

Darkness 641

Chapter 641 Balrog Armor

As soon as Kahn commanded his subordinates to equip their respective armors and attack the members of the hero's party... everyone got out of the formation and targeted each member of the opponent team.

Soon, after pushing them afar from the middle of this 50 kilometers radius... the battlefield was divided into 8 parts.

For safekeeping, Kahn sent Venessa with Armin who was fully capable of both healing and protecting her with his skills. The main purpose was to let her recover peacefully while they kept everyone at bay.

And this is how... The real battle began.

At one corner of the battlefield, flew a 4 meter tall green orc battleaxe warrior whose opponent was none other than a 3 meter tall human donning a red armor. The former was a second stage saint while the latter was only a being comparable to a 1st stage saint.

Tamak was now facing Jugram, the Hellblazer general who was one of the hard hitters of Kahn's group.

The main reason why Jugram chose Tamak to fight was because both of them were Berserker class warriors and the most important part was that Tamak could use Ice Element whilst Jugram had the Chaos Element that thrived on battle and blood of the enemies. On top of it, Jugram was associated with Hellfire because of his Superior Chaos Demon bloodline. One held a battleaxe while the other used a giantsword.

This hellfire was many times more potent and powerful compared to people with the normal fire element.

If someone like Blackwall stood against Tamak, then it would be a long and dragged-out battle instead of a head-on clash.

"You stood very proudly that day after our party made a scene." spoke Tamak who was taller than average orcs.

At this moment, he spoke about the time when the hero's party caused trouble in front of Throk's main company building.

"And who are you, again?" asked Jugram in an overbearing tone.

Rumble!!

Tamak let out his green and blue aura as he gave a dreary look towards Jugram. The latter just insulted him by hinting that he wasn't even someone worth remembering.

"Tch! A weak trash dares to talk down on me... and a human at that?" he spoke in a scornful voice.

"I'm a peak 2nd stage saint while you're only a peak 1st stage saint. You're overestimating yourself by trying to fight with me." said Tamak as he gave a contemptuous look to Jugram.

"That would indeed be the case if I'm not in my true form. But now that master has permitted me to use the new gear, let's Duke it out." replied Jugram.

BOOM!!

A loud explosion filled the surrounding 2 kilometers region as Jugram revealed his full aura and summoned his new armor and the giantsword Throk made for him using the guardian dragon's body, hide, claws and horns.

RUSTLE!!

RUSTLE!!

The land and trees on the ground instantly caught fire after Jugram revealed his full aura and now, he was donning his new legendary rank gear set and weapon.

A greatly reinforced Black and Red armor with sharp and pointed yellow extensions coming out from here covered Jugram from head to toe. And in his hand, was a crimson red giantsword that looked like a weapon of some Demon Lord as it was covered in the layer of hellfire and blood at the same time.

[Master, can you lend me that system of yours to get details of the effects of my new armor and weapon?] asked Jugram to Kahn who floated in the air 20 kilometers away.

[System, use me as a medium and give them all details and information about their stats, their abilities, ranks of the skills and effects of their own weapons and armors through Telepathy Link ability.] commanded Kahn.

[Command Accepted. Beginning analysis.

Analysis complete.] replied system in its usual lifeless and robotic voice.

Jugram then asked.

[Tell me system, what Buffs and enhancements I have now.] ordered Jugram.

[The system detects that the new armor and the weapon are capable of absorbing and help general Jugram use his bloodline and true legendary rank form specifics abilities without fully transforming.

Although those abilities will have only 50% of effectiveness, range and attack damage output, the user will be able to still use them without transforming.] reported the system.

"Good. Means I don't need to always fight in my true form. This way, I can battle without revealing my origin as a variant monster." spoke Jugram as he smirked.

The very next moment, his red and fiery aura covered his body and the armor and the giantsword started absorbing it without wasting the smallest bit.

And right before Tamak's eyes... Jugram's appearance started to change.

The short black-haired Jugram went under a form of transmutation while expelling a chaotic aura out of his body.

"Arrrggghhhh!!" roared Jugram like a monster who just made a battlecry.

BOOM!!

Another burst of chaotic aura full of hellfire filled 1 kilometer of radius and finally, Jugram's new and terrifying appearance was revealed.

He now had two big black and red horns that leaked fire coming out the sides of his head. Both sides of his horns joined together and formed a band over his forehead. Now, Jugram's eyes glowed dark red with no iris in them while his once black hair now turned into shoulder-length white hair similar to how Kahn had long white hair in his Asura Mode in Flavot city when he fought against Solomon. And around Jugram's entire body, was an aura of scalding hot hellfire.

Just then, the system started giving him details.

[Following are the statistics of general Jugram including the effects of the Balrog Armor set and Ares giantsword :

Name : Jugram

Species : Diablos (Variant Superior Chaos Demon)

Job : Hellblazer (Legendary Rank)

Rank : Legendary Rank

Level : 294

Strength : 28760

Agility : 19936

Dexterity : 17658

Defense : 14510

Mana : 9371

Following are the strongest abilities and skills the general is already in possession of.

King of Fire (Saint Rank)

Marauder King (Saint Rank)

Wrath of Vajra (Saint Rank)

Frenzy Berserker (SSS Rank)

Rage Demon (SSS Rank)

Hell Domain (Saint Rank)

Blood Storm (SSS Rank)

Chaos Emperor (Saint Rank)

Bloodline : True Demon

Current bloodline purity : 57%] the system gave Jugram his basic information first.

But as soon as he heard the full effects of the Balrog Armor set and Ares giantsword... he gave a wide smirk to Tamak and openly challenged him for a battle by pointing his weapon at the orc.

"Let's dance."

Chapter 642 Bloodthirsty Ares

Jugram challenged Tamak in his own style as soon as he heard the effects of his new armor and giantsword from Kahn's system.

[Following are the effects of the legendary rank Balrog Armor set :

Bloodline Transformation :

Allows the host Jugram to infuse his Chaos Demon Bloodline into the armor, thus unlocking all of his abilities that could be previously used only in his true form.

Hell Domain, King of Fire and Chaos Emperor can now be used without transforming into the Diablos form.

All the physical stats and attack damage output has been doubled while using the Balrog Armor set.

Limit Breaker :

The suppression of 20 levels in the host's stats has been halved. Now, general Jugram can use a total of 80% original strength in his legendary rank form.] reported the system.

This also explained the transformation of Jugram suddenly growing those two fiery horns and white hair as part of the true demon bloodline effect.

As for his new dark red giantsword Ares...

This legendary rank giantsword was a 2.5 meter long weapon made for butchering and chopping off dozens of enemies with a single swing. Forget defending... just the impact from this weapon could send the enemies flying.

The weapon itself gave an eerie and dreadful feeling just from the design that had a demonic skull on the guard while two bat-like wings coming out of it. With the dark red blade itself, it looked like the weapon of a demon king that was thirsty for blood.

[Following are the effects of Ares giantsword :

Blood Sacrifice :

Allows the host to absorb the blood of the enemies to reinforce the weapon and increase its attack power with time.

The more blood absorbed from the target, the higher chances of applying a Laceration effect on Ares which will increase the bleeding effect on the enemies.

Apostle of War :

The more time spent by the host using this weapon during a battle and more critical hits landed on the opponents, the higher critical damage and total damage will be delivered against an enemy.] declared the system.

For someone like Jugram who thrived on battle, both Balrog Armor and Ares were the best tailor-made sets for him. By no means did it fail in front of Kahn's Drakos Armor and Lucifer in any way.

Tamak was thoroughly infuriated at Jugram after being treated like a weak opponent by the enemy despite him being obviously stronger. However, he hadn't made a move yet because not only Jugram's armor and giantsword gave him an instinctual fear as soon as they were revealed... but his transformation where he grew horns and appeared like a war god also made him become cautious.

