

Earths GMagus 1111

Chapter 1111 Breakthrough

Without the presence of the Dragon protege hunting together with him, Emery had essentially lost a very capable frontliner and thus needed to find a new strategy to hunt the horde of Shrikes.

Fortunately, he still had his Jade Warrior summons to help him in his endeavor of hunting the creatures.

"This creature is tough to kill!"

The moment Emery encountered a pack of the Legendary beasts, he would immediately summon an army of Jade Warriors and command them to bar them from reaching him. That way, he was free to do as he pleased, killing the creature one by one while at the same time staying out of harm's way.

But still, although the Dragon protege's role could be replaced by the Jade Warriors, the latter was simply incomparable to the former. Without Zach's help, the speed of killing and devouring the scorpion creatures fell down by a huge margin.

Emery also tried his luck and fought the Mythical creature by himself. Unfortunately, such a deed still seemed impossible for him at the moment because he kept being distracted by the Legendary ones who kept appearing without stopping, which eventually forced him to retreat.

"No!, too much of a risk"

With the current situation he was dealt with, Emery could only devour a few dozen Shrikes per day, which netted him an increase of one or two spirit force at most. A lackluster gain when compared to a few days ago.

However, Emery was actually not too worried about the whole situation. He just took it as an opportunity to experiment on the newfound comprehension of the gravity pressure of the planet.

With that said, his figure teleported to and from as he ceaselessly cast his space magic. He further challenged what he comprehended by casting [Blink], [Aegies of Void], and even [Spatial Gate] to break the gravity pressure.

Thanks to that, with each passing day, Emery discovered that his resistance to external gravitational pressure increased as he found his body becoming lighter and lighter, and his Spirit Reading capability gradually returned to its normal state.

Another week passed, and after constantly devouring and absorbing copious amounts of energy from the Shrikes, coupled with the help of Spirit Foundation Pill, Emery finally reached the bottleneck he had been waiting for.

[Spirit force: 1700]

Without further ado, Emery halted his streaks of hunting and found a safe secluded spot on top of a rocky mountain. He sat inside the small cave he found, assumed the lotus position and closed his eyes.

There, Emery spent time consolidating all the things he had comprehended since his last breakthrough.

His constant fighting with the help of his Jade Warrior summons, as well as the earth spirit energy he devoured from the scorpion creatures, bestowed him with a lot of comprehension in the said element.

But of course, there was also his newfound comprehension in the Light Element to consider.

However, Emery knew that what he currently had still wasn't enough to build his second pillar of Light Element. Hence to be safe, the Earth Element would be his main focus to create the next pillar in his nature core.

As for the darkness core, Emery had gained even more comprehension in the Darkness Element. Specifically his comprehension in space and gravity which had reached a new height compared to the past.

To ensure he achieved the highest chance of success before he started, Emery gave hours of conditioning and preparing his two cores to welcome their two new pillars. When he was finally ready, he swiftly started the process by consuming two Spirit Foundation Pills which would act as the impetus.

The deluge of spirit energy that came after the consumption of the pills became the vessel for him to push through the bottleneck and achieve a breakthrough. His eyebrows slightly furrowed as his consciousness delved deep within him.

One hour,

Three hours,

Half a day.

That much time had passed, and a frown could be seen on Emery's face as there was still no sign of a pillar forming. It was peculiar, especially so with the fact he had consumed Spirit Foundation Pills to assist the process.

Still, Emery hadn't given up yet and gave another few hours.

Alas, there was still no sign of a breakthrough at all. Instead, the effect of the Spirit Foundation Pill had dwindled at this point, rendering it useless.

This unusual situation of course confused Emery, and he couldn't help but begin to worry. After all, his dual spirit core was the result of various unique circumstances, and he had never seen any cases to compare.

The last time Emery had a breakthrough was when he fixed his cracked devour pillar, he wonders if his unsuccessful attempt this time had something to do with him depending too much on his devour ability.

The simpler possibility was that his next pillar will be where he crosses from the middle stage to the high stage of rank 9 Acolyte, hence he might need better comprehension to make a breakthrough.

Understanding that he most likely wouldn't be able to form his pillars before resolving this matter, Emery could only continue his hunt.

With that, two more days passed, and by that time, Emery had another problem to think about.

It had almost been a month, and his urge was starting to go on its antics again.

"Well, at least if I would transform, there are no people around to hurt." Emery thought to himself.

This particular thought reminded him of Zach. It had been days since he last saw the Dragon protege, and therefore he couldn't help but wonder how the man was doing in this hellhole of a place.

With his Spirit Reading returning to its normal state, Emery was able to create Spatial Gates anywhere within a fifty mile radius. Hence, he decided to explore the land again searching for anything other than the gray sand or scorpion creatures.

It was only after a day of wandering around that Emery finally found something noteworthy.

His enhanced Spirit Reading, allowed him to perceive a space deep within one of the gray mountains.

"Another layer!? A deeper one?!"

Fueled by a curiosity of the new discovery, Emery proceeded to explore the mountain which led him to find another massive crack on the ground. When he scanned the place from above, he felt an eerie feeling until suddenly felt another spirit energy connecting to him.

It surprisingly came with a familiar voice.

"Young wolf..? Good, you are right on time... Come down here!"

It was the voice of Grand Magus Lilith of the Dragon bloodline.

Chapter 1112 Voices

The grand magus' voice that went straight into and reverberated inside his mind was like an absolute order, forcing his feet to move by themselves and bring him into the abyss-like crack in front of him.

As his body rapidly dropped down through the pitch black hole, Emery started to hear unfamiliar voices.

They all came in the form of soft whispers in his mind, as if they were trying to seduce him; and the deeper he fell, the more voices he heard.

Just like the voices he heard from the other restricted islands, Emery couldn't understand a single word of what they were trying to convey. Not with his Spirit Reading nor the translation function the symbol etched on his palm possessed.

When he reached thirty miles deep, his feet finally touched the ground once more. Once he landed Emery immediately felt bone-chilling air in his surroundings followed by multiple eerie-looking forms made of white mist.

"Is.. that.. Human?"

These mist forms were quite abstract in shape, but most were in humanoid shape.

It took Emery a few seconds to realize that the voices echoing in his mind actually originated from these mists, and as more mist came closer to him, the voices only got louder to the point of becoming unbearable.

Arrghhh!!

The incomprehensible whispers affected his mind, and he found his consciousness began to gradually slip away. At this moment, Emery knew that he was in danger.

'I have to get away from this place!'

Immediately, Emery attempted to cast Spatial Gate to create a portal that would bring him out of this bizarre place. But then, one powerful voice — that of Grand Magus Lilith — reverberated in his mind, causing the dozens or so incomprehensible whispers to become silent.

"Just follow my voice.. Come here!!"

"Yes... Elder"

Emery walked through the dark underground cavern under the guide of the grand magus' voice. He saw the presence of the hundreds of bones strewn across the area, huge and small scattered all over the ground and embedded in the walls.

The further he traveled through the cave, the more mist existences Emery encountered. All of them were trying their best to block his way, and with their increasing number, he could feel the stronger the gravity pressing his body became.

Emery realized that this place was truly terrifying, and the fact that he would not be able to stay here for more than a minute were it not for the voice of the grand magus leading and blocking the incomprehensible voices from affecting him.

Following Grand Magus Lilith's instruction word by word, Emery made his way through one of the multiple tunnels he encountered at a crossroad until he finally found a huge cave with a dark shining crystal whose light covered the entire place.

There, the female grand magus could be seen standing still in front of it.

