

Earths GMagus 901

Chapter 901 Andora

Calamity stage: a stage where the planet faces an extinction level event and the natives were deemed unable to overcome the calamity. Hence the Magus Alliance had the authority to intervene in the matter.

[Magus Academy Mid Test]

[Location - Planet Andora]

[L Type Planet - Lower realm]

[Calamity stage - Level 2]

[Duration - 10 days]

In the middle of the day, a huge construct could be seen flying high in the sky of Andora Planet until it suddenly split up into three. The sky was grumbling with loud noises as the huge tube-like construct descended, bringing everyone - humans and monsters alike - to lift their heads and stare at the sky with rapt attention.

The irksome, grumbling-like sounds became even louder as the construct drew closer, and just as it was about to hit the ground, it suddenly slowed down its speed. The sudden deceleration generated air pressure on the land beneath, even creating a powerful tremor that shook the terrains, until eventually, the construct landed firmly, standing tall on the ground.

A strong turbulence occurred the moment the construct touched the ground, but it quickly receded as if nothing had happened. On the other hand, as soon as it alighted, everyone inside could tell they had arrived at their destination.

The light inside the construct where everyone was at was quickly turned on, and a moment later, a fierce looking silver hair female magus named Bellain who was one of Commander Raynor's two magus subordinates stepped forward and spoke to the group.

"The mid-test has started. All your actions from now on until the next 10 days will be graded correspondingly." Bellain said with a stern voice and indifferent look. At the same time, the huge door of the construct that led to the outside was opened.

Emery turned his head around and saw his friends already awake. Regrouping with them, he then made his way towards the opened door and walked out, treading his two feet directly onto the Andora Planet.

"What an awful planet," commented Annara who was right behind as soon as she saw the view that greeted them once they stepped outside their transport.

A blue sky that had been tainted with gray ashes, stretches of greenfields surrounded by several broken-down and dilapidated buildings that had some part of it being burned or destroyed. It was desolate and grim to look at.

From this, the current Andora Planet was certainly a planet that was on the brink of destruction. However, Emery could tell from the air and some faint traces that it was indeed once a beautiful planet. It was a dear home to its natives.

"Our new home for the next 10 days!" shouted Gerri, who appeared more excited than he normally was.

It didn't take long for the other acolytes to follow suit and exit the transport. All 300 of them were wearing dark uniforms with several small devices attached to their arms and chest. It was the new outfit that was given by the academy and the participants were told to always wear it during the mission.

"The outfit was given for your own safety. It would help monitor your life sign and also assist you adapting to the planet," said the female magus Bellain who also had come out.

However, the acolytes were not too excited about these tight suits.

"Yea, yea~ I'm also sure that it's also a way to monitor our activities, to prevent any possible cheating attempts apparently," the red-haired girl Annara whispered.

The magus ends her words that she and her team of saints will only be observing the mission and were not allowed to interfere unless a certain condition arrived.

"Remember your lives are more important than any grades"

A few moments later, suddenly the devices that came with the outfit appeared to be activated. A faint light shone from the devices at arm, and several pieces of information appeared in Emery's mind.

[Commencing Magus Academy's Mid Test]

[Clear up as many objectives as possible]

[Personal Objectives: Kill Abyss creatures]

[Squad Objectives: Destroy Abyss Nest]

[Platoon Objectives: Save survivors]

[You are a privileged acolyte, your minimum points for passing the test is: 500,000]

[Personal points: 0/500,000]

[Squad accumulated points: 0]

[Scanning numbers of known survivors within the planet]

[Survivors: 14,730,209]

[Time left: 9 days : 23 hours :57 minutes]

All of the information and objectives Emery saw at this time had already been explained in the meeting that Roran had held. However, seeing the last two notifications where the number continued to go down certainly brought tension to the group.

The fact they were still doing nothing, it stimulated them to not idling and start moving.

Before Emery said anything, Julian was already seen shouting and gathering all the acolytes who were included in Platoon 3. However, Arcana's squad of 30 evidently decided to walk away, and appeared not willing to pay any attention when Julian called out for them.

Realizing the situation, Emery quickly took action himself and tried to stop him. "Wait!.. Even if you don't want to cooperate, at least tell us what your plan is. That way, we won't clash on the same target."

Upon hearing that, the kid-looking acolyte appeared hesitant for a second. However, in the end he decided to ignore Emery and continued to walk away with his squad of 30 without saying a single thing.

To Emery's surprise, less than a minute later, a notification suddenly came from his device.

[Squad 26 - Arcana - received level one penalty for disrupting the chain of command, all members minus 5000 points]

[Squad 26 captain, Arcana received double penalty - minus 10,000 points]

Emery could faintly hear that the members of Arcana's group were cursing in the distance. He waited for a few moments in hopes that Arcana would change his mind, but there was still no sign of them returning.

Seeming to notice what was happening, Roran looked proud as he said, "As I said before, getting the role of a commander is very important. You now understand what I mean, right?"

Emery nodded in response. He also realized the meaning behind the word 'level one'. It seemed that the system would judge the Arcana from now on, and if he continued to disobey his orders, his points would be deducted even more.

This kind of system did benefit those who occupied the role of commander, and Roran was sure it worked the same for an acolyte for not listening to their squad leader. Thanks to this, Emery also became more confident that everyone would follow the plan accordingly.

It was time, for him, to lead the 270 acolytes in front of him.

Chapter 902 Points

Emery just stood and watched as Julian called for the 270 acolytes who were added to the Platoon 3. Thanks to the fact that everyone was scattered when exiting the transport, it took a minute for the Roman to finally gather them all together.