While he was contemplating how to approach Jugram in a battle, the latter had no intention to give him time to think.

Jugram had already watched Tamak fight through Kahn's shadow and he knew about all the skills of the enemy.

Clang!!

Two massive weapons of both the saints clashed and the impact of a frozen battleaxe against a fiery red giantsword.

Blades of massive icicles formed around Tamak and he quickly slashed the battleaxe to cut Jugram in half.

Ching!!

Jugram was pushed a few hundred meters back. This was a battle of saints. Even a small swing of the weapon associated with world energy and their respective elements was enough to kill thousands of people with a single strike. Thus, just the aftershocks were enough to push your enemies few hundred meters away.

"No time playing around. I'll finish it quickly." spoke Jugram and decided to go all out because soon, there was going to be another battle.

He quickly activated Hell Domain from the get-go and a massive 2 and half kilometer wide infernal domain instantly appeared around them as the whole surrounding was filled with scorching red hellfire.

This was his special saint rank ability that helped him create a 5 kilometers wide battlefield filled with Hellfire. All the enemies in this field would have their strength and defense reduced by 75%.

But because he wasn't in his true form, the current limit was two and a half kilometers while the Tamak only lost 37.5% of his defense.

Jugram activated his Hellblazer legendary class effect.

The temperature of the surrounding 2.5 kilometers was instantly raised to 250 degrees celsius.

Tamak in return summoned an Ice blizzard using his skills in one kilometer radius and tried to protect himself from this intense heat that was chipping down his strength.

But little did he know that once both Hell Domain skill and Hellblazer class effect were activated together... the defensive properties of all the armors, weapons and artifacts from the enemy side would be decreased by 50%.

Under the influence of the Hell Domain, unless the weapons and armors had ice attributes and elemental properties... they would start melting after a few minutes.

But this didn't mean Tamak was impervious to these attacks. Just that he would last longer than those without Ice elemental gear and affinity.

While Tamak was using the world energy and various skills to protect himself from the hellfire, Jugram quickly activated Frenzy Berserker skill.

This was a SSS Rank skill where Jugram could enter a frenzied state for 40 minutes during which, the strength and defense stats would also be raised by 300% while the attack damage would increase by 600%.

Means Jugram who already had double the physical stats because of Balrog Armor, now received 6 times more strength while attacking.

But as if this wasn't enough... Jugram decided to use Marauder King, which bypassed 80% of an enemy's physical defenses. This skill was only usable by those who used a greatsword, giantsword or a battleaxe.

So only Kahn, Jugram and Blackwall could use it in their group.

And as a result, Jugram launched a barrage of slashing attacks filled with hellfire on already struggling Tamak whose entire body was steadily losing world energy because he was trying to protect himself from the hellfire.

And because Jugram was using his peak level Berserker skills that were far superior than his own, Tamak started losing grip of his battleaxe and also received lots of injuries in the meantime.

But soon, he noticed that the blood that fell from his wounds wasn't dropping on the ground but flew towards Ares as the giantsword was absorbing it. As time passed, the weapon of his enemy was landing even fiercer and more powerful hits.

And finally after 30 minutes of battle... Tamak ran out of world energy. His expression was completely haggard and he was sweating profusely while the bleeding on his body increased because of Ares' Blood Sacrifice and Apostle of War effect.

Jugram was already a better and more experienced fighter than him.

Unlike Tamak who learned his skills in an academy, Jugram learned and perfected his skills on a real battlefield.

Shatter!!

Tamak was left speechless as Jugram made a powerful horizontal slash with Ares and shattered his epic rank battleaxe covered in frost like breaking some thin glass.

But before the disbelief in his eyes subsided, Jugram suddenly leaped higher and quickly plunged Ares into Tamak's neck.

"Urrrgghhhh!!" groaned Tamak as his own blood started choking him.

However, in the following moments, Ares started absorbing all the blood from Tamak's body as it was thirsty from ages.

Jugram then forced down Ares fully and cut Tamak in half without speaking a word or showing mercy.

Even in death, Tamak's mind was utterly shocked because he still couldn't accept that he was killed by Jugram who was one rank below him and supposedly 5 times weaker than him.

With a horrified countenance, his body fell from the sky on the ground while Jugram was looking at other battles with Ares on his shoulder, completely unbothered by the fact that he just killed a 2nd stage saint as he spoke in an exasperated voice...

"What a fucking boring battle."

Chapter 643 Atlas Armor

While Jugram was done with killing Tamak, a second stage saint, on the exact opposite side of his battlefield that was still burning as an aftermath of Hell Domain activated by the Hellblazer general... was an ongoing clash between a mage and a tank.

Strong gales of visible high pressured windblades and spears spread over a 3 kilometers radius bombarded against a shield held by a 3 meter tall human hybrid who had two large bull-like brown horns coming out of the sides of his head.

Blackwall was now facing a Dark Elf mage from the hero's party. Whether it was Rakos or the Vulcan empire... Dark Elves were extremely rare and even rarer among the saints.

However, the one faced by the Abyss Knight general was a Wind elemental saint magician and he was currently being suppressed by the barrage of the windblades and spears launched by this opponent.

"I, Rodan Wisdokaar will not lose to a mere tank who can't even touch me." spoke this dark elf with pride.

Although Blackwall managed to push him to this end of the battlefield by making a surprise attack previously... now that he had collected himself, Rodan had taken command of the battle.

In actuality... Blackwall was an Earth elemental primordial titan. This mage named Rodan excelled in using Wind magic skills and spells.

Even the massive maelstrom that had surrounded and also secluded their battle from the outside world was no different than a dome of wind elemental spells and constructs that incessantly attacked Blackwall, forcing him to retreat from time to time.

Based on his characteristics and elemental affinity... Blackwall was only weak against 3 elements. Darkness, Lightning and Wind. On top of it, the opponent also was a long-range attacker with excellent speed and maneuverability in a battle. So in simple words... Rodan was his natural nemesis.

But as soon as Kahn gave the order to the system to let all the subordinates have access to detailed information about their new armors and weapons...

"System, give me details." he ordered.

[Following are the Stats of the general Blackwall :

Name : Blackwall

Species : Kronos (Variant Titan)

Job : Abyss Knight (Ancient Rank)

Rank : Legendary Rank

Level : 297

Strength : 29204

Agility : 21894

Dexterity : 17327

Defense : 41985

Mana : 22628

Following are the skills and abilities :

Titan Physique (SSS Rank)

Elemental Durability (SSS Rank)

Titan's Rage (SSS Rank)

Marauder King (SSS Rank)

Wrath of Vajra (SSS Rank)

Terrain Manipulation (SSS Rank)

Titan Descent (SSS Rank)

Accelerated Regeneration (SS Rank)

Earth Sense (SS Rank)

Mineral Control (SSS Rank)

Transmute Minerals (SS Rank)

Bloodline : Primordial Titan

Current Bloodline purity : 32%] reported the system.

"Good. Now let's see the effects of my new gear." he said.

Blackwall also instantly changed into his new Atlas Armor set while he equipped Aegis shield and Heracles battleaxe just with a simple thought.

BOOM!!

A massive burst of brown aura shook the flow of the maelstrom and pushed back Rodan who flew higher than his enemy in the air.

And as the aura subsided, Blackwall was revealed in a completely different armor and weapons that gave exuded overbearing and highly dense pressure.

After Blackwall infused his bloodline similar to how Jugram did after summoning his gear... the appearance took a drastic turn.

When Throk presented the Atlas Armor back then, it was only a dark gray armor but now when infused with Blackwall's titan bloodline, the changes become very noticeable.

A 3 meter tall massive and ripped man was covered in a thick layer of armor from head to toe. On his head, was a golden-brown helmet that had two horns coming out from the top, belonging to the titan subordinate himself.

This helmet had only openings for his eyes and mouth while it appeared to be made of very sturdy material.