Looking in the direction of the grand magus, Emery's eyes were quickly attracted to two humongous bones seen embedded on the left and right walls of the crystal. A flash of recognition appeared in his eyes.

'Dragon bone?' was the first word that came to Emery's mind when he saw the two sets of bones. The grand magus seemed to hear this thought of his as her voice echoed through his mind the next moment. "Yes they are. Magnificent, aren't they?"

Emery slowly approached the elder, stopped a few feet away, and gave a sign of respect to the other party. It only then did he realize that there was some kind of energy channeling from the female grand magus to the dark crystal.

Before he could do anything else, the grand magus slowly turned her head to him. He could feel the existence of a slight probe into his mind before the latter spoke to him.

"Good.. You have progressed as expected. Now come here."

Grand Magus Lilith beckoned Emery to sit next to her in the lotus position. She then told him to focus his mind on the dark shining crystal, instructing him to see beyond and what was inside the crystal.

In this cave, the gravitational pressure was manifold stronger than the outside exerted, and Emery felt even more pressure when he focused his concentration on the dark crystal.

He quickly realized that the additional gravitational pressure actually came from within the crystal his attention was currently on, and it seemed like it was testing the capabilities of his Spirit Reading.

Knowing roughly what the female grand magus wanted, Emery accepted the challenge and tried to peer deep into the dark crystal. But then, much to his surprise, the two entire weeks' worth of training his Spirit Reading under the restrictive gravitational pressure only allowed him to pierce five meters into the crystal.

"Don't worry. That's good enough." Grand Magus Lilith said when she saw the look on Emery's face.

She then nonchalantly went behind Emery and placed both her hands on his head.

"Now try again."

Emery immediately did as asked, and in that instant experienced a sudden boost to his Spirit Reading. In that moment, his consciousness broke through its limit and went deeper into the mysteries of the dark crystal.

10 meters,

20 meters,

And he still continued.

To be honest, the deed was quite a painful process to go through. However, just as Emery was about to stop, the grand magus' words once again roused and forced him to continue, until his consciousness eventually reached a dark space inside the crystal.

What Emery found there was shocking to behold. The bones and flesh of a humanoid giant, at least twenty meters tall. As he observed the corpse from the ground up, Emery was shocked when he sensed there was still energy lying within.

At a glance, he could tell the energy was the powerful and terrifying kind. Just a slight, brief contact it had with the consciousness of his Spirit Reading was enough to instantly terrify him.

"Keep going... What you sense is the soul of a Celestial, but it's dormant."

There were many doubts in Emery about what the grand magus wanted him to do. Alas, all his will was rendered useless under the control of the other party. He could only grit his teeth and march forward as instructed.

Finally, when his Spirit Reading entered the soul and looked upon it, Emery felt as if the creature's soul was looking back at him, everything of him was laid bare before this gaze.

In an instant, Emery felt excruciating pain enter his whole body. A spirit attack that felt as if thousands of sharp needles pierced straight into his brain. A loud scream involuntarily escaped because of how painful it was.

"ARRGGGHHHH!!!"

Emery immediately turned tail and tried to get out of this space. Unfortunately, the grand magus blocked his way out, forcing him to stay and suffer this torturous sensation. Her voice sounded again amidst the excruciating pain.

"You will hold on until I say otherwise."

Left with no other choice, Emery could only give his best to withstand the torment. It was such an agonizing process that lasted for days and only through the thought of his friend and girl that he could resist the pain.

Chapter 1113 Breakthrough

[Astrapi - Lightning Institute]

This particular institute of the Magus Academy lies on what is probably one of the most unstable planets in the galaxy. Booming thunders and sparks of lightning were seen all over the planet's surface and horizon.

Taking advantage of this rather disastrous climate, the institute installed a device that was able to receive and absorb all stray lightning that struck the institute, sparing the building from the destruction it should have faced.

On top of the flying construct, there were three-tower, special training grounds eligible only for the Lightning Institute's best and most promising acolytes. In that place, all the abundant energy from the lightning struck was utilized to provide spirit energy which to be used to help an acolyte reach a breakthrough.

A black-haired girl could be seen sitting inside one of the towers. Her eyes were tightly closed as her body assumed a lotus formation, which she had been maintaining for days while holding a turtle-shaped jade artifact in her hand.

It was apparent to see that the girl had been learning the complicated markings visible on the turtle's back, and had been absorbed in her profound journey to unravel the 384 combinations within.

At the moment, the one combination she focused on unraveling was the Sky Array combination which involved a combination of three certain elements; Lightning, Wind, and Ice.

The flow of the wind, the ferocity of the sky, and the density of the ice. Each element has its uses and characteristics. The multiple formations of the particular Arrays gave a pattern, a formula on how the three elements could relate to one another.

Combined with her newly-mastered stage 7 of [Dao Divine Technique], the black-haired girl finally managed to stir a reaction from her spirit core. In the next instant, one new tendril-like energy emerged from its surface before forming into a towering structure.

[The ninth pillar was formed]

The breakthrough, however, didn't just end with the pillar alone. It brought certain changes in the foundation of her spirit core that seemed to successfully link all three elements with one another in harmony.

[Kleopatra]

[Acolyte rank 9 - High Stage - 9 pillars]

[Spirit force: 955]

[Lightning - 4]

[Wind - 2]

[Ice - 2]

[Water - 1]

Immediately after, the black-haired girl felt a sensation of power emerging from her spirit core. Akin to a volcano, she unleashed the spirit energy that was bubbling within her by throwing a powerful lightning blast into the high sky, producing a loud bang that eclipsed the sound of lightning strikes.

Once she opened her eyes, she found a female grand magus with dark skin and white hair standing in front of her. Recognizing the figure, she gave a respectful gesture before saying, "Master, I have succeeded."

The female grand magus was certainly overjoyed, seeing her current expression.

"Congratulations, Klea. You have now successfully formed your last pillar and linked the three elements." With a smile on her face, she continued, "This will definitely help you in understanding one of the advanced laws, the Law of the Sky."

Hearing this, the calm look the Egyptian Queen had on her face turned to a smile as she once again expressed her gratitude to Grand Magus Ororo who was standing in front of her. The latter looked at her with a fond smile.

"Thank you, master. It's all because of your guidance."

The grand magus chuckled as she said, "Hahaha, you don't have to undermine yourself, Klea. You are a very talented person. I'm confident that you are currently stronger than half of those privileged students..."

She paused for a moment before continuing, "...If only you hadn't wasted your time on that boy, you would most likely have achieved even greater achievements than you are now." An expression of pity could be seen on the grand magus' face.

Hearing that, Klea calmly stood up, approached and held her master's arm as she spoke with a smile.

"What's the fun in that, master..?" the black-haired girl giggled mischievously at her own words.

With her newfound breakthrough, Klea was eager to test her current prowess. Conveying her intention to her master, Grand Magus Ororo surprisingly expressed that she had some free time in her hand.

As a result, Klea had some spar with her master to test the limit she currently had. She gained a lot from the spars, and in addition, the grand magus even taught her one of her special spells before departing for her business.

As soon as Grand Magus Ororo left the training ground, Klea saw one of the institute staff walking toward her.

"Acolyte, someone is looking for you. It was a young man, and he said he was from your home planet."

The words spoken by the institute staff carried the final nail that made her day today a perfect whole. A long-awaited breakthrough, a brand-new spell from her master, and now her man came to pick her up; what more could she ask for?

Thanking the staff for his hard work, Klea quickly walked over where the person was waiting with a cheerful skip. However, the moment she reached the lobby, even though what was waiting for her was still a pleasant face, she couldn't help but be slightly disappointed as the other party was not Emery.

