

Earths GMagus 891

Chapter 891 Tier 5 Emery was on the boundary between the dark, outer space and the Hyperion planet.

After only a few hours of cultivating in the place called the Zero Abyss, his chest heaved up and down as he began to gasp for air.

Emery discovered that the situation in him cultivating in this place was not the least bit similar to his time in deep water.

With the help of a [Water Breathing] spell, he could keep the air in his lungs and stay under for days. The only uncomfortable thing that he had to endure was the crushing pressure that the deepwater imposed upon his body.

As for this place, however, it was like a vacuum space that sucked out the air within. It didn't even let a wisp exist for more than a few moments. It was suffocating.

Hence Emery had to learn a way, a method in order to breathe from such a thin, almost nonexistent air and eventually adapt to the place.

Just like what Magus Ramora had told him, this place was truly not advisable for an acolyte. The obvious reason for such advice was the latter's necessity for air to breathe, as magus had almost zero dependence on air due to their ascension.

Either way, Emery still chose to come and cultivate – all for the unique energy existing in this place. This drive became even stronger especially when he could feel some similarity between the energy existing in this place had with the energy of Khaos.

[Spirit force increases]

[Spirit force increases]

Apart from absorbing the surrounding energy, Emery discovered one other thing he could do – observe the glowing moss scattered everywhere in this place with great curiosity. To see such a simple life form that was able to live in such a harsh place without sun, water, minimum air, and only relying on the dark rock as its dwelling; it was quite a fascinating sight.

The unique moss and the entire situation of the place itself were already able to help him gain more understanding of the darkness element and its subsequent correlation to nature, which in this instance were plant and earth elements.

Coupled with the surge of spirit energy the Spirit Foundation Pill provided upon consumption that warmed his solar plexus, Emery's spirit force didn't have any other choice except to rise up again.

[Spirit force increases]

[Spirit force increases]

However, even though his spirit force continued to rise, Emery actually did not have his attention on it at all. Instead, his mind was completely focused on comprehending the intricate rune formation that came with the new spells.

It was like solving a puzzle that involved his understanding of the spell and the complex relation with the spirit core, which in his case: darkness and nature core. Moreover, this was the first time Emery took his hands-on Tier 5 spells. So it was only natural that he would need time to be able to learn the spell.

One of those spells was [Ash Blast]. It was a spell that had great similarity to his already learned [Whiplash] spell, as both involved controlling a concentrated amount of elemental energy into a wave of force. In this case, [Whiplash] controlled the water element while [Ash Blast] controlled a combination of the earth and darkness element.

The second spell Emery purchased was [Seed Bomb]. This particular spell unexpectedly needed a lot more concentration than Emery previously assumed. In fact, he wouldn't have been able to learn it so quickly were it not for his prior experience with the [Dark Matter] spell.

The two spells were also somewhat similar to each other, as both started by creating multiple roots of elemental energy, channeling it outward, and building it up into one concrete momentum before releasing it.

All in all, it took Emery one whole day to finally learn the [Ash Blast] spell and another day to learn the [Seed Bomb] spell. Quite an impressive feat, as both were Rank B Tier 5 spells.

Not only that, Emery also didn't forget to keep consuming more Spirit Foundation Pill during his endeavor of mastering his new spells. Thanks to that, his spirit power continued to increase without any stagnation.

[Spirit force increases]

[Spirit force increases]

Now, Emery only had one day left before the agreed duel with the Dragon bloodline protege. Considering the fact he spent an average of one day learning a Rank B Tier 5 spell, he concluded that he would not be able to, and thus chose to give up on mastering the Divine spell he had – [Aegis Void].

Even though it was basically impossible to master with the given time constraints, he, at the very least, hoped to grasp the basic understanding of the void that the Divine spell was based upon.

Void was an emptiness within space.

He had learned about space fluctuation thanks to his frequent dabbling in spatial spells. He had learned how to take away a form and release or move it into another space. On the other hand, the void had the other half of the concept as it involved the disappearance of a form or a particular space.

[Dark Void] spell; although stated as the upgraded version of his [Hide in Shadow] spell, it actually had a much different concept. One needed the rise of darkness to take effect, while the other was using the distortion of space to hide within.

The spell [Dark Void] allowed Emery to transform a limited area of space, turning it into a place where he could bend others' perception or just channel it to space around himself to make himself less conspicuous.

Obviously, the current strength the spell possessed was not much. But fret not, as Emery gained further mastery of the spell, the prowess of the spell would also strengthen proportionally. One day it might even be as good at concealment as Klea's bracelet was capable of and, perhaps, reach a level beyond it.

...

[Spirit force increases]

[Spirit force increases]

Three days had unknowingly passed, and within hours Emery had already had to face the Dragon bloodline protege. In the last 70 or so hours, he had consumed a total of 35 Spirit Foundation Pills.

Therefore he went ahead and checked his current stats.

[Emery Ambrose]

[Battle Power: 244 (245)]

[Spirit Force: 1252(1290)]

[Acolyte Rank 9 – Early Stage – 6 Pillars Formed]

Emery was left speechless when he saw the results he had obtained over the past three days as he did not know if this would be enough for his upcoming opponent. Still, now that everything was ready and nothing could be done anymore, he decided not to dwell on his thoughts longer.

He dashed out of his seclusion spot, flew out of the asteroid, and headed to the designated place for the duel.

It was an open field full of rocks of various sizes, and apparently Emery's opponent – Zach the Dragon bloodline – had arrived early. He stood firmly on a rock 3 meters high and calmly turned his head when Emery arrived.

Upon arriving, Emery's attention was immediately attracted to the sides of the field where he found hundreds of people standing. It was clear that they had all come to see the fight.

Emery discreetly threw a glance at Zach to see his reaction. After all, the latter had told him that he wished for a fight between the two of them alone, and from the looks of it, it was apparent that wasn't going to happen.

Also, to his surprise among those who had arrived, Emery saw his Earth friends – Klea, Thrax, and Chumo. Their faces brightened when they saw him arrive on the field. One of them, in particular, shouted things that made Emery want to cover his face.

"Come on, Emery!! Beat that Lizard Bastard!!"

Chapter 892 Fighting the DragonAs soon as Emery saw his friends, he dashed towards the crowd of hundreds of people.

"Klea, Chumo, Thrax! What are you all doing here?!"

Unfortunately for Emery, or rather just as expected, his somewhat rough question didn't get a great reception. Especially from a certain person.

"Hey! What's with the reaction? Aren't you happy that we are here?" Klea furrowed her brows as she spoke those words. The brawn of the team, the one known as Gladiator, however, laughed boisterously at Emery.

"Hoho! What are you talking about, my friend? It's a duel between you and that dragon guy! Of course, there's no way we're going to miss it!"

Emery threw an apologetic look at Klea, when he realized how rude his question sounded.

Turning his gaze to the only person left of the three, Chumo smiled and calmly said, "Us three got limited access to watch the duel."

Upon hearing that, a look of confusion appeared on Emery's face. "Aaa, how did that happen?"

He absolutely had no idea such a thing called limited access existed. Fortunately, it was at this moment a figure came out from the crowd.

"This is such an important fight for you, so I arranged for them to be able to come. I hope it didn't startle you too much." Emery looked and saw another familiar figure.

"Julian?" Emery was confused. "How come you are here? I thought you were on..."

Julian smiled. "I jumped out of the tank right after I heard about this duel, just so you know. Hahahah..." After that, he jokingly punched Emery on the chest, "We're all already here and will be cheering for you. So, don't you dare to lose!"

The others also quickly followed suit. Thrax laughed loudly, pointing his thumb at him. "Go beat that lizard and make us proud!" Chumo beamed a smile, "Good luck, Emery."

Klea pounced and kissed him on the cheek, before hugging his body and whispering, "Good luck and please stay safe."

Before Emery could answer Klea's concerns, another familiar voice was heard. "If a kiss can make you win this fight, then I'll give you one too later."