Blackwall's entire torso was covered in the thick dark gray and golden yellow patterned armor that not only looked sturdy but also made him look like a murder machine on its way to destroy an entire army. The gauntlets, the shoulder pads and the chest area had golden-brown design outlines while the rest was made of dragon's claws and hide with the hint of red glowing patterns as if a volcano was moving underneath.

The waist had a reinforced yellow belt and his legs were covered with greaves and sabatons that would help him cement his standing on the ground.

Compared to his previous appearance, Blackwall now looked like the endgame boss of a video game himself. Even if you brought hundreds of players, you still wouldn't be able to kill this type of tank.

"Details." he commanded in a stoic voice.

[Following are the effects of the Atlas Armor set :

Immovable Mountain :

Allows the host Blackwall to create a defensive barrier made of earth elemental attribute by harnessing the physical composition and rigidity of the ground and terrain in 5 kilometers radius without needing to use the user's own mana or world energy.

The stronger and sturdier composition of the nearby terrain, the stronger this barrier will be.

Iron Will :

The longer period of time faced by the user Blackwall while defending against enemy attacks, the more defense buff will be added to his physical stats.

Every 10 minutes will add 10% of defense that will be stacked on the user's stats with passing time.]
replied the system.

"Good. Means I can drag this battle for a long until I accomplish my main goal." he spoke in a masculine voice and looked at Rodan as he used Aegis to cover his front.

Till now, Blackwall was only defending against the Wind Magician. And he didn't attack the enemy even once for a very good reason.

Because Rodan was a wind elemental enemy. Even if he wanted to kill the dark elf... this guy excelled in fleeing using his skills.

But there was a reason why Kahn told Blackwall to target this mage despite having a total disadvantage against this enemy who was proficient in long-range attacks and spells.

If Blackwall was being honest... it was a very simple reason but also a bit childish reason. And that was...

Target Practice.

Chapter 644 Aegis and Heracles

Inside a literal tornado, Blackwall firmly faced Rodan who had the high ground... the high altitude as they fought in the sky under the 3 kilometers wide battlefield that was now filled with high pressured windblades, spears, a variety of spells and now, the uprooted trees and plants from the ground had also entered the fray as the dark elf attacked the kronos general from all side periodically.

An unscrupulous expression appeared on Rodan's face as he saw his enemy struggling against the barrage of his powerful spells and attacks.

The tank warrior Blackwall was still moving in circles as he defended against turbid wind attacks that attacked him in no particular order. So the dark elf was elated as he felt a sense of superiority in his mind.

But unbeknownst to the wind magician saint... Blackwall was hatching different plans of his own after infusing Aegis and Heracles with his bloodline.

[Give me the details on Aegis and Heracles.] commanded Blackwall.

Aegis was a 2 meter large dark gray shield with a golden-brown head of a dragon at the top center region. It had an extremely sturdy and rugged body along with small spikes poking out of the borders that allowed it to not only protect the user but also be used to damage and attack the enemies when needed.

[Following are the effects and powers of the shield Aegis.

Gluttony :

Aegis shield now has the ability to absorb the damage received from attacks and spells and convert it into its own defense to reinforce itself.

In simple words... the shield will become unbreakable even against extremely strong attacks after a prolonged battle.

Royalguard :

Aegis shield has the ability to store the elemental attacks and naturally create resistance to that particular element with time. Means in front of a stronger opponent who also has elemental advantage... the user Blackwall will be able to bypass this disadvantage after defending against their attacks until Aegis is completely immune against that element.] reported the system.

[Now that's more like it! As expected of my mentor.

This shield would turn out to be extremely useful in a prolonged battle or an open war against multiple enemies. Even someone stronger than me won't be able to oppress me for long with Aegis in my hands.] he spoke inwardly and rejoiced after hearing the effects of his legendary rank shield made by Throk from the guardian dragon's horn.

But this wasn't the end of it all... soon, the system resounded in his head again as soon as he looked at the massive battleaxe in his right hand.

Heracles was also a dark gray colored massive 2 and a half meter tall battleaxe. But after getting infused with Blackwall's titan bloodline, the intrinsic patterns on the battleaxe also turned golden brown like the Atlas armor.

Now, it gave an oppressive aura of authority and dominance. Just the aura alone was dreadful enough to strike fear in the hearts of his enemies.

[Following are the effects of the battleaxe Heracles :

The Twelve Labors :

Heracles has the ability to not only attack at great strength by doubling the damage based on the original strength of the user... but it will accumulate general Blackwall's earth elemental aura on the places it has attacked.

If attacked on an enemy, it will inflict their body with a debuff that will slow down their physical movement.

If the hits have landed too many times, it will trigger an effect that will leave the enemies stunned and paralyzed for some time.] informed system.

This effect suffered from Heracles would make Blackwall's enemies unable to move and paralyzed. During that period, the enemies will be no different than defenseless babies, easy to kill like cutting grass.

For the next 30 minutes, Blackwall only defended and acted like he was suffering a great deal of damage and lost a lot of stamina. In reality, he was letting Aegis build up complete immunity against the wind element because this immunity would be forever stored in Aegis and would stay as part of its characteristics even in future. Thus, he was using this chance to save time.

And finally after he was done, Blackwall decided that it was time to make the move.

At this point, Rodan had depleted 80% of his mana and world energy by constantly attacking Blackwall using his skills. And also this typhoon skill of his was active since the very beginning of this battle which also played a big part in it.

This whole fight was actually good training for Blackwall who was undefeated in defense but lacked range in attacking long-distance enemies so Rodan was the best candidate for Blackwall to create some battle tactics. And now, the abyss knight general finally revealed his hand.

Finally as his world energy was coming to end, Rodan realized that outside of the typhoon he summoned... were hundreds of massive spears made of stones, boulders and ground soil. Meanwhile, the whole battlefield itself was encompassed under a sandstorm.

Rodan was left speechless because he never noticed that he was actually jailed inside Blackwall's own cage.

All this time, the general wasn't just defending by carefully creating this domain using his Terrain Manipulation skill that allowed him to control all earth elemental objects in the world using telekinesis.

This was the Mountain Titan's exclusive ability which he got after merging with it.

During the battle, the maelstrom of wind elemental blades and spells had also destroyed the ground below and brought in a lot of stones, sand and soil as Rodan was bombarding Blackwall with his spells.

But without even realizing, Blackwall was secretly manipulating these very objects and carefully controlling them, waiting for the moment when Rodan lost most of his mana and world energy reserves.

However, Rodan was also an experienced mage so he quickly summoned another windstorm and decided to use it to create an exit and escape this cage.

But when he tried to create wind spells... something unexpected happened and he quickly analyzed the root cause.

Blackwall was using the sand in the air and ordered them to rotate in the opposite direction of the wind spells and attacks the dark elf created, instantly breaking their momentum and making Rodan unable to properly cast the skills.

In simple words, Blackwall rendered Rodan useless by letting him think that he was besting the opponent without even sensing the fact that he was providing the tank enemy with a weapon using his own spells and techniques.

However, now that he couldn't even use his spells and ran out of his mana and world energy... he was as defenseless as one could be.

Stab!

Stab!

Without even being unable to sense the incoming attacks in this sandstorm, Rodan was pierced by a stone spear in his right shoulder and left thigh from behind.

"Ahhh!!" he wailed in agony.

But the next moment, Blackwall quickly appeared in front of him and swung Heracles, quickly cutting off his left arm.

"Arrgghhh!!" he screamed in excruciating pain.

But before he could recover from the pain, Blackwall unsummoned Heracles and picked up Aegis with both hands.

"No! Please let me go!" he made a final plea...

BANG!!

Without thinking for a second, Blackwall started bashing the elf's head until blood spurted like a fountain and his skull was crushed while brain matter splattered in the air.

Blackwall didn't have any victorious feeling at the moment because although the battle took some time... he had to stand on his guard and only made a few moves before he mercilessly killed the 1st stage saint magician.