Still, she greeted her visitor with a warm welcome.

"Julian! You are back!"

Klea quickly gave the young handsome man a hug. She was glad that Julian was safe after his four months journey on the Nephilim planet. After a while, she let go of the embrace and scanned the man up and down.

"How are you? And what are you doing here?"

To her surprise, the Roman seemed very excited as he said, "I really want to see a familiar face after my long trip... but I found no one but you!"

A pondering expression appeared on Klea's face at those words, before she nodded in agreement.

"Yeah. I think the others haven't returned from their training. As for Emery, he's still in Hyperion."

Finally seeing the Roman once again, Klea couldn't help but talk about what happened in the past four months since they met the last time. She began from her adventures with Emery, what had happened in the monthly arena, to sharing what the latter was currently doing.

"Wow... there's a lot of things happening in my absence, huh." Julian said with a joking tone. "Anyway, yeah, I saw his new fifth ranking. But still, to train with Zach is really unexpected news for me."

"What about you, Julian? You must have a great story about your life living among the enemy!" Klea asked, very curious about the matter.

Julian could only laugh wryly at her words before saying, "You can't imagine how much I learned.. And so much I want to share..." He paused for a moment. "Everything... Everything I experienced there was mind-blowing really." There was much excitement within the Roman eyes as he said the words.

"I see..." She nodded her head. "You are having a good time then.."

"Hahaha.." The Roman just laughed at her words, before he turned serious and said, "If you're not busy with anything, I can show you some actually. Do you have free time right now?"

"Yes, of course! Where will we be going?" Klea said, excitement apparent in her voice. "I have been stuck in the tower for a few weeks now. I can definitely use some fresh air outside."

Julian clapped his hands. "Great. Come with me to Hyperion."

The two headed for Hyperion planet, this time, Klea came as Julian's visitor. When they arrived there, Klea was surprised to see their arrival coincided with the end-of-the-month arena schedule. She turned to her company and saw the faint smile on his face.

"Are we going to watch the fight?" She asked curiously.

"Just be patient," said Julian, a faint smile still on his face.

After the first fight, the referee in the arena apparently called for a familiar name.

"Next fight! Julian Caesar!!"

A look of realization flashed across Klea's face as she heard the referee. "Ahh, I realize now. You asked me to accompany you here because you wanted to show off didn't you!?" She said while rolling her eyes.

A jolly laugh rang in the air. "Hahaha, indeed.." the Roman looked at the black-haired girl and raised one of his eyebrows. "I thought you wanted to hear what happened to me over the last four months, no? So I thought, rather than talking about it, it would be better if I showed it to you in person."

Saying those words, Julian walked into the arena confidently. There, his opponent awaited "a privileged acolyte who was ranked 75th. On the other hand, Klea was curious about what her friend had in store after hearing what he said.

When she caught sight of the information displayed on the screen above the arena, she was surprised to see the words on Julian's information.

[Rank 92: Julian Caesar (35)]

Julian has a test ranking of 35.

Chapter 1114 Winning

Wielding a hammer in one hand and a square shield in the other, a brown-haired young man hailing from the lower realm fought his opponent "a privileged acolyte" in a manner that stunned the audience.

He was only known by the crowd as one of the friends of the famous Savage Acolyte. However, unlike the exciting battles of the wolf half-blood who fought passionately through his sheer power, this particular young man was sort of boring to watch.

He fought cautiously, or rather, steadily. The particular fighting style that this young man had adopted slowly but surely suffocated his opponent with its methodical approach, leaving no room or opportunity whatsoever.

A block by a shield, which instantly followed by an attack that didn't pack much impact to his opponent but never put himself in risk as well. It seemed simple and looked boring, but such fighting style was effective in the hand of the young man.

The fight went on like this for so long that the audience got so bored they didn't really pay much interest to the fight anymore. It was only when the referee announced the name of the winner did their attention return to the arena.

...

"Julian Caesar wins!"

After winning his third bout which raised his ranking to 78th place, Julian finally caught the audience's attention again. Murmurs and discussions about him began to spread among those present in the arena.

"That's the top 5 ranking guy from the second game, isn't he?"

"You're right. But I heard that he's a strategist, not much of a fighter; so I'm quite surprised by his performance."

Oblivious to the debate over his peculiar performance, Julian gestured to the referee to continue his fourth duel of the day. This time, the person walking up to the arena was a face he was familiar with, a fellow comrade during the mid-test.

The 70th ranked, Reyne.

Stopping in her tracks a few meters away from the Roman, Reyne smiled at the latter.

"I can see you've improved, but make no mistake thinking you can win against me."

Reyne was a bow user that depended on her rune arrows, and thanks to their cooperation in the past Julian felt quite confident fighting her since he knew her skills and kit pretty well. Hence the Roman played the battle with the utmost care, watching his steps cautiously and dodging all the arrows shot in his direction.

After a few minutes, Reyne was surprised when she realized she had been led to a corner by Julian. Apparently, all his movements – the blocks, dodges, and counterattacks – were carefully planned out in order to bring her in her current disadvantageous position.

"You got me, Julian. But I won't be defeated so easily!"

[Shield Bash]

Feeling there was something within his opponent's words, Julian immediately used his skill as a way to throw himself close while also blocking Reyne's last few arrows.

KABOOM!!

A deafening sound ensued as an explosion occurred in the arena. To the surprise of the audience, Reyne had shot powerful explosive arrows that could potentially deal critical damage to her opponent.

But what surprised them, even more, was the fact that the Roman appeared to be unharmed. Instead of being injured or knocked back by the explosion, the young man managed to close in on the archer girl.

"Not yet!!" Reyne shouted.

Just as Julian's shield was about to hit the girl and knock her out, it was stopped by something. Various reactions emerged from the audience when they saw that the girl still had a trick up her sleeve.

Julian's eyebrows rose slightly seeing the bow she used had transformed entirely, now taking the form of a long spear. Grasping the shaft of her weapon, Reyne stopped his shield that was about to strike her body.

Immediately after, the tip of the spear spun and shot towards the opening the Roman had.

Alas, Julian responded swiftly by putting his hammer on the trajectory of the spear. Sparks appeared as the two weapons clashed. The former eyed the latter, surprised by the fact that she was unexpectedly good in close combat.

"What a surprise, Reyne!" Julian said with an excited laugh.

The two fought fiercely and the audience was free to compare their respective skills. At first glance, most of the audience thought that Reyne would win as the spear which possessed much more flexibility and reach should have won the confrontation between the two weapons.

However, things didn't exactly go as expected.

A few minutes into their fight, Reyne thrust her spear forward when she saw an opening in Julian's defense. But instead of stopping the attack by positioning his hammer or shield, the Roman raised his hammer high in the air and dropped it onto the spear.

The spear's path changed, shooting downwards. As a result, the spear and hammer were embedded in the arena floor, with the latter being above the former. Then, the Roman let go of his hammer.

With his opponent's weapon disabled by his own, Julian's right hand reached for the back of his shield and pulled out a golden short sword hidden there. Without further ado, he ran the weapon along the shaft of Reyne's spear, wounding her hands, until the sword eventually touched her neck.

Unbothered by the cold metallic feeling on her skin, the archer girl stared at Roman saying,

"What a move, Julian. One I didn't expect."

Facing his opponent's compliment, Julian calmly said, "Yes.. unfortunately for you, I have a past grudge against spears."

"Julian Kaesar wins!"

By this point, Julian had won a total of four fights, and when he did so with almost no injury, people finally began to pay attention to him. His name reverberated throughout the arena as people began shouting loudly.