Emery just smiled wryly at the red-haired girl, who had unknowingly arrived. He looked at Klea, then his friends, before saying, "Thank you everyone. I will definitely try my best."

Throughout all this, the Dragon bloodline protege still stood calmly on top of a large rock, waiting patiently with his eyes closed. It looked as if he didn't mind the reunion continuing, as long as it didn't go beyond today.

However, Emery did not want his opponent to wait too long. Hence, he excused himself from the group of people dear to him and jumped onto a rock that lay directly opposite where Zach stood.

As soon as Emery's feet landed on top of the rock, the spectators that surrounded the open field started to turn rowdy.

"Hey look, look! They are about to start! This is exciting!"

"How long do you think the Savage Acolyte will last? An hour? Half an hour?"

"10 minutes!"

"20 minutes at most!"

"Are you all crazy?! It will be amazing if he can still stand in 5 minutes!"

"Ten to one, ten for the Savage Acolyte! Come and bet your pills!"

Emery, who was standing on top of the rock, ignored the chatter going on around him. He was busy trying to calm himself down to prepare for the duel. He knew the upcoming fight would definitely be one of his hardest fights.

The way Zach stood calmly, with his hand holding the broadsword that pierced the rock in front of him, reminded him of the last time they fought. That time, he was so badly beaten that he promised himself the next time – this time – the end result would be different.

A few moments later, Zach opened his mouth. "Are you ready?"

"Yes," Emery answered. Upon hearing that, the Dragon bloodline protege finally revealed his closed eyes. Two golden pupils stared right into him, as if they were trying to see through his existence.

In response, Emery pulled out the Savage Sword and held it firmly. Without further ado and without the slightest hesitation, he immediately took the first step with a bang.

BOOM!

[Immortal Gate – stage 5]

In the blink of an eye, a faint layer of blazing energy appeared and engulfed Emery's entire body.

[Battle power increased by 32]

[Twilight transformation]

[Twilight Form has increased your spell power]

[Twilight Form has increased your magic resistance]

[Battle power increased by 70 points]

[Battle Power: 245 (347)]

Emery was busy reaching the peak of his strong physical and mental prowess. However, together with the increase of his battle power, his urge for fierce and intense battle had also proportionally risen.

Howl—

A loud, deafening sound echoed in the air, as Emery used [Battle Howl] to further bolster his strength.

[Battle power increased by 15 points]

[Battle Power: 245 (362)]

Just like their previous encounter, the Dragon bloodline protege looked confident with a smile on his face. He just stood there, waiting without preparing any stance.

Naturally, Emery, whose primal urge had already been enhanced, couldn't lie low after seeing such a condescending attitude. It just roused the savagery within him, so his body shot forth.

Swish!

With his opponent clearly waiting for his initiative, Emery had no plan to do any kind of attack other than a direct one from the front. His figure flickered across the field of rocks and appeared in front of Zach in no time.

The sword in his hand had already been brought high in the sky. Emery launched the first blow of their duel – a powerful slash from above. Its sharp blade glowed as it was laced with [Heroic Slash]. A burst of wind was generated as the sword descended towards the Dragon bloodline protege.

Swissshhh!

Zach could feel the power of the slash that came for him, so he grabbed his sword with both of his hands and countered Emery's attack with the polar opposite, an upward smash. Time seemed to slow down as the two swords gradually drew closer to each other, until finally there was an explosion.

BOOM!

An ear-splitting bang resounded in the air, as the two attacks crashed into each other. It was such a powerful clash the rock that Zach's foot stepped on shattered and threw the Dragon protege back a few feet, where his body proceeded to hit a rock in the back smashing it to pieces.

The first exchange: Emery one, Zach nil.

Everyone in the audience cheered, when they saw the short yet intense clash between the two, but of course everyone, including Emery himself, knew it was far from over. In fact, it was only just getting started.

From the rubble and smoke blocking the view, Zach's figure walked out with a calm expression on his face, stretching his limbs as if nothing had happened. The Dragon bloodline protector's gaze was fixed on his opponent, no signs of pain being seen.

"Very good. The current you is worthy to fight me." Zach said, before Emery suddenly felt a powerful rush of energy washing over him, originating from the former's Dragon bloodline. Gradually, Emery watched his opponent's two hands and feet started to transform and be covered by red scales.

Afterward, Zach picked up his sword with one hand and swung the huge 2 meter long sword around as if it was a feather. Immediately after, he took a fighting stance and brandished his sword towards Emery.

"My turn."

Before his own voice faded, Zach had disappeared from where he was standing. His figure shot across the field at a speed Emery could barely follow and swung his sword horizontally. Seeing this, Emery quickly positioned his sword and attempted to block or parry the attack.

CLANK!!!

Emery was thrown back two feet when they made contact, but he quickly recovered and readied himself for a retaliatory strike. Faint rhymes and mysterious runes as well as symbols appeared and circled around Emery's body.

[36 Dao Divine Sword Technique]

Clank! clankkk! Clankk! CLANKK!

Successive metallic sounds resounded through the air, as the two men danced their respective swordsmanship. In the midst of this melodious yet deadly rhythm, a loud laugh was suddenly heard.

"HAHA! Impressive!" A wide grin could be seen on Zach's face. "Even my Executioner is impressed by you!" His words were quickly drowned, as the exchanges of swords grew fiercer.

Swish! Swish!

Clank! Clank! Clank! Clannkk!

Dozens of clashes had taken place between the two. At this point, Emery's display of [36 Dao Divine Sword Technique] had passed the stage 5 and reached the stage 6 variations.

Zach was successfully caught off guard by the abrupt change. So Emery managed to get into the opening and land a slash on his opponent's waist. It cut deep into his flesh, causing him to bleed profusely.

Emery was happy when he saw his success. Alas, that happiness was short-lived, as the next moment, Zach maneuvered his sword in such a way to strike Emery's head from a blind spot on the side.

BAM!

A dull sound resounded, as Emery lost his balance due to the unexpected attack.

Zach was bleeding from his wound, but he didn't seem to be in pain at all as he immediately chased after Emery. With a situation where he hadn't recovered his ground, the latter could only save himself by using [Blink] to escape.

The second round ended with a draw.

However, this fact was of great concern to Emery, as he knew Zach was currently only undergoing a partial transformation. The young man still hadn't brought out his full strength. Somewhat incensed by his opponent's attitude, Emery glared and shouted.

"Stop playing around and show me your true strength!"

Hearing that, Zach turned to Emery and gave a small smile. In the next second, the former suddenly let out a thunderous roar and his entire body began to undergo a transformation.

[Crimson Bahamut Transformation]

There were tremors all around the area, as Zach the dragon bloodline showed his true power.

Chapter 893 Zach Talon

"You are Zach Talon and you will grow up to be the strongest among our people."

"No, father. I wanted to be just like you."

Reyd Talon, the hero of the Dragon bloodline, was a well-known combat magus and a great commander. That was the last conversation he had with his son, before he led an army of 300 into the thick of enemy lines.

The man never returned from the ordeal.

Some said he brought hundreds of the elves to the depths of the underworld together with him. Some, however, refused to forget his failure and criticize him for it. A few detractors even claimed he had betrayed his own bloodline.

Either way, the 6-year old Zach was left with no one able to raise him, so he was taken to live with his great-great uncle, King Alduin. Then, the Zodiac city king raised him to become a great warrior.

The Dragon bloodline was known for their very, very low birth rate compared to other species. Furthermore, even if the conception were successful, many couldn't survive the birth.

Hence, Zech Talon being a protege among the rare Dragon race was a huge fortune. He had the power that was only found in one of a thousand Dragon bloodline bearers.

A mythical bloodline.

[Bloodline Gene - Neo Bahamut]

[Gene Classification - Mythical Bloodline]

[Bloodline Limit: Rank 8]

[Current Rank - Rank 5 - Crimson Bahamut]

Not just born with the right legacy, the young dragon grew and strived to become what his father wished him to become.