Without further ado, he then began to charismatically brief the group about what they should strive to achieve together.

"If each of us decides to split up and go our own way, some might have more points while others get less. I know that some of you have your own ideas and thoughts, but I assure you that we will do better and even ace this mid-test by working together," said the experienced Roman general in a calm and convincing manner.

While Julian was doing his speech, suddenly another wave of notifications started pouring in.

[Squad points ranking]

[Rank 1 - Squad 01 Eesho Nephilim]

[Rank 2 - Squad 11 Zach Talon]

[Rank 3 - Squad 14 Rofos Tigerson]

[Rank 4...]

[Rank 5...]

[Personal points ranking]

[Rank 1 - Eesho Nephilim]

[Rank 2 - Zach Talon]

[Rank 3 - Rofos Tigerson]

[Rank 4...]

[Rank 5...]

Everyone could naturally see the rankings. It was obvious that the three names seen on the leaderboard were those who have started getting points by doing their objectives, and this sight of course made everyone itch for some too.

All of them looked like they couldn't hold it anymore, but Julian quickly persuaded and insisted they stay with his words.

"I know that all of you are eager, but please restrain yourself for a little longer. Spending a bit of time planning our way forward would be far more beneficial than rushing out and starting to kill creatures aimlessly."

Seeing that his attempt was working, the Roman quickly struck while the iron was still hot. He started by marking the position where their transport landed and comparing it with the geographical data they received beforehand.

This way, they would know exactly where they were and could plan their steps forward to achieve maximum results and efficiency.

"Based on the comparison result, it looks like our transport landed on the Western Continent of the planet. As for our exact location, it seems to be on the south side of the central part of the continent."

The Andora Planet was similar in size to Earth. It had a vast ocean where three continents existed, marked in the Magus Academy's database as Northern, Western, and Eastern Continent respectively; each of them was about twice the size of Earth's African Continent.

The continent spanned around three thousand miles, which meant it would take a rank 9 acolyte roughly twelve hours of running at full speed or riding an orbiter without stopping to traverse the continent from one end to the other.

There was also a narrow corridor between the continents that stretched about one thousand miles long.

As for why the three continents were called Eastern, Western, or Northern, it was because the three continents were surrounding a massive mountain range where all the Abyss creatures, beside the ones from the Nest all over the continents, spawned from.

As Julian continued to explain the plan, Roran supported his effort by showing everyone a piece of information that could be accessed from the device.

[Points]

[Killing stage 1 Abyss creature - 1 point]

[Killing stage 2 Abyss creature - 20 points]

[Killing stage 3 Abyss creature - 200 points]

[Killing stage 4 Abyss creature - 5,000 points]

[Killing stage 5 Abyss creature - 50,000 points]

[Destroying an Abyss nest - 5000 points/squad member]

Seeing the word 'stage 5 Abyss creature', Emery quickly thought of the Beholder he had fought before. It was a monstrosity that required the cooperation of three privileged level acolytes in order to have a chance to be successfully killed.

Julian added "Now, I understand that personally everyone just wants to kill as many creatures as possible in order to get as many points as possible." These words incited murmurs and nods from several of the gathered acolytes.

"However, I believe the best way to get the most points is to clear as many nests as possible."

This time, Julian's words caused bouts of discussion amongst the acolytes because what he said made sense. After all, by destroying a single nest alone, a whole squad consisting of thirty members would receive a total of 5,000 points each.

Five thousand times thirty, that's a grand total of 150,000 points. Coupled with the hordes of monsters that were bound to be in the nest, the total point they could get in the end would at least double.

Of course, Julian's confidence didn't come from nowhere. It actually came from his analysis on the data provided by the Harlight faction that was based on a similar-sized planet with a Calamity stage 2 situation.

"Now, I believe the first thing we have to do is to mark all the Nest and other landmarks on the continent."

Afterward, he continued by separating the whole three thousand miles of the continent into eight sectors and started distributing the determined area to each squad. The first objective given to the acolytes was to scout the real situation on the ground and report their findings.

As they started from basically the middle of the continent, 12 hours should be enough time to mark the location of all the nests and other landmarks such as survivors' hideouts or large gathering of Abyss creatures.

After hearing Julian's instructions, everyone nodded as a sign that they understood his purpose.

"Before we set out, does anyone have any questions?" asked Julian, his eyes scanning the crowd of acolytes.

A hand was raised. Emery, Roran, and Julian looked over and saw it was Anas of the Kaleos.

"Why is there only 8? We have 10 squads here."

As if he was prepared for the question, Julian quickly answered. He explained that with Emery's unique [Spatial Gate] ability, he would be the best person to be on standby in case any squad encountered or ran into trouble.

As for himself, Julian said that he would start to scout the landmark within 100 miles of the transport landing area and prepare a suitable defensive base for any possible future threats.

"I believed our transport will become the key for our platoon objectives"

[Platoon Objectives: Save survivors]

[Survivors: 14,770,502]

[Protect survivors, 1 points/ 10 survivors]

Emery couldn't help but shake his head seeing the price of human life was only 0,1 points, there was also the fact that within only less than 10 minutes, about 60,000 survivors has passed away.

After his question was answered, Anas lowered his hand and Julian again asked if anyone still wanted to ask. Seeing that no one raised their hand or said anything, he immediately closed the briefing. Right after that, all 8 squads that had already been assigned an area quickly prepared to leave, except for one.