Klea who was sitting among these people understood very well how much Julian had really changed. In fact, in her eyes everything about him had transformed; his movements, his strength, his tactics.

She also knew that the Roman hadn't used any spell or even the basic [Immortal Gate] to defeat his opponents so far.

It was apparent that the trip to the Nephilim domain had brought massive changes to Julian.

"What happened to you there?" She muttered under her breath as she stared at the figure standing in the arena.

At this moment, a figure came approaching her. A familiar young man with golden hair.

"I have seen the potential of that guy ever since last year. But I guess only a Grade 5 faction like Nephilim could turn raw metal into gold in mere four months."

The young man was the Harlight Prince Roran, and looking at his expression, it was apparent that he was regretful by the notion of being unable to completely lure Julian to join his faction when he had the chance.

Klea turned her head to him and asked, "Do you know how he can be that strong this fast, Roran?"

Hearing that, Roran gave a slight chuckle as he said, "Yes I know.. But as courtesy of a friend, I will let him tell you himself."

In the meantime, the Roman continued his fight and won his fifth and sixth duels beautifully. His deed of winning six times in a row was certainly enough to bring most, if not all, of the crowds to cheer for him.

"One more!! One more!!"

Julian casually raised his hand and gave a sign that he would not disappoint, which sparked an enthusiastic and lively response from the audience. His next opponent quickly walked up to the arena, and it was another familiar face. One too familiar, in fact.

"Next fight! Rank 50... Armand Nephilim!"

The Nephilim walked to the arena with a condescending look on his face. Staring at the Roman, he said, "You are new to the faction, so I will take it easy and will not hurt you too badly."

Julian, however, responded to such words with a chuckle before saying, "Hahaha, unfortunately, You are the main reason why I am here today."

Chapter 1115 Kaesar

Julian remained standing in the arena, his subtle gait told he was ready to fight the golden-haired Nephilim noble, Armand Nephilim. This attitude of his, of course, was noticed by his opponent and upset the other party.

"Huh! New guy! Do you think now that you are part of Nephilim I wouldn't dare to hurt a single hair of yours?! If so, let me tell you something!" An enraged look on his face, Armand continued his words, "You. Are. Wrong."

While the Nephilim were speaking, a smile continued to hang on the Roman's face. When his opponent finally finished blabbering, Julian simply smiled and nonchalantly said, "That is good to know."

It was evident that the Nephilim noble was enraged by the response he showed as the man proceeded to take out all of his Soaring Shuttles at once. In the next instant, eight deadly flying rotating objects were sent towards the Roman.

The eight flying rotating objects were Nephilim's proud artifact as it was one of the top Magus Universe spirit-based flying weapons. Most acolytes would be terrified to face such formidable weapons, and indeed Julian was the same as he used to be worried if he ever faced them. But now, that no longer mattered.

[Immortal Gate - stage 6]

Faint layer of blazing energy swiftly enveloped the Roman's body, giving an increase of strength and agility in the form of battle power. With that, Julian possessed enough speed and strength to dodge and strike all the incoming shuttles with his shield.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Loud metallic sounds reverberated in the air as Soaring Shuttles clashed against the shield in Julian's hand.

Seeing that his opponent was able to hold the attacks his artifact unleashed, Armand decided to use his best card. Spirit energy in the surrounding area began to converge in the Nephilim's direction as the spell took effect.

[Angelic Descent]

The Divine spell manifested itself and pairs of angelic wings materialized on the back of Armand, his feet rapidly rising into the air following its emergence. As his body floated in mid-air, the Nephilim proceeded to take out eight more Soaring Shuttles which he immediately ordered to attack his opponent.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Julian's figure was seen moving all over the place as he dodged and continued to block the relentless attacks of Armand's Soaring Shuttles. However, this onslaught of strikes proved too much even for him as the Roman began to look overwhelmed and be pushed around.

"Hahahaha!!" A boisterous laughter erupted from the center of the arena as Julian's situation continued. What came right after that was a voice filled with haughtiness. "Now kneel before me, you lower realm trash!"

CLANK!!

Armand's words were cut short when he was startled by something that shot just inches away from him. He quickly tried to figure out what it was, and soon realized that it was actually one of his Soaring Shuttles.

Apparently, it was sent back towards him and almost hit his face.

"What!?! That was close, you bast—"

Before he could finish his words, Armand had to stop what he was planning to say to move aside. The next second, another object shot past the spot where he had been; one of his Soaring Shuttles had once again been sent back to him!

"No fucking way!"

As if to deny his words, Armand was in shock when he realized that now his opponent could dodge all of his Soaring Shuttles with ease. It reached to the point that the other party even countered back with his own weapon!

"Huh! I will kill you!!"

Waving gestures with his hand, Armand revealed a newfound attack of his. Under his command, all the Soaring Shuttles – including the two that were sent back – flew and converged in the air. The sixteen of them rose high into the sky before they all plunged in unison, arraying themselves in a formation. Akin to falling meteors, they fell at an unprecedented speed towards the Roman.

Much to the audience's surprise, in a situation like this Julian chose to do something else instead of running away. To their confusion, the Roman suddenly lodged his shield into the ground and went to his knees, fitting his body behind the shield. The next instant, a translucent shining barrier was created all around the shield.

[Sentinel Defense]

BOOOOOOMMMMMM!!!!

An earth-shattering sound shook the entire arena as the Soaring Shuttles struck the shield. A cloud of dust rose into the air, but onlookers expected the Roman at least suffered an injury. However, when the dust receded and they could see the man's figure once more, they were all shocked – without exception.

There, the shield was still standing without a single blemish on its surface and the man that took cover behind it seemed unharmed.

"No! No fucking way!"

Without the slightest hesitation, Julian took advantage of the Nephilim's shocked state to quickly turn his body and throw the shield towards the latter. The shield flew rapidly in the air and managed to hit Armand hard, knocking him down to the ground.

Before the man realized his current state and did anything, suddenly the ground he fell onto softened. Immediately, his body sank down and was held in place by the ground – all four limbs and neck.

Armand of course tried to break free immediately, but at that point Julian already jumped on top of him. The Roman kicked his opponent's chest as hard as he could and pinned his body down with his entire weight.

"Arrghh!! You dare!!" Armand lashed venomously. "If you dare to hurt me, you will be reprimanded by the faction!!"

Alas, the Nephilim's attempt was in vain. Julian still had his smile on his face. It even widened when he heard the 'threat'. "Well, this is certainly funny, isn't it?" Looking at the person beneath him, the Roman said, "I was sent by the faction to reprimand you!"

A look of disbelief immediately colored the Nephilim's face. It was clear that he couldn't believe what he had just heard.

"What?! No! No! You're fucking liar!"

Still with a smile, Julian continued his words. "Apparently, you and your companions are such a disgrace to the faction that they think you guys need to be taught a lesson."

Armand turned pale in that instant, and swiftly shouted, "I surrend—"

Alas, before he could finish his words, Julian had smashed his shield to the Nephilim's face. Immediately after, a series of blows rained down on the latter, forbidding him to say any words whatsoever.

"This one a message from the faction's!" BAAMM!!

"This one is for the people of Earth!" BAAMM!!

"This one is for messing with my friends!" BAAMM!!

"This one is for your ugly face!" BAAMM!!

The reason the Roman uttered every time he hit Armand became unreasonable as the count became higher. But the former didn't care. At the moment, Julian was just busy savoring every blow he dealt upon the Nephilim.

Blood splattered on the ground, while the sound of bones breaking could be heard every few blows. Armand's face had turned to a complete mess before the referee finally took action and stopped the fight.