He always aspired to be the strongest, through hard training and difficult challenges, so that one day he would become strong enough to protect the Talon legacy, or even join the frontline and find the truth about his father.

In order to do that, he set himself on becoming the number one in the privileged class. His objective was to challenge all who were worthy and make his bloodline breakthrough to rank 6 before graduating.

[Bahamut Transformation]

[Bahamut Armor has been formed]

Emery saw red scales creep out from his opponent's skin, covering everything. Even his cheeks were covered with claw-like marks made of scales. From afar, it looked like Zach was wearing a living red armor.

The transformation was followed by a terrifying power radiating from his body, bringing with it a hefty pressure that affected him and even the spectators watching from a distance away.

Roaaarr!

Zach picked up his blade and dashed towards Emery at much faster speed than he previously displayed.

Sensing the enhanced speed, he couldn't get hit without suffering under the boosted strength, Emery quickly used [Blink] to evade the attack. His figure swiftly disappeared and reappeared quite a distance away.

However, in this state, Zach moved with speeds similar to a fallen red comet. He instantly chased after Emery, throwing dust and fierce winds with each step he took.

Emery knew he had to throw all his best spells on his repertoire to match the man. He cast [Slipstream] on his feet, [Jade Skin] on his body and [Dark Infusion] on his sword.

Fragments of jade formed over his skin and solidified into a tight, full body armor, while dark shadows cling on his sword, swaying unnaturally like the hands of a decaying sword.

With everything ready, he decided to meet the dragon head-on for round three.

[Heroic Slash]

Emery raised his blade and swung down his sword at the dragon with greater speed and strength than before. However, although he clearly saw the attack, the dragon kept going on. He didn't seem to have any intention to dodge.

As a result, Emery's blade landed squarely on the dragon's shoulder.

Cracckkk!

Emery had known the armor covering Zach's body was powerful, but he didn't expect the red armor to be so strong, that his enchanted tier 5 blade could only leave a small crack on it.

His weapon being unable to hurt the dragon meant Emery could only accept the counterattack that came right after.

Swissshhhh!

Emery jumped backwards to dodge, but Zach's blade managed to hit him square on his waist. The enhanced [Jade Skin] he had crumbled apart, creating a deep wound that splattered blood all over the ground.

"Urgh!"

Emery grunted in pain and was forced to move away with [Blink]. Even though he managed to prevent any more attacks coming his way, it didn't change the fact that Zach, in his red-scaled form, was able to keep up with his speed.

Even after Emery empowered himself with his spells, Zach still obviously had a stronger body and a faster movement speed.

But, he refused to stay outmatched and lose. So Emery decided to cast more spells

[Jade Root]

Roots tinted with green sprouted out from the ground, stopping Zach advance and binding his legs and feet. However, it only managed to hold Zach for a second, before ruby flames came out from his palm. Only one swing afterwards, all the roots turned into cider.

Through the massive field of burning roots, Zach dashed closer towards Emery, swinging the large sword that the latter quickly tried to block.

Bammmmm!

Emery was unable to hold against the overwhelming strength hidden within Zach's sword, so his body was thrown onto the pile of rocks, breaking a few of them.

The spectators cheered, as the dragon once again won another round. But, the battle was not finished yet.

With shaking legs, Emery stood up from the rubble. Spitting blood.

It was clear to Emery and everyone there, be it in terms of speed, strength and even defense, Zach was much stronger.

In his dragon form from above the rock, Zach stared at Emery with eyes that radiated fighting spirit.

This sight burnt Emery's own fighting spirit, as he once again quickly picked up his sword, "I will not give up."

As the words left his mouth, Emery decided to use [Shadow Mist]. A dozen copies made of shadows appeared and ran, before they surrounded Zach in his dragon armor form.

Zach only regarded the clones with an unamused stare. The mist copies jumped closer as he did.

Together, all the clones leapt to the air and swung its blade down. Zach sidestepped the attacks and proceeded to use his own battle art.

With his overwhelming power, he swung his blade in a massive arch.

[Hell Raiser]

Dozens of tiny cuts tore apart the clones like they were pieces of paper. The clones then disappeared into dark mists that dispersed in the air.

"How many times do I have to tell you, these illusions will not work on me!"

However, amidst his gloating, Zach missed the fact that Emery was nowhere to be seen. His opponent was already hiding inside a void.

In other words, Emery only used the [Shadow Mist] not as an aggression, but as a distraction.

"Attack!"

Chapter 894 Fighting the Dragon 2

Emery understood very well his 347 battle power that was overwhelming to others would not be able to match Zach's strength and speed in his full Dragon transformation, even with the variety of buff spells he cast upon himself.

The young dragon was simply too terrifying.

Everyone watching the duel didn't seem surprised to see Emery being suppressed after Zach unleashed his true strength. They knew this was the difference between a high-tier bloodline, like the Dragon bloodline, and a middle-tier bloodline, i.e. the Wolf bloodline.

Fortunately, Emery had predicted something like this would happen.

He had decided that, if he could not beat his opponent in the strength or speed department, he would try to one-up him in magic.

He was confident in this plan, as the [Twilight Transformation] provided great enhancement in spell power and magic resistance. Coupled with his dual core, magic could be the key that would make the difference in their battle.

That was why Emery had spent the last three days struggling hard to learn new spells.

[Dark Void]

After the clones his [Shadow Mist] created were mercilessly destroyed by Zach, taking advantage of the moment he was distracted, Emery managed to enter the void successfully.

His speed that was enhanced by the [Slipstream] spell, in addition to unpredictable mobility with the use of [Blink], now coupled with [Dark Void] that would shroud his existence within the void and make him harder to detect, allowed Emery to mount a retaliation.

Those three spells worked seamlessly together under Emery's hands, forcing the young dragon to retreat, as his attacks would always hit empty air, while his body continued to receive wounds instead.

Splatt! Splatt!

However, the young dragon, who was a veteran fighter himself, quickly adapted to the precarious situation. Realizing a slash of his sword had a meager chance of actually hitting Emery, Zach opted for using magic, casting one of his spells: [Burning Field].

The spell quickly turned the area around him into a blazing ground filled with scorching hot flames. The solution worked really well, as the flames managed to restrict Emery's movements.

As soon as Emery cast [Blink] to get out of Zach's [Burning Field] range, he lost all the momentum he had accumulated. In a fierce fight like theirs, losing momentum could mean a major turnaround.

Grabbing the opportunity presented before him, Zach's feet stomped the ground and his figure disappeared from view. His broadsword had been swung high in the sky. The moment he appeared in front of Emery, the young dragon swept his hand downwards.

The huge sword descended like a reaper, aiming straight at Emery's head. Seeing this, Emery quickly tightened his grip and swung his sword in a precise trajectory to block the attack.

Clank! Boom!

The two swords clashed against each other, but due to the power Zach channeled into his sword, the ground beneath Emery's feet caved in making him end up kneeling on the ground. "Argh!" A groan escaped his lips, as he tried to withstand the mountain-like momentum.

Another swing quickly came from the right, but Emery had yet to recover his numb hand. Fortunately, the [Twilight Transformation] enhanced his spell prowess, allowing him to cast his instant spell even faster.

[Blink]

Just as the sword was inches from landing on Emery's body, his figure disappeared. Thus, once again, Zach's strike hit only empty air. Frustrated to see the same thing happen again and again, the young dragon shouted loudly.

"Are you going to keep running!?"

Emery who had reappeared a few meters away coughed and replied, "No. Of course not!"

The reason Emery cast [Blink] was not only to dodge the fatal attack, but also to gain distance. In fact, before his feet touched the ground, he had already started casting one of the Tier 5 spells he had recently learned.

[Ash Blast]

Elemental energy began to concentrate around Emery's body. He waved his hand, controlling the elemental energy to his will and gathering it to the extent he was currently able to control it. Once completed, he sent the blast without the slightest hint of hesitation.