The Egyptian queen came approach his squad leader and toward the Kaleos noble,

"Anas, you don't mind if I help out a bit here, right? Actually, I'm kind of spacesick right now," said Klea with a sweet smile.

It was clear that the young man was about to complain, but the Egyptian Queen had taken the initiative and beaten him. "With the big guy, Sigurd accompanying you, you don't actually need me much... So, you don't mind, right?"

Anas was completely speechless when Klea already said her thanks and turned her body around, running towards Emery. "Emery! My captain said I could stay here and help you!"

Emery could only smile wryly at the Kaleos noble when he saw the cheeky smile on her face. Knowing that there was nothing that could change her mind, the other 29 people led by Sigurd quickly dashed away towards their designated area.

After they gone, Emery turned around and asked Julian. "Alright! What should we do first?"

Chapter 903 Gods And Saints

Somewhere on Andora Planet.

A group of young kids, no more than 15 years old, were sneaking out of an outpost making their way into the thick withered forest. The five of them all moved swiftly, but also cautiously, as if afraid their actions would be discovered.

A suppressed voice of someone rang out amidst the silence.

"This better be worth it, Jim!"

"Less talking and more looking, Belle."

"Look, if the general finds out that we left the outpost..."

The one who called Jim interrupted the voice by saying, "We just need to make sure my father doesn't find out we're gone, alright? Besides, this is very important! I'm sure he will understand if we explain it later."

Even though they were grumbling, the other four kids still continued to follow him. From this, it could be clearly seen that the young man called Jim was the leader of this small gang.

Some time later, someone's voice suddenly sounded in the air. He sounded really excited, as if they had discovered a gold mine.

"Guys! Here! We found it."

"Blessing to our goddess mother," said Belle with her hand, forming a praying gesture. Meanwhile, Jim was slowly and gently plucking a flower with light blue petals from the ground.

The expression of one of the boys soured when he heard Belle's words. "Huh, Belle, why are you still praying to that false god?!"

After plucking the flower and storing it safely in the prepared container, Jim and his group of friends were ready to return to the hideout. But, just as they were about to do so, they suddenly saw a spectacular view in the sky and were captivated by it.

"Belle, is that?! Your prayer was answered! God has come for us!" The boy who had scolded her earlier said excitedly.

The magnificent dark construct that was seen looming above them gradually fell from the sky. The rumbling sound originating from it caused the children to cover their ears with their hands, while moments later strong tremors began to be felt on the ground.

The children, who wanted to return first to bring the good news, were shocked when they saw hordes of bloodthirsty creatures roaming the plains suddenly heading where the hideout was.

"No! No! There are too many of them! Father!"

Seeing the impending danger that could potentially devastate everything, Jim quickly took out a tube from his sleeve and lit it, sending a firework blazing brightly high into the sky as a warning to those in the hideout.

Immediately after, the five children ran with all their might towards the rocky hills a mile away, where the outpost was built.

"Carra! Belle! Hurry!"

As Jim turned to see his friends, however, he was quickly terrified, when he realized a group of those flying monsters were chasing after them. The terrified look on his face caught the attention of the others, causing them to also turn their heads only to have their face turn the same.

"No! Run! RUN!!!"

Jim could only cry when he saw his friend - the one who reprimanded Belle - being ripped apart by the flying creatures' sharp claws. His arms were severed from his body one by one, before a claw penetrated through his chest and destroyed his heart.

Tears ran down his cheek like a flood, as he watched his friend's body fall down like a broken puppet. The pleading look he saw was etched in his memory.

Jim turned and ran. He ran, ran and ran, until he finally got closer to the outpost, where he caught the sight of his father standing on top of the wall with a turret gun in his hand.

Tartatatata! The sound of turret guns blasting bullets like a heavy downpour rang out in the air, but were quickly drowned out by the shrieks of approaching bloodthirsty flying creatures.

"Hurry, Jim! Run!"

Under the heavy fire of the turret gun, three of them managed to enter one of the cave tunnels that led to the hidden outpost surrounded by rocks. The interior of the outpost was quickly filled with chaos, as a hundred strong men stood on top of the rocks, firing their weapons at the incoming monsters.

However, their struggle seemed futile in comparison to the thousand of creatures that ravaged across the land and hundreds that reigned over the sky, like a group of ants against an unstoppable tsunami.

Still, even if they knew they had a very small, if not none, chance of surviving this disaster, these people had nowhere else to run. At least, this way, their fate finally ended up like all other settlements, dying while fighting against the apocalypse that destroyed their world.

Amidst the chaos, Belle was kneeling and praying to her gods. Meanwhile, seeing that all the men were fighting, Jim decided to pick up a weapon himself and join the fight. Even though it might be meaningless, he still wanted to contribute what he could.

Tratatatatratatata!

The sound of gunfire continuously filled the air.

Unfortunately, the monsters were simply too strong for their weapons. It might be somewhat effective to the spider-like creatures that crawled on the land, but for the flying ones, it took dozens of successful shots before one of those creatures fell.

Jim could clearly see how the outpost was about to be run down, as the crawling creatures started to climb the walls. He knew it was the end for them, when these creatures arrived on the top.

Trattatatat! Tratatatat!

In a situation like this, where nothing but despair could be seen on the horizon, Jim started to shout at the gods Belle believed in.

"Goddess Mother! Where are you?! Why did you do this to us?! We beg you mercy!"

As soon his shout dissipated in the air, it was as if the sky shook. A thunderous sound rang out, startling both the humans and monsters alike.

Zaaapp!

A huge lightning bolt descended from the sky like a spear and instantly killed dozens of crawling monsters and several flying creatures that were unlucky enough to get in its path. Jim raised his head and was taken aback by what he saw.