"Julian Kaesar wins!"

[Rank 50 - Julian Kaesar (rank 35)]

With the referee announcing his victory, Julian looked at the screen above which currently shows his achievement of defeating seven opponents in a row. Even though he still had the energy to continue, the Roman decided to finally stop.

As he walked out of the arena, he candidly waved his bloody hands toward the cheering audience.

Chapter 1116 Later

"Cheers!!"

"Congrats!!"

Inside one of the Hyperion Hub's relaxation facilities, three glasses filled with sparkling beverages clinked against one another as three figures were celebrating the successful duel of one of them, who had just beaten seven people and rose through half of the privileged class ranking.

"It's truly an amazing fight, Julian! The way you treat that Nephilim, that sure took a lot of guts from your part!"

"Hahaha, thanks Roran. It's indeed a tough one, but I have it all under control!"

Hearing such a reply, the golden-haired young man squinted his eyes as he said, "Do not think that I wouldn't find out!" Seeing the look thrown at him, Roran continued, "I know that you still keep your true strength hidden! As for the reason why... I'm guessing you want to save it for the final test!"

Boisterous laughter resounded in the air. The young man whom Roran was talking to patted him on the shoulder saying, "I really couldn't hide anything from you, pal!"

Upon hearing the word 'test', the last person in the room had their interest piqued. The girl who was sitting among them swiftly asked about the matter.

"You two already know what this year's final exam is about?" Klea asked, very curious.

It was Roran who nodded and answered the beautiful black-haired girl. "I should be official in a few days, but my family... and of course the Nephilim, already knew about it."

"Wow, what a privilege," Klea commented, to which the golden-haired young man just responded with a wry smile.

Roran then shared the details of the final test he had received. Apparently, the test would be separated into two parts. One would be a small group mission which would be held in three weeks and followed with a tournament shortly after.

"Actually, the tournament format wasn't held every year; it's a rare occasion. It's just that, I heard the headmaster insists that it needs to take place this year."

Hearing that, Julian added what he knew. "That's right. Apparently, it's because of the two people on the top of the ranking, and that Dragon bloodline. Those people also what gives much pressure to Eeshoo"

After he said those words, Julian suddenly noticed Klea's cold gaze. A moment later, realization dawned on him as he swiftly said, "And of course, our own champion Emery! Hahahaha.."

Barely averting a disaster, the Roman then told Klea that this tournament would be a great opportunity for the Earth group.

"Since elite acolytes are allowed to join, you Klea, Chumo, and that Thracian, can prove your worth one last time!"

The news certainly made Klea excited about the upcoming event they were about to face. Hence she nodded her head at the Roman's words, before continuing to hear the details of the second part of the final test.

As for the group mission, it turned out that Headmaster Delbrand had prepared missions that were customized to each and every one of them.

"Well, there should be nothing to worry about. Being an elite would already be enough for a pass from the academy, and if you want some honorable title upon graduation, you just need to make sure your grades are in the top 300."

In the previous final tests, half of those ranks would normally be filled by the privileged acolytes, leaving only one hundred spots that were being fought over one thousand elite acolytes that might have participated.

Before long, Roran excused himself with the two as he apparently had some business he had to take care of. The room couldn't help but feel emptier with his departure as only Klea and Julian were left in the premises.

With only two of them here, Klea looked at the Roman with a serious expression saying, "You are much stronger and more confident now, Julian. So are you ready to share what happened to you in that place? How did you get so strong so quickly?"

To her surprise, she saw a hesitant look appear on Julian's face for a moment before he finally spoke.

"About this... hmm... I actually can't really show it here.." Staring at her, he said, "I will... later when we return home."

"What? On Earth?" Klea repeated, making sure what she heard wasn't wrong. "Now you are making me even more curious. Tell me, what is it?"

Still, the Roman shook his head, refusing to elaborate on the secret of his power.

"No no no... you will judge me badly if I tell you now... We will be home in less than two months, just wait until then."

Realizing that she wouldn't get her question answered now, Klea just snorted. "Huh! You're just killing me right now with all this suspense."

"Hahaha, don't be angry..." Julian turned silent for a second before he said with a serious look.

"You remember that night... just before Emery entered privilege class?.. We promised that we will not get left behind... we will catch up... that's all I am trying to do..."

The roman continues saying "I will certainly need your help for this to succeed, that's why... Please be patient and trust in me."

Saying those words, Julian took out something from his storage ring and showed it to Klea. It was a beautiful silver bracelet adorned with a mesmerizing ornament of a birds eye.

"What is this?" She asked.

"Think of it as a gift from my travels."

When she checked what it was, Klea realized that it was not simply a beautiful-looking bracelet. It was a magical artifact.

[Bracelet of Horus]

[Artifact - Tier 5]

[Enhancement boost]

"You see, this bracelet should help strengthen the one you currently have. When I saw this during my travels, it immediately made me think of you. It's something worthy of a queen."

Klea didn't hear half of what Julian said because she was distracted by the bracelet. On the other hand, the Roman seemed satisfied seeing such a reaction and said, "Come on, put it on! Let me see you wearing it!"

Currently, Klea has already worn two bracelets. The [Bracelet of Anu] on her left wrist and the rainbow gem bracelet Emery gifted her on the right.

Julian already grabbed her right hand and was about to take off the bracelet there thinking that it was just an ordinary bracelet when Klea suddenly stopped him and pulled her hand away.

Seeing the look on the Roman's face, she smiled and said, "Thank you for your gift, Julian... but I don't need it. You can take it back."

She quickly stood up and excused herself, leaving the Roman in his confused state.

As she walked out of the room, Klea couldn't help but lift her head and look upon the vast expanse.

"When will you return, Emery?"

Chapter 1117 Limit

One hundred miles deep within Hyperion planet, behind all the mist clouds and near its core, Emery was still sitting in front of the huge dark crystal. Grand Magus Lilith was seen standing behind him.

From the expression and twitching he was currently showing, it was apparent to see that he was in constant, torturous pain from being forced to stare into the soul of a celestial being. One could only imagine how much pain he was experiencing.

With the energy channeled by the garbed grand magus, Emery felt like he was able to slowly but surely scrape through and unravel the entity he had been probing into. But in exchange, the entire process delivered excruciating pain that hurt both his mind and spirit core.

Three days passed where he constantly kept this process and suffered through, and finally he reached his limit. His entire body began to forcefully shut itself off as a form of protective measure.

In this midst where he felt he could lose consciousness at any moment, Emery heard the voice of the female grand magus.

"Is That's all!?...That's disappointing."

Instead of letting him go however, the grand magus seemed to push him even further instead. It was as if she was trying to squeeze out every inch of worth that Emery had remaining.

At this kind of situation and within his moment of weakness, Emery had no more will nor energy to care about anything. This led to a release of what had been suppressed – the urge which had been knocking for these few days – finally unleashed itself.

Feeling the eruption of the urge, the voice of the grand magus sounded again.

"Hah! You still have something in you! This is good!!"

The grand magus didn't look worried at all by the rampaging urge from within Emery. She simply strengthened the restraint she imposed on him.

Although Emery's body gradually changed into the wolf beast, he was still unable to move a muscle. All the emerging power and rage were contained by the grand magus, forcing it to once again be directed at the celestial soul.

HOWL!

It was at this moment that the nearly unconscious Emery felt what he had been doing the last few days under the agonizing pain come to fruition. All the scrapping he had done with the help of the grand magus energy had finally managed to pierce a hole into the seemingly impenetrable wall.

This discovery was quickly followed by a bright light coming from inside the dark crystal and a huge crack that gradually appeared on the crystal wall. At that moment, the sound of laughter echoed in the cave they were in.