The concentrated darkness and earth elemental energy flew through the air towards Zach, destroying everything in its path.

Zach didn't seem deterred by the terrifying sight. With his monstrous physique, he lifted his sword and swung it violently. Under everyone's shocked eyes, Emery's spell was cut in half by his attack, but as a result of the spell's explosion, his body was pushed back a few steps.

The young dragon roared as he recovered his balance and, without further ado, he dashed after Emery again. Unfortunately for him, Emery's list of mobility spells made it very hard, if not impossible, for Zach to follow if the former made up his mind to just dodge.

If that wasn't infuriating enough, once he was distracted, Emery would immediately take the opportunity and send another of his new spells.

[Seed Bomb]

Numerous spheres of greenish energy the size of apples materialized floating in the air and were swiftly placed in the trajectory of the charge of the raging young dragon. Facing this, the only answer Zach gave was to raise his sword once again.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Ear-deafening sounds successively sounded in the air, as explosions continued to occur in the area the young dragon passed through. If one had to compare, the [Seed Bomb] spell was like a barrage of mini-sized [Dark Matter] spells.

However, thanks to Emery's [Twilight Transformation] increasing the power of his spell, the mini-sized energy spheres had at least the same destructive power as a normal [Dark Matter].

Emery could see Zach vomiting blood after his body received several explosions at close range. Cracks began to appear all over the red armor covering his body, showing that Emery's attack was effective.

'Just a few more!' thought Emery, when he saw Zach's current state.

Not wanting to let go of the momentum he regained, Emery continued to cast his Tier 5 spells and assaulted the dragon with attacks from distance. The new spells had become Emery's new attack tactic - a relentless bombardment of range attacks.

[Jade Root], [Seed Bomb] and [Ash Blast] - these three spells were cast by Emery in turns to make sure Zach wouldn't be able to do anything. The first allowed him to stall and stop his opponent's advance, while the other two alternate with each other to wear down the man.

Most importantly, Emery cast all these from a distance, keeping him safe, while continuing to injure the young dragon.

All of this of course made Zach extremely irritated. He felt as if he was being toyed with like nothing. Because of that, he stopped trying to reach Emery. He stood where he was, no longer chasing and just blocking and dodging the attacks Emery threw.

Noticing this sight, strangely made Emery anxious. He stopped his relentless attacks and carefully observed his opponent. He had a feeling Zach's action didn't mean his surrender. The young dragon still had something hidden up his sleeve.

Even when the barrage of spells didn't rain down on him anymore, Zach still didn't move and thus further solidified the ominous premonition Emery had. The audience could also feel the tension rising in the atmosphere.

A few moments of silence later, Zach lifted his face and looked Emery in the eye before saying, "You shall now see the full extent of my bloodline. Congratulations, for successfully forcing me to this point."

[Draconic Flame]

BOOM!

Smoldering heat swept through the surrounding area at a rapid rate. Zach's entire body was engulfed by blazing crimson flames and an illusory figure of a dragon roaring amidst the flames manifested behind him. EVEN a pair of wings sprouted like a blossoming flower.

Chapter 895 Final Clash

[Battle power increased by 32 points]

[Battle power 245 (379)]

In the midst of desperation, just as he was about to throw the white flag and closed his eyes, a promise he once pledged to honor emerged from the depths of his memory and roused Emery's fighting spirit which was on the verge of breaking.

In that spur of the moment, Emery managed to accomplish something that he always struggled to achieve in the past. He managed to successfully make a breakthrough in his [Immortal Gate] technique, raising it to stage 6.

And apparently, this sudden increase of power was exactly what he needed to match Zach's monstrous strength.

As his hand continued to push the heavy sword away from his body, it was the first time Emery saw the young dragon show a surprised face. He could see, for a moment there, that the other party's confidence faltered.

Zach decided to reel in his sword and jump a few meters back. His eyes were on his opponent's figure. "A breakthrough during a fight. How convenient," said the young dragon as he prepared a new stance to attack.

Upon hearing the sarcastic remark, Emery calmly placed his right hand on his left shoulder which was still bleeding profusely. In the next second, luscious green light appeared on his hand as he cast his newly-learned Tier 4 spell.

[Regrow Limb]

With the addition of Fey's [Undecaying Flesh], it only took a mere few seconds before an arm grew back anew on the amputated shoulder and Emery recovered his lost limb. At the same time, all the burned flesh all over his body also started to regenerate back, regaining their previous healthy complexion.

Seeing that Zach didn't seem willing to start his attack yet, Emery decided to walk towards his severed arm that lay on the bloodied ground, where the wooden creature was currently attached.

"Do you want to continue helping, or enter the spatial space to rest?"

A pair of pitch-black eyes appeared on the piece of wood after Emery said those words. Twik didn't answer. He just crawled back to Emery's outstretched, newly-grown left arm and began to take the form of a round shield once more. But this time, the shield was much smaller than the one Twik manifested when he fought against Zetto.

After that, Emery turned his body and looked at Zach. "Thank you for waiting," while brandishing his sword again.

Zach had returned to his previous calm demeanor. The young dragon just showed a faint smile as he replied, "I was just hoping for a more exciting fight!"

"In that case, I definitely won't disappoint," said Emery readily, before he once again let out a loud howl and shot towards the young dragon.

Swishhhh! Clank!

In the blink of an eye, the swords in Emery and Zach's hand struck and met again, competing for sovereignty over the other. Sparks flew through the air as the blades clashed, and loud metallic sounds reverberated throughout the area.

CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

The blades of their swords trembled with each clash, and both of them knew that now their strengths matched. Fighting spirit rose in this recognition, and the slashes that came from their swords grew even more ferocious.

The additional battle power that [Immortal Gate] granted him allowed Emery to bridge the gap between them. He no longer needed to be afraid to fight Zach in close combat, as in terms of strength, he was now on a higher level. However, this didn't mean that Emery was able to easily overwhelm the young dragon, as in terms of speed, Zach was still a notch faster.

Emery had to continue using his spells in order to deal with Zach's speed. [Jade Root] and [Jade Wall] kept appearing on the field where they were fighting, doing their best to impede, while [Slipstream], [Blink], and [Dark Void] cooperated together to help him be on par with the young dragon.

Swwiisssh!!

Clank! Clank clank!!

Emery, who had been relentlessly attacking Zach, couldn't help but be a little disheartened when he saw that his sword slashes basically did minimal damage to the red armor covering Zach's body.

Once again, Emery opted for spells after some of his spirit energy recovered. A dark crescent moon flew through the air as he sent [Shadow Edge] towards Zach, but the latter responded with a resplendent flame slash that was no less inferior.

Seeing that [Shadow Edge] alone wasn't enough, he tried adding [Seed Bomb] and [Ash Blast] to the mix, hoping that he would be able to break through his opponent's defenses and destroy the red armor.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The second round of their fight continued for fifteen minutes during which no less than ten dangerous attacks were carried out. Then, without anyone realizing the time, it was prolonged by another fifteen minutes. Many high tier spells and battle arts were cast and showcased for the audience to see. Both sides scored and received hits.

The dazzling spectacle brought great awe to the audience. To put it simply, the extent that Emery and Zach's fight progressed was no longer that of acolyte level. Even some among the audience, those with the cultivation of a magus realm, couldn't say for sure that they could receive such intense bombardment and stay alive.

More so, they couldn't believe their eyes that saw the new kid from the lower realm was able to match the Dragon bloodline protege. They were shocked, dumbfounded, and flummoxed by what they saw.

The crowd became more and more rowdy by the minute, gasps and murmurs could be heard from everywhere.

"Go get him, Emery! You can do it!!" Klea shouted with all her might, supported by the others who were also cheering passionately.

Unknowingly, as Emery continued to fight Zach, more and more people started chanting his Savage moniker. Evidently, those people hoped for the dark horse - him - to overturn expectations and win.