The lightning strike actually came from a beautiful young woman sitting on a large bird that was currently flying in the sky. With a wave of her hand, she sent bolts of lightning upon the vile creatures.

Her appearance quickly revived the depiction of higher beings to Jim and all those who saw her.

"Goddess, is that you?!"

To his great surprise, right behind the woman on the bird, Jim saw several other figures flying on a unique-looking board.

There were a few dozen of them and they all started firing all sorts of different magic at the hordes of creatures below. Explosions and many other splendid phenomena occurred, stunning Jim and the others who were watching.

There were also a few who jumped off their boards, plunging straight into the dense mob, before killing them with their weapons.

"The saints... The saints have come. We are saved!"

Blazing fire, crackling lightning, storming wind and much more. All elements existing in the world were thrown by these people. Within a few minutes, the creatures that were being one-sidedly annihilated started to separate and run in all directions.

One of those saints came down, landing right in front of the frightened Jim. Even though the other party appeared to be only a man a few years older than him, Jim didn't have the courage to look him in the eye.

"Are you alright, kid? You are safe now." The young man said with a warm smile. "My name is Emery. Can you lead me to the person in charge?"

Even though visibly nervous, Jim nodded his head when he heard the young man's words. Seeing this, the latter smiled and gestured to him to lead the way.

As Emery follows the kid, walking across dozens of the abyss creature corpses, he suddenly stops. He checked on one of the corpses to find there was something familiar about it.

What is this creature really?

Chapter 904 Survivors

The two squads led by Emery and Julian arrived at the nearest Andora native settlement from where their transport landed.

Julian's strategic planning, where he divided and distributed tasks proportionately, was indeed impressive. However, while he didn't oppose the idea, Emery personally thought the best way to get intel was from the people - which in this case was the natives of Andora.

Hence, the reason why they were here was that Emery insisted they had to find the locals right away. Coincidentally, the ones they found were being attacked and nearly overwhelmed by the Abyss creatures.

The two squads of 34 acolytes jumped into the battle and quickly started a massacre. It didn't take long for thousands of Abyss creatures to be annihilated and breathed their last.

While he and the others continued to fight the Abyss creatures, Emery also observed the two types of Abyss creatures they were fighting against.

[Crawlers]

[Stage 1 abyss creature]

[Battle power 10-20]

A spider-like creature with eight sharp legs whose each movement felt dangerous.

[Flyers]

[Stage 2 abyss creature]

[Battle power 30]

Pretty much similar to the crawler, only it could fly with its wings.

Obviously, these two types of Abyss creatures were simply no match to the acolytes at all. They could only be slaughtered without being able to put up any meaningful resistance and awarded all 34 acolytes with points.

In the end, because of how many Abyss creatures there were, they ended up earning more than a thousand points from the killing.

[Personal points ranking]

[Rank 698 - 46 points]

[Squad points ranking]

[Rank 30 - 582 points]

With only three members, Emery's squad only managed to rank 30 out of the 31 squads.

Even so, Emery didn't feel much trouble about it. In fact, he was not the least bit bothered, as he continued to follow one of the kids, heading towards the person in charge of this place.

As the others were still busy cleaning up the creatures and securing the perimeters, it was Julian and Annara who came along with him. With the boy's lead, the three of them walked through the settlement and surveyed their surroundings.

The settlement looked desolate and dilapidated, with several broken houses scattered haphazardly in the place. Put simply, it was a miserable sight to look at.

A few moments later, Emery and the other two found themselves arriving in a square-like clearing, standing in front of hundreds of Andora's natives. He could see most of them were anxious, some even kneeling on the ground with their hands joined and eyes closed in prayer.

"Bless the saints... You have finally come to save us."

Hearing that, Emery immediately said, "We are not saints, nor gods like what you think of. We are acolytes of the Magus Universe."

With the world being in the Calamity stage, the restrictions that were usually put in place were lifted. Hence the reason Emery was able to speak about the Magus Universe freely. However, his words didn't incite any significant reactions and only served to make these people confused.

Suddenly, a huge bird flew over their heads causing the wind to blow over the people below.

Emery and the other two watched, as a figure no less beautiful than Annara descended from the sky and landed right in the middle of them.

Once again, the crowd of Andora natives cried out.

"Goddess! The Goddess is here!"

"Goddess, please help us!"

Klea, who had just arrived, was caught off guard when she heard the natives suddenly call her a goddess. However, she who was once a queen was able to quickly adapt to the situation and displayed a demeanor befitting a goddess name.

"Do not be afraid, as we are here to help you."

Klea's words seemed to be working, as Emery could see the anxious expressions on their faces becoming lighter. Her eyes swiftly scanned the natives and saw that there were dozens of people suffering from injuries of varying degrees. Therefore, she quickly cast her healing spells. The natives looked awestruck, as they watched the wounds on their family's bodies gradually heal.

In a matter of a few minutes, Emery and the others were able to get the natives' trust. Thanks to that, they could finally meet the person in charge of the settlement.

With an exchange of glances, Emery and Julian immediately split up to do what they needed to. Julian would try to gain any information about the other nearby settlements from General Solosa, while Emery decided to approach the other natives and ask about their story.

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Andora was a planet with a civilization history of more than three thousand years.

The natives called the place they lived the nations of three continents. Their technological progress seemed to be more advanced than Earth, because they already understood the manufacture of firearms. They had even invented various kinds of mechanical vehicles.

