided with a physical weapon. His advance was stopped on track. The other three had blocked with their weapons as well with a similar result.

Mihos made another swing again in a backward motion, producing a second wind. This second wind came abruptly. This time, Jack only had the chance to parry instead of using an attack. He was pushed back with damage numbers appearing on his head.

Giant Steve was the same but his situation was better since he blocked the second wind using his shield. Domon and Arthur managed to perform a complex attacking maneuver to receive the second wind. They didn't receive damage but they were still pushed back.

The ground underneath Mihos lighted up at this time, it was the starting animation of Selena's Flame Turbulence. Mihos twisted the greatsword in his hand and stabbed the weapon to the ground. The flame turbulence which almost emerged died down.

Selena was greatly shocked by it, but those with mana sense had a better sense of what had happened, even if they were still shocked as well.

'Mana manipulation can be used that way?' Jack thought in astonishment. Mihos had used mana manipulation in his stab to the ground and disrupted the mana buildup from Selena's spell, effectively canceling the spell.

Domon had a better understanding since he had done a similar thing when he defended against Assassin's Unblockable Stab in the past, but to do it against an area of effect spell such as Arcane Turbulence required a better understanding of the spell, of where the focal point of the spell was, where the mana was being channeled so that the spell could be disrupted.

Jack was already casting when he was being pushed back by the second wind. His Hundred Synchronous Thoughts allowed one part of his mind to fully concentrate on casting spells while in the middle of a fight. When Mihos canceled Selena's spell. Jack threw his completed Myriad Ensnaring Chains where Mihos was standing.

Mihos had just used his mana manipulation technique to cancel Selena's spell. Even for him, he was not proficient enough to do it consecutively. Thirteen crimson chains came out to entangle the golden champion.

A shockwave exploded from Mihos' body, knocking all the crimson chains that were about to tackle him. Before the chains came back again, he squatted down and jumped.

"Crap! It's that boss jump skill again," Jack uttered.

Mihos was using Berserker's Jump Assault. The jump brought him out of the four melees' encirclement and landed not far away from where David and Princess Purple were. Since the battle started, Yellow Death and David had been shooting bullets, but their hits were insignificant compared to Mihos' ridiculously high HP.

Additionally, as Peniel had mentioned in the past, Mythical-grade beings could regenerate HP passively even during combat. Mihos regenerated at 100 HP per second. This gave the player additional pressure

as this meant they couldn't afford to stop attacking. Any reprieve would just mean Myhos slowly recovering his lost HP.

Leavemealone had seen Mihos jump and came to where he landed. Mihos slashed at him when he saw the vampire. Leavemealone used the evasive version of his Cycle of Shade and Shadow, dodging the slash and coming to Mihos' side. His fists were alighted with Ki-infused Fist. He used Iron Punch skill as his fist struck Mihos' side.

He gave another fast tap with his other fist before pulling away, just as Mihos' greatsword came slashing. Leavemealone followed Jack's instruction of not lingering after landing that one-two punch. His eyes never left Mihos as he retreated. Mihos' eyes were staring back at him as well and they suddenly shone a golden glow.

'Oh no, look away!' Leavemealone heard Carnelia's voice in his mind.

It's too late, Leavemealone found his body becoming heavy as his movements came to a stop. A layer of rocky substance was covering his body.

'Why is he stopping? What is that glow from Mihos' eyes?' Jack who saw the scene asked Peniel in his mind.

'That's one of the rare eye skills, Petrifying Gaze,' Peniel answered. 'Similar to the one used by the Ruin Basilisks you encountered at the Temple of Divine Squall. The petrification status is temporary for you outworlders but you will receive earth damage over time. High earth resistance can reduce the duration.'

While Leavemealone was helpless, a light landed on him. Princess Purple cast Cure on him, removing the petrification status.

Mihos, however, didn't give Leavemealone any attention. He was heading to where David and Princess Purple were as soon as his Petrifying Gaze landed.

Red Death appeared behind Mihos by using Phase Strike, but Mihos stepped to the side just as Red Death's poison dagger stabbed. Mihos thrust his greatsword to his back without looking. Red Death was glad that Jack had informed her about the possibility of this native possessing mana sense. Otherwise, she wouldn't have been vigilant of it.

She used Back Shift to dodge the thrust, Mihos turned back as she appeared behind. The native champion pulled his greatsword back before making a wide swing. Red Death felt danger from the incoming move. She didn't take any chances, she used Vanish and teleported away.

Eight golden swords flew out from that swing. They headed to each of the players except for David and Princess Purple.

Red Death who had teleported away was surprised to find one of these golden swords coming. The golden swords didn't fly in a straight line, they homed towards their targets. Each of the players defended against these golden swords in their own way. They couldn't dodge because the golden swords would just fly back at them again.

Jack used Flame Strike at this golden sword. The golden sword was destroyed, he received no damage. The others received damage though, except for Domon and Arthur who used mana manipulation in their strikes to destroy these golden swords.

Jack then fired his Mana Bullet and Energy Bolts at Myhos who was approaching David. Selena did the same. But Mihos seemed to ignore these small damages. It was clear that his target was Princess Purple. This native also understood that without a healer, this group of players would be much easier to defeat.