"Hahaha! Thank you, junior. You are truly much helpful. Thank you."

At the same time, the phenomenon also managed to stop Emery's transformation, forcing his already partially transformed body to return to its human form.

The moment he did so, Emery immediately fell with his knees hitting the ground. With his blurry vision, he could see the female grand magus approaching the huge crack in the dark crystal and break it open with her bare hands.

The last thing Emery saw was the magus reaching for the corpse inside and appearing to harvest something. After that, everything turned dark as he finally fell unconscious from extreme exhaustion.

There was just silence and darkness for a while, until he felt a particular sensation of warmth entering his mouth and flowing within his body.

It didn't take long for him to start feeling the senses of his body again, and from what he could sense at the moment, his body seemed to be lying still somewhere.

"What is this... what is happening?"

It was a great and pronounced feeling as if every fiber of his entire being slowly came to life.

When the warmth finally flowed to his chest and arrived into his heart, Emery suddenly saw something that he hadn't seen for a while.

It was a glimpse of a figure — a massive wolf with half of its body seemingly shrouded by shadow while the other half was covered by light. Its appearance also came with a message that echoed in his mind.

'Devour and Life'

He saw the wolf raise its head and howl at the bloody red moon hanging in the sky. It was a majestic and breathtaking sight, until Emery realized that there was a movement from behind the moon.

Before he could focus his attention, the dark sky suddenly opened up like a curtain and showed a bright golden eye that looked straight into him, scaring him before it suddenly dissolved into the moon, and unexpectedly brought strength to the massive wolf howling at it.

What followed after was a series of notifications that took Emery by surprise.

[Calculating ancestor blood essence percentage...]

[Analyzing genes]

[33% twilight fey wolf essence found]

[Your bloodline just went through a purifying process]

[Genes purified]

[Twilight Fey gene essence percentage increased to 37%]

[Battle power increase exponentially]

It was not only his battle power that was enhanced by this unexpected boon. There was also a tremendous amount of build-up energy within his two cores. Exactly the impetus he needed for the breakthrough he had been waiting for.

[You have reached a breakthrough to the high stage of rank 9]

A tremor was felt on the Darkness Core Foundation as a tendril-like energy emerged from its surface like a flare. Looking at it, Emery could sense that the small thing contained all of his accumulated comprehension of space magic that had been continuously tempered through the pressure of gravity.

[The thirteenth pillar was formed - Darkness Element]

Immediately after the establishment of his thirteenth pillar, Emery swiftly balanced the equilibrium his dark core had with his nature core.

At this moment, he gained another round of comprehension regarding the connection between gravity and the earth element, and with it, a tiny but emanating powerful air Earth Element spirit energy appeared and formed the subsequent pillar.

[The fourteen pillar was formed - Earth Element]

[Spirit force increases exponentially]

[Emery Ambrose]

[Battle power: 256 (278)]

[Spirit force: 1718]

[Acolyte rank 9 - Highstage - 14 pillars formed]

[Earth spirit - 3 pillars]

[Plant spirit - 2 pillars]

[Water spirit - 1 pillar]

[light spirit - 1 pillar]

[Darkness spirit - 6 pillars]

[Devour spirit - 1 pillar]

With the completion of his thirteenth and fourteenth pillar, Emery awoke from his unconscious state with a loud roar. A tremor ran through his entire body as he felt it brimming with a seemingly unstoppable power.

As soon as he opened his eyes, Emery found himself in the familiar sight of gray sands. Dozens of Shrikes corpses were strewn everywhere, with the female grand magus staring at him with an amused smile on her face.

"You finally woke up, young wolf."

Chapter 1118 Celestial

Emery's consciousness returned and he was awakened with a vigorous body, as well as lots of questions in his mind.

After spending some time recollecting his thoughts and bearing, Emery stood up and approached the figure who was currently leisurely sitting on the dead body of a mythical creature.

"Elder.. What just happened?" He asked the female grand magus.

Hearing the question, the grand magus smiled as she said, "We managed to break open one of the remaining celestial soul shards. It was buried behind a pocket of space, and you young acolyte... your proficiency in space magic help me and contribute a lot in this endeavor."

When she saw the confused look on Emery's face still remain, Grand Magus Lilith gave a brief explanation about how Hyperion was a planet that formed through an ancient battle between celestial beings.

Apparently, there were hundreds of shards like the one they had broken through. These remnants of celestials were hidden deep within the planet's core area that were only accessible to authorized personnel.

Emery recalled that he had heard half of this story from Magus Ramona in the past, and this was evidently the other half which was also the secret behind the mist.

It turned out that the land of gray sands he had spent a few weeks on was just one of the many scattered across the planet.

Next, Emery asked the female grand magus about his unexpected advancement, wondering if the latter had an idea of it. Instead of answering his question with words, Grand Magus Lilith instead showed him a small glass jar. A shimmering black liquid could be seen within it.

"This liquid here is a Celestial Essence, extracted from the celestial that we have uncovered earlier. I gave some to you while you were unconscious just now, and luckily your Rank 8 bloodline was able to accept and assimilate it."

Emery's gaze immediately focused on the glass jar. He had heard about it, as Celestial Essence was considered one of the rarest materials for apothecary in the universe.

At the same time, Emery was taken aback by the words Grand Magus Lilith spoke. He was dumbfounded by the word 'luckily' she had said.

It showed her lack of concern for his well-being, since she didn't seem to think about the possible consequences if his body was unable to assimilate the essence. It was the same apathy she showed when she forced him to the brink of literal death in order to break the crystal.

Seemingly noticing Emery's change in mood, the grand magus suddenly threw the glass jar containing the Celestial Essence at him. Despite being caught off guard by the abrupt action, he reacted swiftly and caught it into his hands.

"That's a portion for your troubles" Grand Magus Lilith said, seeing Emery's confused look. "Just do both of us a favor and don't mention this to King Alduin or any of the academy officials."

Hearing such words, Emery couldn't help but ask, "Why?"

Unexpectedly, an annoyed expression appeared on the grand magus' face as she said, "Huh.. You are not very bright, aren't you?" She then took a round of deep breath and heaved it out before saying, "I did just tell you that only authorized magus can harvest this, right..? So... we, or rather I, are not exactly authorized to.."

Emery was startled when he learned this vital information. Such things could give him trouble with the academy, and with him already consuming essence he might not be able to get away with it.

On the other hand, Emery couldn't help but be mesmerized by the sparkling black liquid in his hand.

[Celestial Essence]

[Tier 7]

[Contain source of divine power]

A drop of this precious rare ingredient was able to create wonders to many recipes, and its potency was proven by the changes it had brought to his mutated bloodline. Even now, Emery could clearly feel the overwhelming strength flowing through his entire body.

In the end, Emery just heaved a sigh as he accepted the situation he was in. He swiftly stored the glass jar away in his Spatial Space and tried to stop thinking about it anymore.

Seeing Emery's decision, a smile appeared on Grand Magus Lilith's face. She stood up from the dead body she was sitting on and walked over towards him. Once again, Emery felt her gaze probed into him.

"I see you have progressed well.. I think you are ready."

"Ready?"

Grand Magus Lilith smiled wickedly as she leaned her face closer to his and whispered, "I want you... to beat up Zach." Her eyes staring straight at him, the grand magus said, "Can you do that?"

Instinctively, Emery pulled his face away from the female magus. At the same time, he was startled. He really couldn't tell whether the words the other party spoke were serious and what she really wanted.