As Emery inspected one of the 'guns' the natives used against the Abyss creatures, Atlas, who was following him, opened his mouth and started to explain what it really was.

"This is an example of the most primitive type of firearm, capable of firing metal projectiles with an effective range of 300 meters. This kind of technology cannot even be considered as a Tier 1 weapon."

Emery finally understood that, with such a weapon and comparing it to the standards of Abyss creatures, it was no surprise that nations with a population of nearly 1 billion were overwhelmed and massacred, leaving them in a state where less than 2% of the initial population survived.

From the conversations and stories he heard, Emery could tell these people used to be a proud nation. But after three years of calamity, with so much pain and suffering, the pride they had was no longer - replaced instead by fear and horror.

Their only source of hope was the Divine Mother they worshiped in the Sacred Mountains.

"Sacred Mountains?" Emery asked once more, to be sure.

"Yes, that is where the Divine Mother is said to reside," answered one of the natives humbly, still bowing respectfully. From their expressions and gestures, it was clear the majority thought Emery and the others were saviors sent by the Divine Mother.

Hearing this actually made Emery feel rather confused. This was because the Sacred Mountains the natives mentioned were exactly the place where most of the Abyss creatures came from.

He couldn't help but wonder if there was a connection between the two and was curious to know who or what this Divine Mother was.

Unfortunately, no matter how curious he was, this matter needed to be put aside for the time being, as Emery had others more important things to do first.

Regrouping with Julian's group, the Roman had already received information about several other settlements in the vicinity from General Solosa and matched it to the map they had.

Pointing at the map, Julian explained his reasoning, "In my opinion, this outpost is a very good place to gather all the survivors, so I plan to increase its defense. What do you think?"

Emery looked at the map and could see what Julian said made sense, so he agreed with the idea.

With the limited number of people in their group, Emery thought of involving a few natives at the outpost to help rally the survivors to gather at this place. Of course, he was also planning on sending some acolytes to protect them during the journey.

However, these activities had the potential to make the rankings of the two squads far behind the other squads.

While no one was complaining at the moment, Emery knew there were some people who were restless, when he announced this decision.

With this thought, Emery had another idea in mind.

Chapter 905 Stronghold

Emery strolled around the settlement, walking through a place that ran deep into an underground cave. Inside he saw more people gathering and huddling together. Half of them were women and children. Hundreds, by no means, were in ideal conditions to be moved.

The one who led him through this place was the young boy from before. He was called Jim, the son of General Solosa, who led and took charge of this place.

"Thank you, mister, for saving our lives." The boy said before taking off.

Emery watched as the boy ran towards a corner, where people were busy making things needed to survive in this apocalyptic world such as food and medicines.

Then, to his surprise, Jim took out a handful of flowers with striking light blue petals and handed them over to those people. He could clearly see the surprise as well as delight on those people's faces when they saw the flowers in the boy's hands.

Without saying anything, those people took the flowers very carefully, yet also with eagerness, before promptly preparing other tools used to process them.

With [Analyze], Emery quickly learnt of the flower's properties.

[Agapanthus - Tier 2]

It was quite an effective healing herb and ingredient for concocting. It was known for its soothing effect, which helped to reduce pain from injuries sustained.

It was at this moment, when Emery was deep in thought, that Jim turned around. He noticed Emery had his gaze fixed on the flower and assumed he was interested in it. So, he offered it to him.

Emery was touched by the boy's sincerity.

He understood that, although that flower was merely Tier 2 ingredients in his eyes, it must be something precious to the boy standing in front of him.

Therefore, he refused the boy's offer with a wave of his hand and decided to help them instead.

Emery raised his hand towards the place where the injured and sick were gathered and cast [Rejuvenating Mushroom].

That corner of the cave was enveloped by a bright green light, startling those who were there. The dirty soil of the underground cavern was now filled by a dozen unique-looking mushrooms that gave off a faint glow.

In a short time, the complexion of the people lying there brightened and the wounds on their bodies got better. Jim, who was taken aback by the miraculous sight, finally regained his senses. He immediately turned around and bowed deeply towards Emery.

"Thank you, mister... Thank you."

After saying that, the kid turned around again and ran towards a woman who was also in the crowd of people, who were healed by Emery's spell. It seemed the other party was the boy's mother, as she looked at him with affectionation and smiled seeing the boy hug her.

Emery then walked to that corner of the cave, treating those whose condition was too severe for [Rejuvenating Mushroom] to completely heal them and even used [Regrow Limb] to those who needed it.

This sight quickly made the red-haired girl who followed him annoyed.

"Are you gonna spend all day doing things like this?"

"No, of course not. Just a bit more..." Emery answered, as he treated a young man who had lost his two hands.

After an hour of exploring around the place, Emery realized there were about 5,000 survivors staying in the outpost, but considering the existence of the underground cave, this place should be enough to hold up to 10 times that number.

When Emery returned to the surface, Julian was already finished briefing his squad and called all the Earth and Metal element users among them. There were five of them, four men and one woman. He then chose 1,000 able-bodied survivors to help fortify the place, remaking it into a stronghold that could resist those Crawlers.

Thanks to the [Soften Earth] spell, the survivors would have a much easier time completing their jobs of building defensive structures surrounding the outpost. The [Stone Wall] spell, on the other hand, would definitely work wonders to create a better outer layer of the walls.

In the meantime, Julian would join forces with the Metal acolyte to reinforce the walls with sharp metal spikes and nets.

Julian also instructed the other members of his squad to divide into two groups to rally survivors from other nearby settlements to this place.