Blackwall looked towards Rodan's falling body in the air and spoke in a discontent voice...

"And here I was... looking for a real challenge."

Chapter 645 shinigami Armor

As soon as Blackwall was done with taking care of his opponent aka Rodan, the dark elf magician... he too shifted his gaze towards the middle of this 50 kilometers radius battlefield. His gaze fixated on the happenings at the center.

Meanwhile, on the southern end of this massive isolation barrier was a scene where two enemies were probing each other by exchanging various moves.

Flap! Flap!

In the air, was a first stage saint female archer with the head of a raven and two black wings on her back.

From the first impression, one could tell that it was Mikaela, a hybrid archer of the Tengu species and one of the two saint rank archers of the hero's party.

And before Mikaela, floated her opponent who was a human with a black mask covering half of his face from the left side and had dark green eyes.

His long shoulder-length black hair fluttered slowly while he was donning a pitch-black lightweight assassin's gear with two red daggers in his hand.

This assassin who was effortlessly dodging dozens of lightning element arrows was none other than Ronin, Kahn's left-hand man who was also the main person in charge of gathering intel, setting schemes and thinking of ways to overtake the enemies like a war tactician.

But now, this assassin who didn't have a single long-range attack skill was facing an archer who had excellent speed, dexterity, elemental advantage and long attack range.

Everyone knew how Assassins only had the advantage in a battle as long as they were not sensed, exposed and had the opportunity to land the one decisive strike to kill a target. But once they were out in the open... all of their advantage in a battle was gone. In simple words... It was like Ronin was fighting the one enemy he was most vulnerable against among all the classes.

After receiving Kahn's command, Ronin also asked the system about his current stats.

[Following are the statistics and abilities :

Name : Ronin

Species : Thanatos (Variant Soul Reaper)

Job : Spirit Assassin (Legendary Rank)

Rank : Legendary Rank

Level : 295

Strength : 19459

Agility : 25169

Dexterity : 23620

Defense : 7890

Mana : 12378

Following are the abilities and skills :

Spiritual Sense (SSS Rank)

Poison & Venom Immunity (Legendary Rank)

Spiritual Replica (Saint Rank)

Phase Shift (Saint Rank)

Soul Collector (Legendary Rank)

Quicksilver (SSS Rank)

Phantasm (Saint Rank)

Invisibility (SSS Rank)

Fear Toxin (SSS Rank)

Grappling Extension (SSS Rank)

Shadow Walk (SSS Rank)

Hunter's Domain (Saint Rank) :

Bloodline : Vilgax

Current bloodline purity : 100%] reported the system.

Finally, Ronin summoned his new gear and armors, infused his bloodline and quickly, his entire look changed.

Even Mikaela was taken aback by this sudden and saw her enemy's appearance change instantly.

A slim man donning a compact assassin gear that was a combination of black white and yellow. Many parts in this armor were made of black dragon hide including the hood, the black mask which covered his face horizontally had yellow outlines.

The gauntlets, the shin, boots and the shoulder had golden yellow and pointy parts coming out that were no different than sharp daggers themselves. And on the back, 3 long black stripes came out that looked very similar to the grappling extensions Ronin had in his real legendary rank Thanatos form, just many times smaller.

Overall, the Shinigami Armor set equipped by Ronin was the best assassin armor set one could get that didn't hinder the user's speed but rather looked like it would enhance it instead.

[Following are the effects of the Shinigami Armor :

The Eminence in Shadow :

The Shinigami Armor will enhance the user's speed, dexterity and perception of time by 200%.

General Ronin will get an additional 50% boost in attack power while using this armor during nighttime.

Note : Spirit Replica, Invisibility and Phase Shift skills are now accessible to the general without transforming into the real form.] reported the system.

[Good. Means I already have an advantage in speed compared to her. That way, I can fend off her attacks and those arrow attack skills easily. And with my increased speed, I can close off the distance between us as well.] thought Ronin as he sidestepped and dodged an arrow aimed at his head.

Ronin then quickly brandished his new daggers that too had a change in appearance.

The long daggers that previously had only black curved blades now glimmered green while all the patterns and runes on them turned golden yellow. The twin daggers now looked like the sharpest blades that could even cut through a boulder swiftly.

[Following are the effects of the Erebus Daggers :

Death is a Mercy :

Erebus Daggers will improve general Ronin's critical hit chance by 80% and critical damage by 30% during a battle.

Once hit with it, the fear toxin that was mixed with them using the user's bloodline would apply the same effect as the fear toxin and the opponent will start hallucinating, greatly affecting their senses and response time.

No Time To Die :

Once used against an enemy via a surprise attack, the daggers will activate a stun effect that will incapacitate the target for 10 seconds regardless of their rank.

However, the hit must be critical and landed without the enemy noticing the incoming attack.

Note : Shinigami Armor and Erebus Daggers can also be used during Phase Shift and Invisibility ability since they're now extensions of general Ronin's body after being infused with his bloodline.] revealed the system again.

[I see. I was going to overwhelm her with my speed alone but now, I must test these daggers in a different way.] thought the Spirit Assassin general

Ronin kept evading the barrage of attacks made by Mikaela as she launched hundreds of electrified arrows in succession using her epic rank bow and skills of an archer.

Just then, Ronin formed a perfect plan that would help him test his new armor set and the daggers while he met perfect conditions to see their highest output.

He glanced at the tengu archer who flew a few hundred meters higher than him using her wings and spoke in a solemn voice as he gave his new battle strategy a name...

"The early bird catches the worm."

Chapter 646 Erebus Daggers

A perfect plan formed in Ronin's mind to take down Mikaela who had the advantage in terms of elemental attacks, long-range attacks and distance between them while her opponent lacked in all three of them.

As Mikaela launched another volley of arrows on Ronin, he sprinted forward using Quicksilver skill. This was a quick movement skill created by Kahn and only Omega and Ronin were qualified when he imparted his skills to the subordinates.

And just within another second, he crossed the distance of 100 meters and reached 500 meters range from the tengu archer's location.

"No, you don't!" shouted Mikaela and soon, over 300 lightning elemental arrows appeared on both her sides and instantly launched themselves towards Ronin.

However, instead of trying to evade them, the assassin instead threw over a dozen bombs at the arrows.

BOOM!!

A loud noise filled the surrounding 2 kilometer radius as the small bombs and the arrows collided. In the following moments, a massive white cloud burst from the point of impact and instantly spread across the battlefield.

This white cloud of smoke surrounded the opponent and encircled the 1 kilometer radius in just a few seconds.

"Using smoke bombs against someone who can fly higher... what an idiot." said Mikaela and flapped her wings.

But before she could move, she sensed a murderous intent coming from behind her back.

Clang!!

Ronin's daggers clashed against Mikaela's bow after he used the Shadow Strike skill and instantly appeared behind her.

The female archer was quickly forced to retreat a few hundred meters in the smoke cloud.

Next, 5 pointed extensions that looked like the tip of a spear appeared from different directions and tried to stab Mikaela.

But in the end, she was an archer who also had sensory skills of her own. She quickly used one of their trump cards and the next moment, a whirlwind full of lightning creatures appeared around her, instantly warding off these hidden attacks coming within the smoke.

Croak!!

Croak!!

Croak!!

The female archer just used one of her bloodline abilities and summoned over 300 ravens who had blue lightning roaming all around their bodies. Their loud croaks instantly echoed in the 5 kilometers of area.

Because of the wind pressure, the smoke cleared in the 500 meters radius and finally, Mikaela saw the assailants who attacked her from the smoke cloud.

Gasp!

She gasped as soon as she saw her attackers that she barely managed to detect in time, her expression completely baffled and a sense of dread appeared on her countenance. Because at this moment, she was surrounded by...

Five different Ronins.