Even when their second half had entered an hour mark, there was still no clear winner between Emery and Zach. Though both of them were simply covered with blood and gasping for air, Emery continued to attack and chant his spells seeing that his opponent's red armor had cracks all over.

BOOM! BOOM! CLANK!

Emery's sword swing managed to force Zach into an area where he had prepared [Dark Void] leaving the young dragon unable to sense his surroundings for a while.

Taking advantage of that moment of chance where his opponent was caught off guard by the sudden change of environment, Emery's two cores exploded for one powerful attack.

He drove the spirit energy within his body to the ceiling of its limit and cast another [Seed Bomb], creating dozens of dark greenish energy spheres as big as watermelon - the same size as [Dark Matter] spell.

Once Zach managed to break out of the entanglement of the void that Emery had prepared for him, all the conjured [Seed Bomb] were already all over where he was and they all exploded at once at the same time.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!-

The result was more than Emery expected. The area within fifteen meters of where Zach was standing was obliterated into smithereens and black smoke flew everywhere blocking the view.

It took some time for the smoke to dissipate, and when it did, Zach's wretched state could be clearly seen. He was currently kneeling on the ground. The red armor was gone as it finally fell apart and burnt marks were visible all over his body.

Zach was letting out a deafening roar as he stood up moments later. As if nothing had happened, the young dragon picked up his sword again, seemingly ready for another round.

Emery, however, sighed when he saw this sight. The dragon protege was still not defeated even after such attacks, while he was at the end of his stamina. He had been forcing his Spirit Pool past its limit by casting all those high tier spells for a while, and now he was no longer able to maintain it.

There was a sudden pain throughout all of his whole body before all his strength was drained away.

[Twilight Transformation deactivated]

[Battle power decreased by 70 points]

[Immortal Gate deactivated]

[Battle power decreased by 64 points]

In a different situation, Emery might have pushed himself to the end. But not this time, because he had more to lose than gain by forcing this fight any further. Especially with the midtest will start in 3 days. It was time to conclude it.

Emery took a deep breath, restraining his primal urge to fight. As he stared at the young dragon, he calmly said, "You win.. It's my loss."

Emery's sudden declaration of surrender had some people shouting their frustration, but the majority of the audience cheered and applauded for such a great fight.

[You have forfeited the duel]

[Rank 9 - Emery Ambrose]

Chapter 896 Result

For a few moments, Emery saw a hint of irritation and disappointment on Zach's face when he announced his decision. However, they quickly disappeared as the dragon protege gave a slight nod of respect before turning around and leaving.

With their duel finally over and the outcome revealed, the crowd began fervently cheering. While it indeed ended as most of them initially expected, the battle itself far exceeded their imaginations.

Meanwhile, Emery noticed his friends running toward him a distance away.

"Aaaargh, that's too bad! Why! Why!? Just one gladiator punch and that lizard would have popped!" Thrax shouted as he hastily closed the distance between the two. Oddly enough, even though Emery was the one who lost, the gladiator seemed to be even more annoyed than him.

However, as soon as Thrax finished speaking, Emery's legs finally gave out. Fortunately, he reacted just in time and managed to use his sword to help him stand.

Julian quickly ran over to hold him, and almost immediately after, Emery felt a soft breeze from a touch on his back. Although there was no instant effect, he could feel his vigor slowly recovering as energy flowed from the touch.

"Thank you, Klea... thank you, everyone," Emery mustered up his energy and weakly said.

"Don't worry about it too much, Emery. You will definitely beat him next time," Klea comforted in a rather low voice. While it was true that she said those words partly to comfort him, she truly believed that Emery will succeed.

Emery felt more determined when he heard this. He wanted to respond to the girl's trust, but he currently did not even have the strength to prop himself up anymore.

Moreover, he had been holding out his stamina and spirit pool until its last drop, and now that he had finally stopped, the side effects were finally catching up to him.

With his rank 9 stage and two cores, Emery really thought that he would be able to hold the twilight form for two or three hours. Nonetheless, it was only halfway through the fight that he realized those tier 4 and 5 spells took too much of his spirit pool.

He knew that his biggest mistake was using a spell he had not completely mastered yet, causing the spell to cost more than it should and yield less result despite the cost.

"Next time," he quietly muttered to himself.

Although Emery lost, none of the spectators thought less of him. On the contrary, although it was not by a lot, this duel made most of the spectators think more of him as his performance took them by surprise yet again.

After all, at one point in the match, they even subconsciously rooted for Emery and believed that he could truly win and take the position of rank 4 from the dragon protege.

Either way, there was no use in lamenting since the fight was already over. Emery could only hope to learn from the experience and move forward from there.

While he was looking back at his battle against Zach, the sound of multiple individuals' footsteps came approaching the group.

It was Annara, Atlas, Roran, and Sigurd.

"All right, now that everything is over, we can finally focus on the mid-test preparation!"

Roran actually came up with a plan and had been thinking about it for the past three days. While Emery was conserving whatever energy he had left and being healed by the lovely Klea, Roran began explaining so he could understand the overall plan.

After Emery had understood their team's plan came the [Soul Contract] that Roran had brought for them. At this point, although he had not fully recovered, he already had enough energy to move on his own.

"All right then, we will see each other in 3 days."

Klea and the others wished to stay with him longer, but unfortunately, they only had a restricted amount of time given to visit the privileged planet.

"See you all in 3 days."

Now that everyone had gone their own ways, Emery decided to return to the Zero Abyss rock and spend the next three days training and honing his skills there. Hence, after moving his limbs for a bit to make sure everything was fine, he quickly flew and entered the dark rock toward the same place he went to last time.

The battle against the dragon protege sapped a lot of his energy, but because he was forced to cast the new spells numerous times, Emery gained a new understanding of the dark element.

It would be good to start consolidating all that he learned today and further understand the energy of space.

Another thing he was hoping to achieve was to be able to properly cast the two spells that cost all of his fortune, [Mineralized Warrior] and [Aegis of the Void].

[Mineralized Warrior] was an A-rank summoning spell, and [Aegis of Void] was a divine protection spell.

If he had mastered the protection spell before he went against the dragon prodigy, the result of that battle might have turned out different.

Without further ado, Emery once again took out the [Spirit Foundation Pills] and started consuming them one by one while cultivating.

[Spirit force increased.]

[Spirit force increased.]

One day passed and Emery entered the second day. It was early that day that Emery realized his spirit force had increased by over 50 points.

[Spirit Force: 1,301]

Even so, there was still no indication of another pillar being formed. He felt that his cores were half-filled, but that was it. After observing his body's state for a moment, Emery became quite sure that he needed the all 100 to create both pillars right away to keep his balance.

With this realization, Emery continued to consume the pills while cultivating to further advance his spirit force.

On the third day, he had taken a total of 30 pills and ended up with a little over 1,320 points of spirit force.

[Spirit Force: 1,328]

The progress he made within these three days was quite satisfactory. Although he did not manage to completely master the two spells, he had successfully learned part of them.

Hopefully, he would be able to give it a few tries to truly master them.

Hours before it was time for the gathering for the mid-test, Emery thought of something and decided to leave the Zero Abyss rock and head toward his spirit cave.

He headed toward his garden, opened his [Spatial space], and took out all the 5 Chizpur brothers.

"Ku... ku... ku..."

All five chubby creatures, added with Twik, were currently standing in front of him.

"Now, what should I do to you guys?"

Chapter 897 Summon

Emery would be away for ten days on a mission. He believed they would be much more comfortable staying in a place full of spirit energy rather than staying inside his spatial space. Although he was a little reluctant, he planned to leave them here in the spirit cave.

He turned to look at the five chubby yellow creatures, who were busy playing among themselves. A smile crept up to his face seeing such an endearing sight. Still, he didn't forget what he wanted to say.

"I will be away for a while. Can I trust all of you to behave and not run around anywhere?"