One was led by Okoye and consisted of her Akanda warriors, while the other consisted of the remaining members and led by Aiko the Jade Flash.

As for Thrax and Chumo, neither of them left with the escort groups, as Emery requested them for a different project.

"Alright, Just make sure to be back here in 10 hours. So we can start our meeting with the other squad leaders."

Emery then called his squad members, Annara and Atlas, as well as two elite members he borrowed from Julian's squad, Thrax and Chumo, of course Klea was already with him. The six acolytes including him swiftly headed out of the settlement together.

"What are you planning to do?" asked the red-haired girl, as they walked away from the settlement, her expression dubious.

"Don't worry. Just follow me."

Annara seemed to want to say more, but Thrax's loud laughter stopped her from doing so.

"Hahaha! As long as there is a fight, I will follow you everywhere, brother!"

As they all flew on top of an orbiter, Emery turned to Chumo, "Have you found it yet?"

"Yeah. The closest is 60 miles up ahead."

Thanks to his [Eye of the Raven], Chumo's reconnaissance ability far surpassed Emery's with his Spirit Reading. Not only could he sense life signs much further than him, but he could also perceive those with a weaker lifeform, like the stage 1 Crawler or other small creatures.

With their current speed, the six of them could easily cover 60 miles in just 10 minutes. Therefore, Emery decided not to use [Spatial Gate] and continued flying, using this opportunity to study the landscape better.

After traveling across the yellow plain and passing several small forests and dozens of abandoned buildings, the group finally reached their destination. A cave located in one of the forests.

Realizing Emery had actually brought them to one of the existing Abyss Nest, everyone looked excited. Especially the battle maniac, Thrax.

Before heading in, however, Atlas touched the ground with his hand, using the seismic scan. The light from his mechanical eyes was projected out and formed into an image of the underground map.

This was definitely one of the benefits of having the half-man, half-machine acolyte on the squad.

Seeing this, Emery clapped his hands, "Alright, guys. We're going in!"

Chapter 906 Abyss Nest

With the half-machine acolyte Atlas' ability, coupled with Chumo's reconnaissance skill, the Abyss nest interior was quickly mapped out.

Of the half a dozen tunnels within the nest, only two lead to the main chamber hidden 20 miles deep underground, while the other four actually lead to a dead end. If it wasn't for Atlas' ability, the six of them would have gotten lost in the nest, wasting their time searching for the true path.

"Wow! It spread so far underground!" Klea exclaimed as she scanned the image Atlas projected.

Not only was it able to sense their rough location, Chumo's [Eye of the Raven] also perceived the number of Abyss creatures residing within the nest. He sensed that there were around five thousand of

stage 1, a few hundreds of stage 2 as well as dozens of stage 3, and about half a dozen stage 4 Abyss creatures.

He didn't detect any stage 5 Abyss creature, unless the latter for some reason had the ability to hide its existence.

"So, how do you want to do this?" asked Annara as she looked at Emery.

Knowing the number and the strength of the Abyss creatures in the nest, unless there was indeed a stage 5 Abyss creature hidden inside, there really wasn't much for the group to worry about. In fact, by the standard of combat prowess they possessed, it was only a matter of how long it would take to clear it.

At this, Klea quickly voiced her suggestion. "Let's make two teams and see who reaches the main chamber first!"

Her idea, unexpectedly, received a sound agreement from the red-haired girl. The latter looked excited.

Emery also had no objection to the idea, as he wanted to check how challenging this place was. On top of that, clearing both tunnels meant more Abyss creatures being killed, which meant more points.

Still, he insisted that no one entered the main chamber before they grouped up again. All part of what he wanted to check and also in the case of finding a hidden stage 5 Abyss creature. He didn't want to see his companions injured, or worse, lose their lives.

"I choose Emery first!" said Klea excitedly while hugging Emery's arm. It took him a moment to realize that she meant picking the team.

Seeing this blatant display of affection, Annara just rolled her eyes and said, "Alright. Inside there, the cyborg is much more useful anyway."

"Then... I choose Chumo next" said Klea, thinking that since the other side had picked the one with the map of the Abyss nest, then she would need Chumo's reconnaissance ability to compare.

Through all of this, the boys seemed to have no intention to voice their opinions and just follow the two girl's words readily. Well, except the gladiator champion Thrax who was quite annoyed when he saw that he was picked last.

"Huh! You will later regret not choosing me!" Thrax said while looking at Klea when she chose Chumo. It was clear to see that he was complaining.

As he was walking towards Annara and Atlas, however, the red-haired girl turned to Klea and said, "You can have him. Two of us is enough."

"....."

"#^&@%& Fuck!!"

Thrax got angry, but had no place to vent as Annara already dashed towards the Abyss nest's entrance with Atlas following right behind her. The Thracian felt like he wanted to pluck all the hairs he had to shout his frustration out loud.

"Arrrgghhh! Such an insult to the Immortal Gladiator!!"

The entire situation, or rather, farce gave Emery a slight chuckle. On the other hand, Klea quickly grabbed Thrax's shoulder and said, "Don't worry, you'll be happier with us.. Plus, this way we can definitely win."

"That's damn right!!"

Thrax looked like he was on fire as he darted towards the nest. Seeing this, Emery just shook his head wryly and hoped that this friend of his wouldn't be too reckless and hurt himself in the process.

Splat! Splat!

Blood splattered everywhere inside the gloomy tunnel, adding a hint of color to the somber atmosphere. From behind, Emery could see how fierce Thrax really was now and how those stage 1 to stage 3 Abyss creatures died in his hands without being able to do anything.