[Is that a mirage skill? No... even saint rank assassins can't make more than 3 mirage copies when they're at 1st stage saint rank.

Looks like my opponent is a talented and formidable fighter.] she thought and quickly commanded her lightning ravens to target and attack these 5 Ronins encircling her.

In truth, these were the doppelgangers created by Ronin to aid him in battle. Among their group, only Kahn and Ronin had this ability.

Even she understood that 4 of them were fakes while one was real. And she didn't wish to give her enemy a chance to distract her and then attack sneakily.

As the battle progressed in all 5 directions, Mikaela ordered her ravens to attack fiercely while he shot her killer moves one after another whenever she found a Ronin struggling against her flock of summoned ravens.

Clang!

Shing!

BOOM!

Noises of metal clashing filled the surroundings and finally, Mikaela successfully killed one of the copies.

She properly isolated and kept each copy engaged in battle with her summons and launched lethal strikes whenever she got the chance. But during that time, each copy kept throwing those smoke bombs towards her to blur her vision and she had to change her location too many times in just 10 minutes.

BANG!!

Finally, the 4th copy died and disappeared into black smoke and only the real Ronin was left.

"Argh! What's happening?" asked Mikaela to herself as she felt her sense dulling out of a sudden and her body movements greatly slowing.

Soon, the world around her started giving off an eerie feeling and a sense of impending threat appeared in her mind.

[No! He could be using some skill. I need to kill him quickly!] she thought and launched his biggest summoned arrows and most fatal archery skills while the summoned ravens surrounded the real Ronin from every direction and angle.

STAB!!

Amidst the frenzy and chaos... An arrow pierced right through Ronin's chest and instantly electrocuted him on the spot.

But the female tengu archer was not in the mood of taking risks. She launched another valley of attacks and with a bang....

A large hole was created in Ronin's chest as he was shot dead by the enemy. His eyes lost the light in them and his body started falling towards the ground.

Stab!

Another arrow pierced his heart and Mikaela used her saint aura to pull his body close to her.

"What a useless fight. You're as weak as they come." she spoke in a content and victorious voice as Ronin's corpse flew in front of her.

STAB!!

STAB!!

But before she could revel in victory for long... two daggers suddenly stabbed her head and her heart from behind. Her body was instantly frozen and hundreds of black veins spread on the exiting tips of the daggers.

Mikaela didn't even realize the fact that she died, only having a shocked expression because of the pain.

And finally, the real Ronin appeared from behind her, giving a look of disappointment through his now golden eyes.

Although it looked like Ronin was toyed around by Mikaela throughout the entire battle... one couldn't be any more wrong.

First, he tested her senses and reaction time when he threw the smoke bombs the first time and appeared right behind her to make a lethal strike.

But after he sensed that Mikaela was equally matched with him even with his buffed speed and dexterity because of her own senses... he decided to use decoys.

After Mikaela attacked the doppelgangers, each of them threw smoke bombs at her. But unlike before, these weren't just normal smoke bombs but the ones made with his own fear toxin.

This was the ability that Kahn and Ronin often used during their time in Flavot city when Kahn was hunting down criminals and the noble clan heirs while masquerading as Azrael. It not only made the enemies hallucinate but also affected their sensory organs and abilities.

And in this battle, whenever Mikaela started breathing the smoke in after the doppelgangers threw those bombs at her, her senses were being affected with time.

And when the final doppelganger died, Ronin allowed it to keep its physical form which made the female archer think that she finally got him.

But the truth was that Ronin had been using the Invisibility skill that he got after merging with Vilgax. This ability made his entire existence undetectable unless one was above the 5th stage saint rank.

And right when Mikaela let her guard down and her senses were greatly affected because of the fear toxin, he used Erebus daggers that had Bjormngandur, the Basilisk descendants' venom coated on them which caused those black veins on her body, making sure she was deadlier than dead.

Ronin perfectly planned every step of this confrontation and killed an enemy who had an advantage over him in every aspect using his Battle Tactician mind.

Mikaela's corpse dropped from the sky and Ronin gave an unimpressed gaze as he looked at the crashing corpse...

"You're slow, even when you're falling."

Chapter 647 Hades Armor

Another member of the hero's party fell in battle against the newly arrived saints who seemed to be having ample battle experience as they effectively took down their respective opponents. It hadn't even been an hour since they showed up but already 3 members of their party were killed.

"No!! Mikaela!!" shouted a succubus enchantress in grief as she saw the closest member who battled 10 kilometers away from her location getting killed by an Assassin from the enemy group.

BOOM!!

However, before she could react, red pentagram-shaped archaic magic formations appeared 2 kilometers high in the air and quickly created a 10 kilometers wide isolation barrier, completely sealing off any areas to exit and also suppressing this Enchantress' body to a small degree.

"You bastard!" exclaimed Edna, a 2nd stage saint Enchantress from the Hero's Party who was also the heiress of her clan.

As for the origin of this isolation barrier... it was cast by the only subordinate who excelled in using magic aka Ceril, the Necromancer.

Edna was an Enchantress... this class excelled in using magic formations to perform different purposes. Whether it was attacking, defending or enhancing a team member's attacks and damage output... Enchanter class was a perfect support class for a team as they could not only use various spells and skills of their own but also aid their teammates from time to time.

Compared to a normal magician, they were hard to come by because their class needed excellent control of mana and in-depth knowledge of magic formations that couldn't be messed up while casting them.

Even someone like Ceril excelled in using 6 different elements but his knowledge was subpar compared to Edna because he also had another hidden class and never felt the need to dig deep. The only magic formations he was proficient in using were isolation, invisibility and suppression formations that he often used to create a barrier just like the one he cast just now.

Edna on the other end was infuriated to see her friend who was the closest to her among all the party members die so horrifically. Yet instead of avenging her, she is dragged into a fight by this 1st stage saint magician in white and purple robes who wore glasses and had a blue scepter.

Meanwhile, Ceril was looking at his own stats at this moment, paying no heed to the curses of the succubus whose bosoms were half exposed.

[Following are the Stat and abilities of general Ceril :

Name : Ceril

Species : Necromancer (Variant Undead Summoner)

Job : Apostle of Necromancy (Ancient Rank Class)

Rank : Legendary Rank

Level : 298

Strength : 7224

Agility : 8237

Dexterity : 9361

Defense : 6289

Mana : 21679

Following are the skills and abilities :

Monarch of the Dead (Saint Rank)

Darkness Barrier (SSS Rank)

Shadow Blades Barrage (SSS Rank)

Void Realm (Saint Rank)

Rapid Mana Recovery (SSS Rank)

Dark Magic Absorption (SSS Rank)

Following are the Gifts received by general Ceril :

Scythe of the Reaper (Saint Rank)

Chains of Judgment (Saint Rank)

Book of the Damned (Saint Rank)

Note : The subordinate must be in his true form to use all 3 of these gifts.] reported the system.

[Good, good. Soon I'll become comparable to a 2nd stage saint.] he spoke to himself.

"Now let's see what difference can the new gear make."

Ceril also summoned his new robes and scepter. Previously when Throk handed them their newly reforged armors and weapons from the guardian dragon's body... only he and Kahn hadn't infused their auras and elements to avoid revealing their real identities.

Unlike the other subordinates, Ceril had no bloodline or something of that sort. He was a pure and honest undead lich... well, a variant undead lich and became a legendary rank creature through his own understanding and hard efforts, unlike the rest who were mixed with other legendary monsters and beings to cross that rank.

So he could only infuse his darkness element aura.

BOOM!!

A black pillar of darkness element under this red isolation barrier. However, no one from the outside could sense or detect this sudden burst of dark magic. Edna, the one who saw this transformation had her eyes bewildered.

Dark Magic was forbidden in their empire from the past 300 years and only undeads and monsters in the wild or inside dungeons possessed it. But somehow, there was a first stage saint who had this forbidden element associated with his body.