Before he could contemplate anything, Emery suddenly sensed a figure at the edge of his Spirit Reading range, dashing towards them from the distant horizon. It only took him a moment to realize that it was the dragon protege himself.

At this, Grand Magus Lilith turned her head towards where the Dragon protege was coming from and simply chuckled. "Here he comes.."

Zach descended from the sky and threw a brief glance at Emery before giving respect to his master.

On the other hand, Grand Magus Lilith only looked at the Dragon protege for a second before throwing her gaze away. "Huh! One month, and still no progress." She remarked. "I think I have chosen the wrong disciple."

The Grand Magus walked away from the two of them saying, "No more sparring. I want results right now." Stopping a distance away, she looked at them and continued, "I want to know which one of you is champion, and which one is trash."

Emery looked at Zach who was currently staring at him with a cold gaze. Without saying a single word, the Dragon protege drew the large sword on his back and pointed its tip towards him.

Surprisingly this time he received a notification on his privileged bracelet and found out that this time Zach had sent him a formal challenge.

[You have been challenges for a duel]

[Rank 4 - Zach Talon]

A formal challenge meant that Zach no longer thought of this as friendly spar. After all, in this setup, even if one were to be seriously injured, there would be no consequence for the winning party.

Seeing the Dragon protégé's cold gaze and the emotions hidden within, Emery decided what he thought was appropriate in the current situation.

"Yes"

Once again, the wolf was about to clash with the dragon.

Chapter 1119 Strength

As soon as Emery accepted the challenge and the said notification appeared on his bracelet, the Dragon protege immediately used his transformation.

Seeing the quick reaction, Emery also swiftly followed suit and used his own transformation.

In the next instant, their figures disappeared and a burst of violent wind occurred at the midpoint where they had been before. The two half-bloods clashed the Twilight Wolf against the Neo Bahamut Dragon.

The weapons in the hands of the two confronted one another. Sparks appeared and splashed everywhere, and the figures of the two were repelled to where they came from at the same time.

The first exchange of their fight was surprisingly a draw – a clash of similar strength.

Zach looked slightly annoyed with the result, seeing the expression currently hanging on his face. Whereas on the other hand, Emery seemed a bit confused by what had just transpired.

He was puzzled by the result of their initial clash. Especially because he had actually not used all his power just yet.

Alas, Emery didn't have the time to ponder as the Dragon protege once again dashed and attacked him. This time, even more fierce and ferocious of an onslaught than the latter's first attempt.

But again, Emery found that he was able to match his opponent, whether in speed – dodging and evading, or strength – perfectly blocking and stopping the attacks.

Zach cocked his hand grasping his sword and swung it after mustering all the strength he had. The air seemed to split apart as the huge blade headed towards Emery. A glint of ferocity flashed across his eyes.

Unfortunately, a loud metallic sound resounded through the air as Emery managed to block the attack once again. What's more, this time he shouted loudly and unlocked his battle arts technique in this battle.

[Immortal Gate - stage 6]

[Battle power increased by 64 points]

[Battle power: 278 (412)]

As a blazing layer of energy enveloped Emery's body, a startled look appeared on the Dragon protege's face as he found himself starting to be pushed back by the former. He was overpowered by his opponent.

Zach was shocked and it showed on his normally cold face.

The half-blood dragon was always confident in his raw strength, that he was unrivaled by anyone in this aspect. Hence the reason for his shock, as this was the first time anyone in the academy was capable of getting the upper hand over him.

The Dragon protege could not hide his disbelief as he once again dashed towards his opponent and began to attack with his sword skill in ferocious vigor. Seeing the approaching storm of attacks, Emery accepted it readily with his [36 Dao Divine Sword].

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Each and every single one of the attacks Zach threw was powerful. Just one of them could easily bring any elite acolyte down to their knees. However, they were all completely nullified by his current opponent; and by now, Emery had finally realized the root of his shocking strength.

The upgrade that his bloodline had gone through thanks to the Celestial Essence gave him 20 points of battle power, which certainly helped him become stronger. However, such an amount of battle power shouldn't be able to bring this much of an impact.

Emery realized that what really made the difference was in fact the gravitational pressure of the place where they were right now.

It was only now that Emery realized that he barely felt any pressure on his body anymore. This discovery led him to believe that the latest upgrade of his spirit core, his new dark pillar, must have increased his resistance to gravitational pressure.

With the penalty of being in this place effectively non-existent for him, it was only natural that Emery had the advantage over the Dragon protege in terms of battle power. It was akin to fighting an opponent whose four limbs were restrained with heavy chains.

Clank! Clank!!

Splaattt!!

Finally, after a few more clashes where he had the upper hand, Emery managed to break through the Dragon's defenses and inflict a wound on the latter's chest. Blood started gushing out as he drew his sword back, spilling onto the ground below.

The unexpected favorable situation he was in made Emery couldn't help feeling the fight was unfair for his opponent. Therefore he separated himself from his opponent and shouted about his circumstance.

"We should fight on the surface instead, not here!" He added after explaining the situation.

Hearing such words, Zach stopped in his tracks and glanced at his master. However, this action of his instead made the grand magus angry with him.

"You are disgraceful to even have thought about it! That is not a liability in a fight, that's purely the wolf's own strength! You are a dragon yourself, so act like one!"

Just like usual, the Dragon protege simply received his master's harsh treatment in silence. Turning his gaze to Emery once more, he started preparing his innate ability. Wisps of flame began to appear in his surroundings.

[Draconic Flames]

As his body was engulfed by the dragon flames, Zach's speed and strength rose to new heights. On the other hand, Emery swiftly cast [Slipstream] on himself and then let out a roaring howl as a response.

[Battle Howl]

[Battle power increased by 15 points]

[Battle power: 278 (427)]

With what Zach had just done, his raw strength which was restricted by the gravitational pressure managed to catch up to Emery's. However, he was still barely holding out as the wolf was still a level higher. Emery was still a little faster and a little bit stronger.

With this condition, each clash gradually made the Dragon protege lose his calm.

Clank!! Clank!! Clank!

It was only a dozen more clashes later that the momentum built up that Zach finally used his special ability, one which he had been training for the past month.

A luminous glow appeared and enwrapped the sword in his hand, the sign that his skill was ready to be unleashed.

Unfortunately for the Dragon protege, Emery had watched him performing the skill too many times.

As soon as the Dragon's body started to show the unique-looking glow it manifested every time the skill was about to take effect, Emery used his [Void Mist] and completely changed his approach from offensive to full defense.

The way to deal with the Dragon protege's trump card was to hold out as long as possible. That's the reason he immediately prepared the next spell he had in store after casting [Void Mist].

In the meantime, Zach shot forth and managed to strike all four figures of Emery that [Void Mist] manifested. However, the moment he hit the right one, Emery had completely prepared with his best defense.

[Aegis of the Void]

Clankk clank! Clank! CLANK!

Several strikes from the Dragon protege's sword were capable of tearing the barrier apart. But by then, Emery had already replaced his true body with his [Void Mist] copy, and the dragon once again hit a dissipating figure.

Arrgggggh!!!

A loud roar reverberated in the air. It was filled with frustration.

Zach had used his ultimate skill, but he was still unable to land a hit on Emery.

Even though he was able to minimize the aftereffect of the skill thanks to his training, it still affected his overall strength. At the moment, Emery could clearly see that the Dragon protege was in a weakened state.

It was at this moment that a voice entered his mind, echoing into every nook and cranny.

That of the grand magus.

"Finish him now!"

Chapter 1120 Enough!

Zach stood still where he was, brandishing his sword forward and preparing for whatever came his way. However, Emery could tell behind that strong visage the Dragon protege was struggling with the skill's severe drawback.