The huge, Tier 5 dark red glaives that Thrax won from the Gladiator Championship gave off a faint light in the dim tunnel, as he continued his slaughter of Abyss creatures in the realm of close combat.

[Lurker]

[Stage 2 Abyss creature]

[Battle power 40]

[Roach]

[Stage 3 Abyss creature]

[Battle power 90]

All the Abyss creatures they encountered this time were like a series of bugs with multiple legs and sharp claws, antennas, and stingers. They were extremely horrible to look at.

The ones named Lurker were twice as large as Crawler, and were capable of spitting corrosive liquids. Emery watched as the liquid they released landed on the ground of the tunnel and created a small, still bubbling crater.

The Roach, on the other hand, was covered in a dark carapace which had a very strong defensive capability, comparable to Tier 3 artifact. Moreover, it had a regenerative factor that was quiet overwhelming.

The stage 3 Abyss creatures would need some extra work to be killed, but there weren't any significant problems for this group of elite acolytes.

Faint layer of blazing aura swiftly covered Thrax's entire body as he used his [Immortal Gate - stage 6].

[Battle power 122 (186)]

Feeling the strength coursing through his body, Thrax swiftly brandished his gauntlet that was enveloped in flames thanks to [Fire Infusion] spell and began to wreak havoc among the horde of Abyss creatures.

To Emery's surprise, as they walked deeper, the tunnel became wider and there were several small chambers that were filled with Abyss creatures.

Seeing this, Emery decided to take action as well. He began casting [Seed Bomb] and threw it into the chamber, resulting in the successive deaths of the Abyss creatures that lived within. Then, he cast [Mineralized Warrior].

10 huge humanoid figures made of stones emerged from the ground and Emery swiftly ordered them to clash with the Abyss creatures. He wanted to see how his summon would compare to these creatures.

A few minutes later, Emery could be seen with a satisfied expression on his face. It turned out that his Mineralized Warriors were able to withstand the stage 2 Abyss creature Lurker's corrosive spit with ease, and their swords were sharp enough to cut through the stage 3 Abyss creature Roach.

With this result, Emery decided to create 10 more Mineralized Warriors to speed up their clearing speed.

"Ah! I finally get to see your new toy!" Klea said when she saw Emery create the Mineralized Warrior. At the same time, she also cast [Chain Lightning] and blasted all the incoming Abyss creatures into smithereens.

Zap zap zap!

Chumo, who was at the back, didn't stay still either. He created 10 [Shadow Clone] of himself, and suddenly, it seemed as if a whole squad of thirty were fighting the Abyss creatures.

As they continued to walk deeper into the tunnel, more and more Abyss creatures attacked them with bloodlust. Seeing the number approaching them, Klea suddenly floated in midair and began to cast her Tier 5 spell [Cyclone].

The all-powerful spell that she had used during the Magus Game made its appearance again, and within seconds, dozens of Crawlers and Lurkers were destroyed into pieces and scattered everywhere.

What surprised Emery was that even after unleashing such a taxing spell, Klea didn't look tired at all - unlike before. In fact, she even shouted energetically at Chumo.

"Chumo, which way leads to the main chamber? We have to hurry!"

Chapter 907 - Main Chamber

Even though Chumo knew the way, it still took them almost three hours to finally reach outside the main chamber.

The group had tried their best to break through the thousands of abyss creatures and believed the time it took them to reach this place wasn't bad at all.

However, as soon as they arrived at the main chamber, Klea froze and almost immediately sulked upon seeing the two figures in front of the chamber.

Annara and Atlas had reached the main chamber before they did, and judging from the two's carefree attitude, it seemed that they did not arrive recently.

"How did you two get here so fast!?" the girl asked in disbelief.

How did those two arrive so fast, when they encountered so many abyss creatures in the way!?

Looking at Klea's surprised look, Annara could not help but smirk in response.

"It's called skill, girl."

Unlike Klea, Emery was not really surprised by this turn of events. After all, his two teammates were also students of the privileged class. Atlas, in particular, had a test ranking of 16. Emery was sure that after his upgrade, the half-machine acolyte now had at least 300 points of battle power and a new ability of some sort.

The two girls were about to start arguing when, out of nowhere, the area faintly rumbled. The group immediately prepared themselves for battle, and sure enough, a horde of abyss creatures came out from the main chamber. Hundreds of stage 1 to 3 swarmed in, and further back, and they saw them: five hulking creatures stood in their midst.

[Ravager]

[Abyss creature - Stage 4]

[Battle Power: 210]

These hulking creatures were five-meter creatures with a body structure that looked like a dark beetle. Each of their steps brought a little tremor to the chamber. Even at first glance, their armored bodies seemed out of the ordinary.

Emery was ready to fight, but before charging forward, he asked Chumo to confirm if there were any hidden dangers within the chamber.

[Eye of Raven]

After a brief moment, Chumo confirmed there was indeed nothing else in the chamber except for the horde in front of them.

"521 Crawlers, 72 Lurkers, 21 Roaches and 5 of those Ravagers."

Now that everything was clear, Emery called on the group.

"All right, attack!"

When it came to charging into battle, Thrax was always the swiftest among them. With just one swing of his prided dark red glaives, he managed to stop the creatures' momentum and simultaneously killed a dozen Crawlers.

However, right after the gladiator finished swinging his glaives, a figure flew on top of him, instantly launching powerful blasts of lighting and fire at the horde of monsters.

[Tempest Flare]

Baaammmmm!

In just a second, a powerful offensive spell quickly melted half the creatures in the chamber, even forming a half-sphere crater as a result. This attack amazed Emery and the others, but unlike them, Thrax was irritated by it.