Soon, the massive black pillar faded and the grim and oppressive aura started fading.

Ceril was now donning completely pitch-black robes made from the dragon's hide.

The transformed set had a hood, chestplate, gauntlets and a waist belt as part of his armor. But even so, the defense was many times better than any other mage could possibly have in the entire Vulcan empire.

On the shoulders and chest were newly emerged small yellow skulls and one big skull appeared on his belt as well. The entire black robe and the cloak had golden outlines and patterns while exuding a layer of dark green aura around the whole robe.

[Following are the effects of the Hades Armor set :

Speak of the Devil :

Hades armor set will enhance general Ceril's mana and world energy reserves by 50% of the original stats.

All the dark magic and darkness elements attacks and spells now have additional 60% effectiveness, range and damage output.

Casting time for all the spells made from dark magic has been reduced by 35% and the activation time limit for all of them has been increased by 25%.] replied the system.

"Good. Means I can fight on equal terms with her even without transforming into my real form.

It is better this way since master ordered us all to not reveal our true forms unless absolutely necessary." he spoke regardless of the worry of his enemy flying 2 kilometers away from him.

"Hey there, exhibitionist succubus... would you like to listen to a song?" asked Ceril.

Edna was instantly riled up and responded by releasing her killing intent.

"It's called..." said Ceril and revealed an insidious smile as he revealed the melody he wanted Edna to listen to...

"Song of the Dead."

Chapter 648 Anubis Scepter

Ceril gave a dubious smile at Edna who was already pissed off as it is with a mundane and roundabout talk. The words 'Song of the Dead' clearly signified his true intentions. In simple words, Ceril implied that Edna was already good as dead and then the song of the dead would be sung at her funeral.

Edna who had long white hair and two large black horns of the succubus species was currently adorning purple revealing robes that exposed her cleavage, her belly and her long slender thighs. Behind her back were two bat-like wings. To anyone of the opposite sex... she would appear incredibly alluring and entrancing.

In her right hand was a long scepter with a ram's head at the top that leaked blue fire through its eye sockets.

But by just looking at Edna; Many would feel the popular phrase that went like this...

'Something is definitely rising. And it isn't the Shield Hero.'

However, to an undead like Ceril... he couldn't care less if Edna was a desirable female or a shining skeleton. He'd rather get intrigued by the latter.

As Edna charged her scepter and summoned five 300 meters wide magic formations, Ceril let out a grin as he held his new scepter in hand that was named Anubis.

It was a golden scepter with a circular curve of a half-moon. And along the curve were three golden spherical runes that shone brightly.

[Following are the effects of the Anubis scepter :

Feather of Maat :

Grant general Ceril an ability to corrupt the enemy spells and attacks, breaking them from the inside and decreasing their total attack damage and effectiveness by 30%.

Ammit's Judgment :

General Ceril can now create wormholes of dark magic and darkness element that can devour and restructure the enemy's elemental spells and attacks to either use as mana or world energy supply for himself or use it to counter the attacker instead.] revealed the system.

"Ha ha ha ha!

Great! No wonder master sent me to fight her.

I'm basically invincible now." spoke Ceril as he let out a diabolical laugh.

Both the Hades Armor and now the Anubis Scepter gave Ceril plenty of long-term boost that will also increase with his ranks and levels as they increase with his stats.

Anubis scepter itself would be extremely useful in this fight for many reasons.

Kahn sent Ceril to face Edna simply for two main reasons.

One, they had already seen how Edna was a master in using magic formations. Among their group... Only Ceril had the understanding of them and could counterattack properly unlike others who were solely weapon-related job classes... except for Armin of course.

Second, it was because Edna excelled in Light magic. It was the only element that was not only rare even among saints but also the biggest weakness of dark magic.

On top of it, Ceril also had most of the dark magic and darkness elemental skills that Kahn had.

So Kahn simply sent Ceril to collect data for the future and check how disadvantageous it would be for them to face someone with light element affinity. Thus, Ceril was the best choice to face Edna in this battle.

"Alright, horny woman. I shall test your limits." declared Ceril as he licked his lips.

Edna's mind short-circuited on the spot because not only did Ceril call her a horny woman because of her appearance but also said he'd test her mettle while still being a rank lower than hers. No saint with self-pride would let such a remark pass.

Little did she know that Ceril called her horny because of the two black horns on her forehead and said he'd test her limits because he was looking for a thorough assessment of an enemy with Light elemental affinity.

But because of his twisted choice of words and that smirk which made him look like a lecherous man... Edna felt like she was being sexually harassed.

Swoosh!!

Swoosh!!

Five different elemental beams of attacks charged from Edna's side who was constantly chanting her spells.

Ceril quickly cast the Darkness Barrier which now had double the defense and range because of Hades armor set.

He quickly used Anubis to use Feathers of Maat and Ammit's Judgement to decrease his spell casting time and create wormholes outside of the barrier that started engulfing the varying elemental beams of world energy that incessantly bombarded his barrier.

Through those wormholes, he started absorbing the attacks and used them as an auxiliary source of world energy for his own use.

Little did Edna know that she was empowering her enemy with her relentless and furious attacks while thinking of ways to kill the opponent who disrespected her just now.

Soon, without adding any dramatic effects or battle strategies... Ceril was simply chipping down Edna's world energy reserves and from time to time, he used Shadow Blades Barrage skill and launched over a thousand blades made of dark magic that forced her to focus on defense from time to time.

Because she was already infuriated due to Ceril's constant banter and declarations on how he was going to perform experiments on her corpse... or how he was going to cut off her limbs and mix them with different species and stuff... she was losing her temperament.

And finally... Edna came to her senses and started using light elemental attacks.

A volley of beams and barrage of weapons made of Light element clashed and quickly broke the darkness barrier despite the reinforcing Ceril had done and now he was completely exposed to Edna's attacks.

However... there was one key and decisive difference between their situation.

Edna had barely 15% world energy left while Ceril was still at 100% because of his new personal hack called Anubis scepter.

He let Edna attack him again and again as he was conducting tests about damage received from her light element spells and attacks. Like how one collects data in a research lab.

"This should be enough." spoke Ceril and put away the book he was writing all the data in.

However, the next second... Ceril summoned another book. Contrary to the previous one, this was 10 meters in height and floated beside him.

Ceril just summoned Book of the Damned and activated its effect. His mana and world energy capacity instantly rose by 600% and the effectiveness of all of his attacks and spells increased by 300% for a short time.

Without giving a moment of respite to already tired Edna, Ceril summoned Chains of Judgment.

BOOM!!

Hundreds of black chains arose from the ground below and quickly stabbed Edna's body in multiple places as she was already on her last straw.

"Lord Axel, save me!!!" screamed Edna as she pleaded and wailed in agony.

Axel, who was currently facing a man in a black longcoat clearly heard her voice. He glanced at her from afar but then looked away, completely ignoring her plight.

Edna's expression turned gloomy. Because everyone in the hero's party already knew that Edna had fallen in love with Axel a long time ago. However... the man she wanted to be with didn't even bother to look at her when she was at death's door.

Rip!!

Rip!!

Ceril commanded the chains of judgement and tore Edna into 7 different pieces. The succubus enchantress didn't even get a final chance to scream in pain because her head and lungs were already torn apart.

"Hehe he he!!" laughed Ceril as he gazed at the falling pieces of Edna's body, a goddamn 2nd stage saint at that and spoke in an ominous voice...

"Congratulations! You have been a great test subject."

Chapter 649 Nirvana Armor

After Ceril took care of the succubus enchantress, one of the stronger ones among their party... the rest of the members including the 4th stage saint had a gloomy expression as their countenances turned worried. Because now, all three of the 2nd stage saints among their group were killed off by people who were only 1st stage saints themselves.

20 kilometers in the southeast end of this wide battlefield, was a different scene. Because in this skirmish, there were three people involved unlike the first four.