The reaction Emery garnered from them was just a blank expression, making him wonder if they understood him at all.

Left with no other choice, he turned to Twik, who seemed more intelligent than his brethren, "Will you look after them, Twik? I would really appreciate it if you did."

Hearing that, the little wood creature frowned and shook his head refusing right away.

Emery once again heaved a sigh of helplessness, unsure what to do with them. In the end, if there really was no other way, he would just bring them with him in his Spatial Space.

For now, he just let them have a few hours of fresh air to play around. Meanwhile, he went ahead and practiced his spells.

Now that he had returned to a place with highly concentrated nature spirit energy, Emery found it was much easier cast his newly-learnt Rank C spell. He didn't even have to put in much effort and the spell quickly showed its effect.

[Rejuvenating Mushroom]

When he cast the Tier 4 spell, Emery could grow several unique-looking mushrooms that would grant healing properties to those around them. Even though not as potent as the healing effect of [Nature Blessing], in Emery's opinion, this spell had more potential, as it didn't need to be continuously channeled to be effective.

For example, he could just cast the spell and grow the mushrooms, before then leaving for a fight or doing other things.

The little creatures became excited when they saw the cluster of mushrooms suddenly growing around them. They looked so happy playing with the glowing mushrooms, before a few minutes later, the spell expired and the mushrooms dissipated into motes of energy.

Satisfied with what the spell could do, the next spell Emery tried to cast was the Rank B spell [Strength Sap].

Since it was one rank higher than the previous spell [Rejuvenating Mushroom], [Strength Sap] was naturally a little harder to perform. But in the end it was successfully cast, as spells of plant element were never really a problem for Emery.

This time, Emery needed the Chizpur brothers and Twik's cooperation to find out how potent [Strength Sap] was. One by one, he cast the spell on them and waited for it to take effect.

The Chizpur brothers and Twik's bodies glowed slightly a few moments after the spell was cast on them. Seeing this, Emery quickly checked their stats - the Chipzur brothers first.

[Chizpur Fang - Stage 5]

[Magical Creature Level 30]

[Battle Power - 55(75)]

Emery's eyes widened like a saucer when he saw the enhancement the spell granted. It was a 20 points of battle power increase, which meant the spell actually made them forty percent stronger. With the number they currently had, each of these Chizpur Fang had become as strong as Rank 6 or 7 acolytes.

He quickly turned to Twik, excited to see the latter's improvement.

[Flora Colossi - Stage 5]

[Legendary Creature Level 30]

[Battle Power - 95 (110)]

The increased battle power for Twik was a little less. However, the fifteen percent increase was still quite good, as it allowed Twik to break through the 100 battle power mark. He had become as strong as a Rank 8 acolyte, almost comparable to a saint-level warrior.

With only a little time left for the gathering, Emery hoped the next spell he was about to attempt wouldn't be too difficult to cast.

"Alright boys. Wish me luck," Emery said jokingly to the Chizpur brothers and Twik.

He took several deep breaths in and out, before attempting to cast the Rank A spell [Mineralized Warriors].

After spending days trying to comprehend the intricacies of the spell in the treacherous rock of Zero Abyss, Emery now felt he was ready to cast the complicated spell runes. With a swift motion, he placed his hands on the ground, while his mind delved deep into what he had comprehended.

A few moments passed, but still nothing happened. The little creatures, who were watching Emery closely, were starting to lose their interest. However, just as they were about to continue playing amongst themselves, a slight tremor suddenly occurred.

Emery did it. Even though it took him quite some time, he eventually did it.

After the tremor passed, something swiftly emerged from the ground and stood in front of Emery. Without further ado, the latter checked the result of his spell.

[Mineralized Soldier]

[Battle power - 50]

It took the appearance of a human-like figure made of dark stones. In fact, the Mineralized Soldier looked a bit like Emery at a glance.

To make sure he remembered how he did it, Emery proceeded to cast the spell a few more times and created a few more of the Mineralized Soldier.

It took him a few minutes to create ten of them; noticing the Chizpur brothers looking at them, Emery decided to test the strength of the two sides.

"Chiki, Chiko, Chika, Chike and Chiku. Let me see how strong you are, defeat these soldiers and I will let you come with me," Emery said, pointing his finger at the unmoving Mineralized Soldiers.

Surprisingly, the Chizpur brothers seemed to understand Emery's words right away as they stood confidently, arms raised ready to fight. Emery raised his eyebrows when he saw this.

"Ku... Ku kuuuuu!!!"

Emery glanced at Twik, "You too. Help them, or else you stay."

"Kuang!"

Six plant creatures against 10 Mineralized Soldiers.

The two sides clashed.

Swisshhh!

Bamm! Bamm! Baamm!

A few minutes later, Emery closed his eyes when he saw the Chizpur brothers lose terribly against the Mineralized Soldiers, despite their clearly superior battle power. Unexpectedly, the Mineralized Soldiers possessed some basic fighting techniques. So it was not that surprising the Chizpur brothers lost, since they didn't have one.

When the five brothers were defeated, Twik was left alone to deal with the ten Mineralized Soldier. He tried his best to at least take down on, but in the end, he got beaten down as well.

Chapter 898 Soldiers

[Rejuvenating Mushroom]

Emery swiftly cast the spell for Twik and the Chizpur brothers, who had been mercilessly beaten by the Mineralized Soldiers. A group of unique-looking mushrooms that gave off a soothing light appeared where Twik and the others weakly laid, healing their wounds and fatigue.

Seeing the pitiful state they were in, Emery couldn't help but shake his head.

"Well, I guess this means, all of you will stay here."

"Ku... ku...ku.. kuang... kuang"

Twik and the Chizpur brothers, all six swiftly voiced their complaints when they heard Emery's words. They even moved their limbs up and down, while still laying flat on the mushroom to strongly show their disagreement.

Emery checked the time he had left, "Two hours. If you all cannot win within that time, you will all stay here until I return."

After the mushrooms dissipated, the 6 plant creatures slowly got onto their feet again. They then huddled together and appeared to be having a small meeting of their own. The whole situation looked adorable, and Emery couldn't hold himself from chuckling.

While they were all busy discussing amongst themselves, Emery decided to explore the [Mineralized Warrior] manual. As he continued to read, he found out that there were a few levels of these warriors.

Pumped after learning there were superior forms of the [Mineralized Soldier] he was currently capable of creating, Emery closed his eyes and once again returned to cultivating. He had two hours to spend, after all.

Within the next hour, Twik and the Chizpur brothers challenged the Mineralized Soldiers three times and they were still beaten up in all three attempts. But when Emery observed the situation, he was surprised because the wood creatures had started learning how to fight in their own way.

In their fourth attempt, they even started to utilize their innate skills.

The Chizpur brothers were able to burrow into the ground in an instant and appeared behind their opponent ambushing them. Meanwhile, Twik was able to use something similar to Emery's [Entangled] spell with his arms.

However, when things started to heat up - where Twik and the Chizpur brothers gradually took control, the tide once again turned, as the Mineralized Soldiers suddenly spawned a stone sword in their hands. To the complete surprise of Emery, who was distracted by the commotion, they were using the basic style of his [36 Dao Divine Technique].

From this, Emery finally realized these soldiers he created were indeed his clones and had partial knowledge of the combat techniques at his disposal. They were also able to work together seamlessly in a team, which was an unforeseen but very welcomed perk.

Unfortunately, his [Strength Sap] spell didn't seem to be able to enhance them any further like the Twik and Chizpur brothers.

All in all, the fourth confrontation between the plant creatures and the stone soldiers ended up with the former once again suffering defeat and lying helplessly on the mushrooms Emery had conjured.

Interestingly, the six creatures didn't seem to be planning to give up. In fact, Emery was quite surprised when he saw them working together and how good they were at it. The usually indifferent Twik started to get involved with the 5 Chizpur brothers.