At tense moments like this, the provocative words that entered his mind gave him the push to charge at the Dragon protege with everything he got. His form streaked across the ground, shooting towards the weakened Dragon.

Emery's cores exploded with power as he swung his sword in succession, firing several [Shadow Edge] at Zach.

Bamm! Bamm! Bamm!!

The breakthrough from the mid-stage to the high-stage of Rank 9 Acolyte that Emery had gone through granted a much higher boost to his spell power, which could be seen from how each [Shadow Edge] hitting Zach would send the Dragon protege skidding a few feet back.

When the slew of sword energy finally ended, Zach was wobbling on his feet. His mouth spurted out blood due to the internal injuries. When he regained his bearings, Emery's figure had already disappeared from before him.

Immediately, the Dragon protege threw his head left and right, anxiously looking around for his opponent's whereabouts. It also didn't help that the gravitational pressure affected his Spirit Reading to sense Emery's movement.

Realizing his attempt to search with his impaired Spirit Reading was futile, Zach chose extreme measures. He cast [Mega Flare] and released a massive body of flames that exploded into his surroundings, blowing everything up and burning anything around him into cinders.

Zach thought his attack was able to stop Emery from approaching him. But then, Emery's figure appeared from the weakest corner affected by the blast which was directly on top of the Dragon protege's head.

Not wasting the golden opportunity, Emery declared his arrival with his strongest offensive spell. Two glowing spheres of energies were seen swirling on his two palms, they merged into one and were pushed towards Zach.

When the latter finally realized what was heading towards him from above, it was already too late.

KABOOOOOMMMMM!!!

A huge cloud of dust rose into the sky as a large explosion occurred. The ground shook violently by the sheer force it created. Only seconds later the curtain of dust and dirt receded, revealing the figure hidden within.

Zach's body could be seen lying flat in a huge crater, his weapon embedded in the right side of his chest. The Dragon protege coughed violently and spat out a mouthful of blood. His face was pale devoid of any color.

Apparently, at the last second before Emery's Dao Matter hit him, Zach managed to position his sword in front of him, using it to block the attack. Unfortunately, such action was far from enough to stop the spell, especially when he was in such a weakened condition.

"This is enough," Emery said to himself, thinking that Zach was unable to fight anymore.

But then, the grand magus' voice once again entered his mind.

"Your opponent is a dragonborn. Do not stop halfway or you will regret it."

Such words, combined with his past experiences, seemed to affect Emery more than he thought as he turned his gaze towards the lying Dragon protege.

From the sky above the wounded Zach, Emery roused his spirit cores and once again gathered his spirit energy. Moments later, he commenced his second onslaught by bombarding the former with the [Seed Bomb] spell.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! Dark orbs fell from the sky like rain, causing a cacophony of explosions.

There were at least twenty of those Seed Bombs that struck the Dragon protege, which created another cloud of dust and smoke that shrouded the ground beneath. That amount of attack should incapacitate anyone, but through his Spirit Reading Emery saw his opponent slowly stood and returned to his feet.

The dragon scales covering his skin had cracks everywhere, while wounds of varying degrees adorned every inch of his body. However, despite being in such a severe condition, Zach still held on and used both hands to try and block Emery's attacks.

Through all of this, the Dragon protege was trembling violently, his body seemingly on the brink of falling apart entirely.

Seeing such a sight, Emery shouted, "You can stop now, Zach! You won't be able to beat me as long as we fight in this place. I have won!"

From beyond the smoke and amidst the rampaging blasts, Emery could see Zach's gaze was still fixed on him. Their eyes crossed each other; the Dragon protege's fighting spirit still had not dwindled.

He roared into a frenzy, losing all of his former composure as he shouted.

"NO!! I will not be defeated by the likes of you! I am Zach Talon!! I am the strongest dragon!!!"

After Zach finished shouting those words, Emery suddenly felt a powerful aura rising from the former's body. One that was almost as powerful as the grand magus had shown to him. An frightening aura that birth fear.

Without Emery knowing, throughout the entire duration of battle, Grand Magus Lilith had been shouting in his opponent's mind just like him.

"You let yourself be defeated by a wolf?"

"That kid came from nothing! A lower realm!"

"You are a disgrace to the dragon bloodline!"

Those words, coupled with an actual beatdown from Emery himself, caused a chain reaction. Finally, something buried within the Dragon protege broke free and revealed its existence to the world.

[Draconic Aura - Bahamut]

It was Dragon's bloodline innate ability, an

upgrade of Zach's Draconic Flame buff, one that corresponded to his Rank 6 Neo Bahamut bloodline.

What came after the terrifying aura was the sight of the flame cloak covering Zach's entire body darkening and turning into a haze of ominous dark flame.

The next instant, Zach stomped the ground and blasted into the sky. As he sped through the air, he dodged and blocked all of Emery's Seed Bomb as if the appearance of his critical state was a mere decoration.

Seeing the incoming threat, Emery quickly gripped his sword with both hands. He channeled his darkness spirit energy, as if he was about to fire [Shadow Edge], with the build up power, he performed the sword battle art [Omega Strike].

That combination was the most powerful swing Emery could make, and the two swords clashed once again. A surge of destruction erupted and swept over the vast expanse.

KABBBOOOOMMMMM!!!

A storm of sparks rumbled between the figures of the two of them, when suddenly the glaring sound of something cracking was heard.

CRACKK!!

Emery was shocked when he saw his Savage Sword split in two. Alas, before he could address the grief of losing his weapon, Zach's swing advanced freely without its obstruction and managed to slash his chest open.

Spllaaatttt!!

Blood splattered in the sky, followed by the wolf howl.

Emery resisted the pain and swiftly tried to dodge away, but Zach moved much faster than before, it was as if the gravitational pressure no longer affected him.

The Dragon protege spun his sword on its hilt, using the flat end of his weapon to hammer Emery's body.

It follows with a hurricane of attacks, similar to his special moves, however this time it was activated instantly.

BAM! BAM! BAM! BAM! BAM!

Eventually, the sequence of hard swings ended with a powerful smash that sent Emery hurtling towards the ground.

Hitting the ground hard and creating a small crater, Emery could feel dozens of broken bones, his body sinking in the pain that ran through the entirety of his body. He was still unwilling to give up.

Emery stood up with all his strength and brought out his blade claw.

However, the frenzy Dragon protege already arrived next to him and once more smash him across the field crashing him into large rocks.

Emery's body started to shut down as his [undecaying flesh] couldn't heal as fast as the heavy damage he received.

Zach was ready to give Emery the killing blow when Grand Magus Lilith finally stepped in and stopped the fight.

"That's enough!!"

Hearing the voice of the grand magus, Zach seemed to sober up. He followed his master's order and sheathed his sword to his back.

The dark flames enveloping his body started to dissipate. Seeing all this, Emery who was lying on the rock let out a bitter chuckle.

The hard truth was, if Zach had used his sharp edge of the blade, he would have died already.

Emery realized that he had once again lost.

However, what happened next dealt another heavy blow on him.

Grand Magus Lilith approached her disciple with a smile saying,

"The young wolf finally served his purpose...very good.. With this breakthrough, you can finally be the number one!!"

While still lying on the rock grimacing in pain, Emery finally understood the true intentions of the grand magus and his role in these weeks of training. He was merely an impetus for Zach to break through the bottleneck he had; he was used as the best mental stimulus to the Dragon protege.

Oblivious to his thoughts, Grand Magus Lilith walked over to Emery.

"This is good news, young wolf. Now that we don't need you anymore, you can leave to see your girl again."