However, one side that had only a wolfkin archer was repeatedly attacking and oppressing two opponents who took a defensive stand from the very beginning of this battle.

At this moment... Armin was facing a 1st stage saint Wolfkin archer from the hero's party. This wolfkin was the same archer who had tried to attack the Oakenshield company's main building when the Hero's Party visited their company grounds more than a year ago.

Back then, under Tamak's instigating, Volka attacked the building's entrance but before the arrow could even land a hit, it was frozen in the air by Omega's gravity law skills.

Armin was hiding in the company building back then under Kahn's orders and had revealed his aura with others to ward off the hero's party. Thus, his face was unknown to Volka and now, the latter was engaging against this Healer general of Kahn's group.

A Healer vs an Archer in an open battle... Everyone knew the obvious results. However, the blue wolfkin had a sullen expression after seeing 4 of his allies getting killed mercilessly.

Tamak, the 2nd stage berserker, fell against a human who suddenly turned into a demonic warrior. Rodan, the long-range and wind elemental expert mage, fell in a battle against a tank; completely opposite of how the battle was supposed to go.

Mikaela, someone who was a 2nd stage archer and a rank above him... was killed by an assassin who had no advantage against her during the fight in any way.

And lastly... Edna, the strongest among the 3 of them, was killed by a mage who could use the forbidden dark magic.

Even though Volka was in an advantageous position... he was also cautious at the moment. Winning wasn't his first priority but rather surviving this whole ordeal was more important because their side had already lost the advantage of numbers.

The only thing that stood between him and certain death was Hero of Fire and Azerog, both of whom were 3rd stage & 4th stage saints respectively. Under their protection and assistance, Volka believed he could come out of this situation alive.

As for sadness, anger or pain of losing his comrades... he didn't care about that in the slightest. In the past 5 years alone, he already knew that he was just a side-character in the party who nobody gave a fuck about.

There were already 5 people stronger than him in the group and one of them was an archer at that. He was just a substitute to fill the quota of team members. And the worst part was that he couldn't even leave the party at this point.

It was always team members bootlicking the Hero of Fire every chance they got and even someone like Edna, whom he once developed interests in, was lovestruck after Axel despite him being a human.

The popular guy always gets the girl even if that guy is a textbook asshole while the calm and quiet person gets looked down on just for existing. Volka had become a background character for their group but even he had to resort to the methods of praising the Hero to maintain his relevance in the group for the sake of it.

"No! I'm not dying a useless death like those fuckers." thought the blue wolfkin who was 3 meters in height and had silver armor and gear for archers.

But the next moment, Volka started at the 2nd person behind this healer who was currently standing inside a green-colored massive sphere made of wood, vines and green leaves, having a thin transparent layer like glass which made it easy to look at what was inside.

Even though he wasn't a mage, he could feel that inside of this spherical construct was highly condensed and enriched life force that appeared as green aura from outside.

And the person being healed and protected inside this massive sphere that floated in the air was none other than Venessa, the princess and their main target herself.

After Kahn and his band of saints suddenly showed up, he ordered Armin to heal Venessa who was riddled with wounds and had lost all of her fighting capacity because she faced 8 saints on her own and got heavily injured after using her primordial bloodline for an entire hour.

The backlash on her body along with the injuries while having all of her world energy used up had put her in a pitiful state. Thus, Kahn let Armin heal and recover her condition as the rest of the group handled their own opponents.

At this point, many of Venessa's visible wounds had healed but still, her mana and world energy reserves were completely depleted because she expended all of it during her primordial bird transformation.

[Ha ha ha! Idiots... leaving the queen under the protection of a weak guard. If I capture her now... we might as well get an upper hand.

If worse comes to worst... I could use her to escape outside of this barrier in case our side loses. It's better to have a contingency plan.] thought Volka as he looked at the only weak guardian who flew in between him and Venessa.

A brown-haired human with green archaic runes spread across his forehead and arms looked silently at Volka.

The moment Armin received Kahn's transmission, he too asked for his current strength to the system.

[Following are the statistics, abilities & skills of general Armin :

Name : Armin

Species : Erdtree (Variant Yggdrasil)

Job : The Pathfinder (Legendary Rank Class)

Rank : Legendary Rank

Level : 291

Strength : 7381

Agility : 4983

Dexterity : 23750

Defense : 5782

Mana : 24709

Following are the skills and abilities : The source of this content is .

Telepathy Link (SSS Rank)

Life Force Restoration (SSS Rank)

Roots of Nature (SSS Rank)

Nature Control (SSS Rank)

Monarch of the Forest (Saint Rank)

Flora & Fauna (SSS Rank)

Atonement (SSS Rank)

Restoration (SSS Rank)

Guardian Spectre (SSS Rank)

Chain Heal (SSS Rank)

Elixir of Life (Saint Rank)

Brewing (SSS Rank)

Infusion (SSS Rank)

Resurrection (Saint Rank)

Soul Reformation (Legendary Rank)

Bloodline : Edenmir

Bloodline purity : 32%] reported the system.

"Good. I guess I can handle this guy on my own." spoke Armin and quickly summoned his new armor set and healer staff.

And without waiting for another second, he infused his bloodline in it and the whole appearance changed in a dozen seconds.

Now, Armin was donning a lightweight armor with green hood, gauntlet and greaves while on his torso was a black vest that appeared like it was made with dragon's hide. On the whole attire, were dozens of white archaic patterns here and there, giving it more mysterious and refined look.

In reality, his entire set was made of dragon's hide and only his staff was made with its horn.

[Following are the effects of the Nirvana Armor set :

Balance of Life :

Allows general Armin to gather life force from the plant life and wood elemental creatures regardless of their species and structure within 10 kilometers radius in order to replenish the general's life force reserves. This effect will greatly increase the user's health and will help in healing thousands of allies at once without needing external sources such as mana cores and ores.

Price of Salvation :

Allows general Armin to forcefully steal vitality from targeted enemies; by restructuring its composition, the general can use it to replenish his own mana and world energy reserves.

Note : Resurrection, Soul Reformation, Monarch of the Forest, Guardian Spectre, Elixir of Life skill can now be used by general Armin without transforming into his true Erdtree form.] informed the system.

"Great! Means I'm no longer at a disadvantage in terms of lifesaving skills. I will be able to survive even facing an army on my own as long as there's a forested area in 10 kilometers vicinity." he spoke in an elated tone.

Because at this moment... the entire battlefield was actually a vast forested region.

As for the 2nd effect, it was less useful but would help greatly in an open war with thousands of enemies.

Then, he looked at the Hermes staff that had big and green jade crystal on the top, surrounded by brown vines all around its body and was exuding life force constantly after Armin infused his bloodline.

[Following are the effects of the Hermes Staff :

One for All :

Allows general Armin to use his life force to create living creatures by merging the life force with trees and wood elemental beings. All of these creations can be transformed and reconstructed based on the user's choosing and imagination.

As long as the general can provide an ample supply, there's no end to how many creatures he can create.] informed the system.

"Amazing! The Nirvana armor and Hermes staff greatly complement each other in terms of use.

The armor's effects can help me create an endless supply of life force, mana and world energy and the staff's effect could help me create an army of my own on the spot." said Armin in an exhilarated tone.

Because although he could control wood elemental creatures and plant life... they had to exist there first. He couldn't create lifeforms out of nothing.

But now, Hermes allowed him to do just so by using his own life force as a driving medium to create and control such creatures. And Nirvana Armor would not only protect him but also work like a personal power generator by stealing life force from the surrounding.

Volka nocked an arrow, ready to attack this harmless and weak enemy of his. However, little did he know that Armin was neither helpless nor alone. He was...

A One Man Army.

Chapter 650 Hermes Staff

After gaining a huge boost in skills and access to an unending supply of mana and world energy for free thanks to Nirvana Armor and Hermes Staff... Armin was no longer a weak link of the group.