It was clear the six of them had found a common interest and wished to pay back the perpetrators for what had been done to them.

This was what made Twik and the Chizpur brothers different from their opponents. The mineralized warriors fought with simple order to the best of their capabilities with no fear or hope. The wood creatures they fought with of the fear of getting hurt and the hope to win, they were able to evolve because of it.

Even though they once again lost in the fifth fight, Emery could see Twik and the Chizpur brothers were no longer being beaten one-sidedly like the first fight. They evidently learnt from their opponents, and they were learning fast.

Finally, in the sixth fight, they were finally able to triumph over their opponents and win. All ten Mineralized Soldiers were either pinned down on the ground or broken apart into rubble.

"Ku ku ku kuang kuang!"

Twik and the 5 Chizpur brothers were so happy they were jumping around as they all cheered together.

However, just before two hours had passed, Emery comprehended a new understanding of the spell. Thanks to his increased understanding, he found out that he could actually design different types of Mineralized Soldiers. What limited him was merely his understanding of the spell and his own knowledge.

With that thought in mind, Emery began to design a different Mineralized Soldier, one that was specifically designed to focus on agility. Epiphany struck and he quickly put his arms on the ground, as his mind submerged in what he had just comprehended.

Tremors ran through the ground and something quickly emerged from the ground as Emery was successful in his attempt to create a new type of Mineralized Soldier.

[Mineralized Soldier - Type 2]

[Battle power - 75]

This particular Mineralized Soldier stood on four legs and was equipped with sharp claws and fangs. Emery actually created its form based on something he was very familiar with, a wolf.

It even walked and behaved like a wolf. Such diversity of what the spell was capable of really amazed him. No wonder it was a Rank A spell.

When Twik and the five Chizpur brothers saw this particular Mineralized Soldier, all six of them turned around and fell to the ground simultaneously, faking that they were sleeping.

Emery chuckled once again, realizing those little creatures could even sulk together.

Seeing them bouncing around and working with each other fighting their opponents reminded Emery of the time he trained hard and fought together with the Fey sisters. A fond smile appeared on his face as the memory of that time resurfaced in his mind.

These little creatures were actually already stronger than the Fey sisters. Unfortunately, the place he was going to was still too dangerous for them. In a way, as a parent figure of some sort, Emery simply didn't want to risk their safety.

Moreover, the most troublesome was the fact it was pretty hard to communicate with them.

It was at this time Emery suddenly thought about the one skill he had used with the Fey sisters, and he wondered if he could use it with the little creatures too.

At first, he was pessimistic about the idea. But upon further thought, he realized there was nothing to lose for him to give it a try. So he cast the spell.

[One Mind]

The Fey wolves' innate skill was cast on Twik and the five Chizpur brothers. Emery was shocked when he discovered he could read their thoughts and even see what their eyes were seeing.

"How could this be possible?!"

Emery was confused but delighted at the same time, when he learned that Fey wolves' innate skill was working. His mind went into overdrive, trying to think of a possible explanation.

In the end, he could only assume that, because the Twik and Chizpur brothers were created with the help of his blood, a connection was established through it. Through that, the skill [One Mind] showed its effect.

With this newfound discovery, Emery made up his mind to bring them to the mid-test.

"Alright then. We shall all go together."

"Ku ku?! Ku kuang! Kuang!"

Twik and the Chizpur brothers immediately rose and jumped around in glee. Again, Emery only chuckled seeing their silly acts. A few moments later, when they finally finished their celebration, Twik and the Chizpur brothers entered Emery's Spatial Space.

Immediately after, Emery walked out of his spirit cave and headed towards the privilege center, heading to the place where the others should have gathered.

Chapter 899 Deliverance

Emery arrived at the Magus Academy's grand hall, and he saw that massive congregation of acolytes have already crowded the place. At a glance, there were at least thousands of them present on the scene.

There were about 3000 acolytes in total waiting for their mission. Even though it sounded like such a huge number, this amount of people was not even one-third the number of the acolytes who came in the first year.

Each year, the academy would take at least 10,000 new acolytes from myriad worlds across the universe. But in the third year, the numbers have dropped to 8,000, and on this particular test, only a few exceptional and outstanding acolytes from the regular class were allowed to take part.

This was not mentioning the fact that the mid-test would be a real-life mission where their survival would be put onto the table. Thus, some of the acolytes who were not confident with their strength decided not to take part in it.

As Emery walked closer into the crowds, one acolyte noticed his arrival and stared at him. And as if it was the spark, before long, hundreds of eyes in the hall were on him. Part of it was thanks to his privileged uniform, but there was not even one acolyte there who didn't know who he was.

Thanks to his reputation, the crowd parted ways as Emery continued to walk with an indifferent look on his face.

"That's the savage acolyte!"

"Do you guys know? He's in the top 20 privilege class ranking!"

"You are not updated, you idiot, he's now the 9th ranked acolyte. He was even able to match that dragon prodigy!"

"Really?! No way!!!"

Those random discussions about him and his achievements, Emery decided to ignore all of them and just continued to walk. He passed the bewildered groups of people before finally hearing a few familiar voices.

"Oh, Emery is here!" Klea exclaimed, and the other Earth acolytes immediately turned to look at him, followed by his teammates Annara and Atlas.

"Why are you coming in so late? I was starting to worry that something bad had happened to you," Klea said while grabbing his hand and putting her cheek on his arm.

Apparently, Emery really was almost late, as not long after his arrival, a few magus came. The magus didn't say anything and just waved their hands. Immediately after, three huge portal swirls opened, one towards the Mystara mission, one to Arrakis, and finally one for Andora mission.

Emery, along with the others, stepped into the portal for the Andora mission. Moments after entering the portal, their vision went black for a second, before they saw a massive black spaceship in front of their eyes.

The ship has a unique design. Silver veins cover the surface of the ship, glowing with energy and emitting white motes of light every so often. Meanwhile, the overall body of the ship looked less like a vehicle and more like three tubes joined together with a circular, ball-shaped joint. Along the body, a row of windows could be seen.

"This is the ship Deliverance 003, and this will be your transport to Andora."

"I think this is one of the newer model, never seen one before" voice Roran

All the selected acolytes entered the ship without raising questions. They all gathered at the ship's main chamber. Glasses could be seen all around them.

While waiting, Emery looked around and discovered that there were many familiar faces among the nearly 1000 acolytes currently on board.

The easiest and most common way to spot the team leaders was by finding out where the privileged class acolytes are, as they would usually be the one who became the group captains.

[Rank 3 - Eesho Nephilim]

[Rank 4 - Zack Talon]

[Rank 10 - Arcana]

[Rank 16 - Sigurd]

[Rank 19 - Jinkan Nephilim]

[Rank 28 - Vida Themary]

[Rank 32 - Lyndell]

[Rank 34 - Abrafo]

[Rank 52 - Orion]

[Rank 58 - Rayne]

[Rank 61 - Trish]

[Rank 63 - Rofos Trigeson]

[Rank 66 - Armand Nephilim]

[Rank 84 - Roran Harlight]

[Rank 85 - Simoan Nephilim]

[Rank 87 - Jordi Nephilim]

[Rank 95 - Julian Kaesar]

He recognized half of the 30 privileged class acolytes, added Annara, and Atlas, there are 33 of them.

A few moments later, a slight rumble could be heard as the ship started to rise. Everyone's gaze turned to the window, and they realized they had ascended into space at almost breakneck speed. However, none of them felt anything. Not even the faintest tremor. In fact, everyone inside felt more like they were taking a relaxing boat ride.

As the ship stopped ascending, four magus in uniforms appeared in front of them.

The magus who stood at the front was burly with dark hair, white hair on the sides, and a light beard. He was a Peak Full Moon Magus, while the other two were Crescent Magus. Behind them, three dozen saint realm fighters stood in orderly manner and watched their every move.

Even though the saint realm fighters were covered head to toe in nondescript armor that concealed their identity, the movements and gestures they did made it clear that they were nothing short of veterans.

Right after, a large screen appeared above the four magus and the figure of Headmaster Delbrand was shown, he was sitting in his room with poise manner and calmly speaking.

"Acolyte of the Magus Academy, Today you are embarking on a new kind of test!" The headmaster stopped for a moment and said, "I believed the real test of courage and strength can only be shown in a real mission. The mid-test will be marked upon the completion of the mission, the contribution you are giving, and your action leading to it."

"I will be waiting for your safe return, good luck acolytes."

When the video stopped, the Peak Full Moon magus spoke up.

"Listen up! I am Commander Raynor, and I will be the commander in chief for this mission, you will all listen to my orders. Otherwise, I swear to god that I will make sure failing the test will be the least of your worries."

He then explained briefly about the mission, basically similar to what Roran talked about in the meeting. Then, as expected, the commander proceeded to explain the chain of command, and right after, a notification appeared in Emery's mind.

[With your privilege rank you are now the commander of platoon 3]

[Will you accept the rank?"]

"Yes."

[You are now in command of platoon 3]

[Choose a team to be on the platoon]

This line of messages was not unexpected as it was part of the information briefed by the Harlight prince.

With that commenced, Emery quickly accepted the name of the squad leaders under their agreement. [Sigurd, Lyndell, Orion, Roran, and Julian]. Now that all 5 groups successfully link to his as part of the same platoon, another message came to mind.

[Will you choose a vice commander position?]

"Yes! Julian Caesar"

Afterward, another 5 squad leaders were randomly assigned to their platoon. The first name that came up right away couldn't help but make Emery rub his forehead. It caused him a little headache.

[Rank 10 - Arcana]

Well, it sort of makes sense as Emery took his position, and now the man added to his platoon.

Next, there were 4 other names that came after the kid-looking acolyte's name.

[Rank 40 - Wage Gasa]

[Rank 41 - Ian Gasa]

[Rank 58 - Reyne]

[Rank 61 - Trish]

Emery recognized Trish, the female water element specialist who fought with him before, and Rayne was the archer with rune stones who fought with them against the bone dragon. As for the other 2, the ones with the same family name, he never met nor fought them so he didn't know anything about them.

After seeing that the chain of command was set, the commander once again opened his mouth.

"This will be 3 days of deep space travel! Follow the instructions and be ready in 3 days."

Chapter 900 Countdown

The briefing only lasted for a short while, before it was quickly dismissed by the Magus Commander.

After the Magus Commander left, Emery was also about to get moving when he noticed Roran approaching him, prompting him to halt until the man was in front of him.

"As expected, looking at the commander's expression, it appeared the headmaster's mid-test idea was not well-received by the magus alliance," Roran said, before taking a glance at the direction where the commander left. "If this project goes south, we will probably see a new headmaster soon."

As soon after Roran finished speaking, another group of people slowly approached from behind them.

"I see the Harlight is quite well-informed about the matter," the person at the forefront commented.

Hearing the familiar condescending female voice, Emery and his friends tensed up and simultaneously turned to look at the incoming group.

The person who just spoke was Jinkan Nephilim, who came with her usual entourage of familiar faces. To Emery's surprise, even the famous young protege of the Nephilim faction, Eesho Nephilim, was present in Jinkan's group.

However, out of everyone in the Nephilim's group, Emery was actually the most interested in seeing the acolyte ranked 34th, Abrafo. He had previously injured the earth acolyte quite severely with his [Spirit Devour], so Emery was a little relieved when he saw the acolyte seemed to have recovered well and was able to join the test.

Like all their other encounters, Jinkan looked at Emery and his friends with a sharp and condescending gaze.

"Emery... I haven't congratulated you on your success in becoming a commander, have I? I hope we can help each other during the mission," the female Nephilim said with a faint smile.

Right away, Thrax, who was previously standing next to Emery, stepped forward.

"I've been wondering where this disgusting smell was coming from, so this is where it was," the gladiator remarked, glaring at Jinkan and her entourage with a dark expression.

To their surprise, Jinkan, the individual to whom those words were directed, only maintained her disdainful smile. Instead, Eesho had a disgusted look as he looked at Thrax step forward and muttered, "Apes..."

"What did you just say!? Say it to my face, you #%\$&!"

Chumo and Julian quickly stepped forward. The two held the gladiator, but they did not pull him back and only warily looked at the people in front of them, keeping Thrax from getting physical.

They did not want to cause trouble here, but that did not mean they were going to be the ones to retreat.

Not wanting the situation to get out of hand, Emery also stepped up and calmly asked, "What do you want?"

Upon hearing his question, Jinkan walked closer, looked directly into his eyes and replied in a relaxed tone, "I just came showing good intentions, that's all."

In contrast to her words and the smile on her face, the Nephilim did not bother to conceal her contempt.

While Emery was taking a short glance at the individuals in her group, he noticed Eesho's eyes were fixed on someone behind him. He turned his head to check to find that the person the man was looking at was Atlas.

"You have made your decision, it seems," Esho said with his eyes narrowed.

Atlas only silently nodded in response.

The man did not say another word and immediately turned around to leave upon receiving the half-machine's response. On the other hand, Jinkan took a step closer to Emery and whispered in a barely audible voice, "I hope you will do the right thing when the time is right..."

The Nephilim then chuckled, before turning around and taking her leave followed by her entourage.

Once again, Jinkan gave Emery a growing sense of anxiety. However, this time, as if knowing how he felt, Klea held his arm

The red-haired girl, Annara, quickly realized the anomaly and turned to ask Emery, "What was that about?"

Emery silently looked at the resourceful girl. He thought of telling her about his problem, but he did not really know what Jinkan's plan was. Hence, after a brief moment of contemplation, he decided to keep her out of it.

"So it's a secret, huh? I hate secrets."

Still, despite the girl's words, she did not pry.

After the Nephilim left, Roran suggested a meet-up with the whole platoon. As expected, out of all the squads, the Arcana squad did not come.

Fortunately, the other squads all came.

In their discussion about strategy, Trish's squad was the most communicative out of the four present squads. Unlike Reyne's squad, the members of her squad all appeared to have come from simple backgrounds.

While Emery was looking at the elites behind Reyne's squad, he was surprised to see two figures among them.

Lodos the maniac and Micah the crystal user, the two annoyances from group 7.

This time, however, although the two had a sour look on their faces, they no longer dared to look down on Emery.

The last two squad leaders, Wage and Ryan Gasa ranked 40th and 41st, actually came from the same planet and were unsurprisingly related.

After getting to know their new commander, Roran once again used his talent and began sweet-talking the other groups in hopes they would start the mission with greater cooperation.

Emery brought the nine squads to one of the available practice rooms within the ship and suggested a little sparring to get to know each other's strengths.

While the spars were ongoing, Julian quickly took notes on their abilities and, after their friendly spars were over, Julian started to brief them on the plan and guided them to practice a little formation.

Some of the other squads were reluctant at first, as they knew about Julian's low rank, but with the commander's authority, they decided not to make trouble.

After spending one full day getting to know each other, Emery decided to let everyone do whatever they wanted to prepare.

As for Emery, he decided to use one of the personal rooms to once again concentrate on mastering the divine spell [Aegis of Void]. At the same time, he summoned the mineralized warriors and plant creatures to practice by themselves.

Three days quickly passed and they finally arrived on the outskirts of planet Andora. As instructed, each acolyte wore a unique uniform and each platoon then entered three different areas of the ships.

These areas were special rooms. After everyone entered their respective areas, they were instructed to sit on a chair and strapped up tight.

Tutttt!!

[Commencing in 10]

[9... 8... 7...]

It was a little unusual, but as soon as the countdown reached zero, the reason dawned upon them as the ship loudly rumbled.

The ship had detached into three separate tube-like constructs that simultaneously started to descend from the sky, each towards a different continent of the planet.