Previously, he could make use of flora and fauna around him but saints always battled high in the air. So there were a lot of restrictions on how he could face an opponent in an open battle. But now... things finally turned in the Pathfinder general's favor.

"Give the princess to me and I won't have to kill you." spoke Volka, the blue wolfkin saint archer after he nocked an arrow, giving one last warning.

"I'm tasked with protecting the princess. So if you want to touch her... you'll have to do that over my dead body." replied Armin without the slightest hint of fear in his tone.

"Ah, so even weaklings look down on me now I see." said Volka and the next moment, he raised his bow towards the two suns in the sky and shot the red glowing arrow.

Shoot!

Whoosh!

The arrow went as far as 2 kilometers in the sky in just a few seconds. Saint archers were no different than cavalry themselves. Their skills, range and the damage output imbued with world energy were on a completely different level. Now, Volka was no longer holding back on his skills.

Shing!

Soon, the arrow reached its peak height and started descending towards Armin and Venessa's position in the sky.

But as soon as it started its descent... the arrow burst on the spot but instead of getting destroyed, it dispersed in the 1 kilometer radius in the form of small splinters.

"Not good." spoke Armin and quickly cast a yellow-colored protection barrier over himself and Venessa inside the wooden sphere. He could sense what was about to happen already.

In the following moments, all of the thousand splinters quickly started transforming and every single one of them started increasing in size as they turned into 10 meter long arrows made of condensed and highly volatile red glowing arrows like raindrops turning into lightning bolts.

That one arrow launched by Volka turned into thousands of massive arrows in just a dozen seconds.

Rumble! Rumble!

Armin quickly used Monarch of the Forest skill. This skill was his own exclusive ability he gained after Kahn merged Armin with the legendary rank monster Ashokvatika in Verlassen fiefdom close two years ago.

It enabled Armin to telepathically control and restructure plant life as well as wood elemental creatures as their supreme monarch.

Crack!

Crack!

The ground instantly started cracking as hundred of trees, their long and deep roots coiled together and started ascending in the sky after forming a 500 meter wide protective net covered with wood, leaves, vines and even varieties of flowers.

This veil-like net erupted and quickly covered them under the protection barrier, forming another layer of defense.

BANG!!

Shatter!!

Under the intense barrage of those destructive and powerful arrows, the first protection barrier started cracking and shattered in matter of minutes.

Thud!

Tuck!

Tuck!

The arrows that survived the previous collision struck the newly formed defensive net and clashed against the defensive veil of plant life. But soon, Volka noticed that not a single one of his arrows could pass through.

SKRAA!!

ROAR!!

Crackle!

"What the..." before he could make any sense of it... a completely different scene appeared in front of his eyes.

Because while he was focused on breaking through Armin's defense, Hundreds of Treants, a wood elemental creature came into existence out of nowhere.

Their bodies were mostly dark brown and green while covered in leaves and vines. However, unlike the normal treants... their eyes glowed green.

"Impossible! Are these created by him?" Volka asked himself in a terrified tone. He didn't even sense when these creatures appeared around him in the battlefield on the ground.

BOOM!!

Volka hadn't even managed to come out of his daze but suddenly, over a dozen 50 meters tall and massive Tree Sentinels formed around him and rose high in the sky.

Dozens of glowing green orbs left Armin's body and shot themselves inside these giant tree sentinels that were twice the height and width of the Colossal Titan.

Just like how Ceril could create his Six Guardians undead giants from thousands of bones of his undead army... Armin too could now create such gigantic creatures using the trees and plant life within the 15 kilometers radius.

But this wasn't the end...

Flap!

Flap!

SCREECH!!

Hundreds of bird-like wood elemental monsters with wings created from grass and leaves soared high in the sky.

Finally, Armin who had been hiding under the wooden protective veil revealed himself. The source of this content is .

Armin had no attacking skills... but now, he could create an army that can defend, attack, fly and control the entire battlefield.

"You... You aren't a human, are you?" asked Venessa who saw everything from behind Armin.

"Apart from my master... no one here is a pure human. Not even that Hero of Fire." replied Armin to the princess as he sensed a very dangerous and horrifying aura from Axel who was currently facing Kahn in the middle of this 50 kilometers radius barrier.

Venessa also gazed in Kahn's direction and asked herself.

"Kahn... who the hell are you?"

Soon, a fierce battle started between Volka and Armin's army of Titans.

Volka faced attacks after attacks from the tree sentinels that were being created every passing minute by Armin while from the sky, many 10 to 20 meters hawk-like monsters with glowing green bodies attacked him from all sides relentlessly.

In the end... Volka was only an archer. He only had an advantage in range and firepower but had no defensive abilities or hiding skills in a battle happening in the sky...

He was currently facing over two thousand monsters who were resurrecting even after he killed them with his archery skills and abilities.

Meanwhile, the main boss of this army of titans was watching this whole battle from behind the army of massive creatures like the Founding Titan.

Volka was losing his mana and world energy as time passed while trying to evade sharp vines with thorns on them, making them akin to torture whips; but Armin wasn't slightly fazed even though he was creating more and more monsters.

Stab!

Rip!

Finally, the three meter Volka was struck and pulled towards the ground by a vine whip created by a tree sentinel.

"Argghh!!" he screamed in pain as the big thorns pierced and cut deep inside his body. Soon, the other tree sentinels The vines quickly coiled themselves around the blue wolfkin's body as well, strangling him completely as all he could do was struggle.

For some reason, even these tree sentinels were too strong to the point that even a saint like him couldn't free himself using sheer physical strength.

"I'm sorry! Please let me go! I will never come in your way! Please spare me!" he quickly started pleading for mercy as if it was his second nature whenever he got into trouble.

"Tch! That is such a beta mindset. At least accept your defeat and die with dignity, would you..." spoke Armin in an unimpressed tone.

Compared to Volka who ran out of most of his mana and world energy reserves and could no longer fight at his peak because of the constant onslaught from Armin's army that attacked the archer from both ground and sky while surrounding him from every direction...

Armin didn't even break a sweat and his expression was full of vigor and elation despite spending a great amount of his own mana, world energy and life force to create this army that could even face 10 thousand opponents easily.

Because Nirvana armor and Hermes staff were passively generating and replenishing all of his power sources without him even having to do anything.

Thousands of Treants and Tree Sentinels cleared the way as Armin flew towards the now entrapped Volka who had a sullen and terrified expression.

His body was riddled with wounds and the wounds caused by the thorns were making him bleed excessively. Little did he know that his vitality was being sucked by these thorns and vines, making him anemic and weaker with every passing moment.

"Any last wish?" asked Armin as he floated in front of the first stage saint archer.

"Please... let me go. I will do anything you tell me." spoke Volka in a pleading tone, no longer having any sense of superiority against the Healer.

"Denied." replied Armin and placed his right palm on Volka's forehead.

"Arrgrhhh!! Noooo!!" shouted Volka in agony and struggled to break out of the vines relentlessly, his body trembling and shaking haphazardly like a fish out of water. Because at this moment...

Armin was absorbing in Volka's entire life force.

Soon, the ripped body of the wolfkin started becoming thin as if he was losing all the blood and muscles present inside. Within a minute, his body started shrinking and hardening as if not a single drop of blood and water was left in his entire being.

Crack!

Crack!

Volka's skin and bones cracked as he finally lost his life with horrified eyes while Armin drained his life force with a smug smile on his face, turning the former into a dried husk.

Before the battle started... Volka wanted to be in command of his fate for once and didn't want to be a side character in his own story anymore. He wanted to survive regardless of the cost and thus planned to take Venessa hostage and use her as a bargaining chip no matter which side this war shifted on.

However, this harmless Healer from the enemy team turned out to be a world calamity himself who could create an army using just plants and trees on the battlefield.

Volka died with regret in his heart because in the end...

He still died as a background character.