"Arghh!"

Unwilling to lose against the half-machine acolyte, the gladiator wildly charged forward and rushed towards one of the huge stage 4 creatures in the middle of the horde. With all the power he could put in one attack, he swung his heavy glaives.

[Battle Art: Heavy Smash]

Bammmm!

The three-meter beetle-like creature was instantly knocked down by his smash. However, contrary to his expectations, it only managed to create a shallow wound on the creature's body.

While Thrax was staring at the result of his attack, the creature quickly countered with a powerful blast of poison from its mouth. Fortunately, Thrax was able to dodge to the side, before smashing it another time.

Bammmm!

But he did not stop there. Immediately after, Thrax heavily swung his glaives toward one spot of the creature's armored body over and over again.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Even though it took some time, his barrage of attacks finally opened a visible crack in the creature's thick armor.

On the other hand, Annara flew directly toward another stage 4 creature, knowing it was the real tasty meal that gave a whopping 5,000 points. The moment the red-haired girl arrived above her target, she swiftly used her whip to hold the creature down, as she cast one of her best darkness-element magic spells.

[Desecrate]

The red-haired girl put both of her hands on the creature's back, within a second, the shell of the creature began to crumble from the inside as the creature writhed in pain.

"Curse magic!" Emery exclaimed, when he saw Annara's spell.

The huge creature raged out loud. It heavily flung around its body trying to get the red-haired girl off its back, but it only killed a dozen small crawlers around instead. The girl kept holding the whip tightly, and after a few seconds, it finally fell with dark ooze coming out from all over its body.

While the three were crazily charging toward the hordes of creatures, Klea and Chumo decided to use long-range attacks. With Klea's constant thunderbolt spells followed by her [Little Gungnir] and Chumo's group of 10 archers, the abyss creatures rushing towards them were swiftly killed in the dozens.

Emery himself had sent his [Mineralized Warriors] to support all of his 5 companions to make sure they did not act recklessly and get surrounded or cornered, but he also charged forward to give one of the stage 4 creatures a try.

He took out his savage blade, used [Blink] to appear right next to it, and started to slash at the creature multiple times to test its strength. It took him half a dozen slashes and one critical hit at the creature's eyes, before it finally fell motionless and died.

The group of six only needed roughly 10 minutes to clear up the main chamber.

After the group made sure that all the creatures were dead, they walked and approached the corner of the chamber and found a glowing boulder.

They could clearly sense energy emanating from the 4-meter-tall stone. It was a magical rune, the source of energy that brought these Abyss creatures to this place.

"I guess we just need to destroy this boulder," Annara said with a shrug.

The girl was ready to cast a spell to get the job done, when Emery suddenly gestured for her to stop.

"Don't! This is why we are here."

The red-haired girl looked at him with a visibly confused expression, but she stopped per his order and waited for him to continue.

However, Emery's next words shocked her.

"Thrax, Chumo, I want either of you to destroy this boulder instead."

The group quickly realized what Emery was trying to do and Annara inwardly cursed upon realizing it.

Chapter 908 - Bonus Points

"One of you two go ahead and destroy it."

Even though he heard Emery's confirmation again, Chumo still seemed to be a little hesitant to do the deed. Fortunately or not, there was no way the musclehead of the group - Thrax - would be willing to let such an opportunity go.

Tightly gripping the huge glaive in his hand, Thrax swiftly brought the Tier 5 weapon to the air and swung it with all his might, unleashing all the irritation he had accumulated to the rune-covered boulder.

BOOM!

Crackkkk!!

Even though it was covered with runes, the boulder couldn't even last more than a second against Thrax's glaive and shattered into pieces. Immediately after the boulder was destroyed, a notification came to Emery's mind from the device for the test.

[Squad 21 - has cleared a Nest - 5000 points awarded to all squad members]

An additional notification that said they had received five thousand points for successfully clearing an Abyss nest both came to Thrax and Chumo.

Seeing the reactions of the two of them, Annara quickly guessed what happened and commented in a sour tone, "You are very generous, aren't you?"

Hearing the red-haired girl's words, it took a second for Klea to understand what she meant and had just happened.

Emery's choice of asking Chumo or Thrax to destroy the boulder meant that the squad the two were part of - Squad 21 - was the one who completed the objective. Hence by now, all thirty members of Squad 21 must also have received the same message as the two.

What Emery didn't expect was the fact that he also got the notification. It seemed his position as one of the commanders was much more advantageous than he previously thought.

This idea came to Emery's mind and he just had to give it a try to see if it was like what he thought, and apparently, he was right. The reason why he gave the points to Julian's squad, and not his own, was obviously because this way the points received would be awarded to 30 people instead of 3.

A moment later, a message came from the device. Emery turned his attention and saw it was from Julian.

[It's you, isn't it?. You are brilliant Emery, this will definitely improve our plan]

After seeing Julian's message, Emery didn't reply right away and instead checked his own points.

[Personal points ranking]

[Rank 343 - 18210 points]

[Squad points ranking]

[Rank 22 - 58111 points]

His group of three could get around 50,000 points for killing all the Abyss creatures they encountered, added with the other three, their slaughter of the Abyss creatures in this nest netted them as much as 80,000 points.

Considering that there were still Abyss creatures in the four tunnels they didn't go through, he calculated that completely killing all the Abyss creatures in an Abyss nest would give about 100,000 points.

In the meantime, the objective reward for successfully destroying an Abyss nest was 5,000 points for every member in the squad. This meant that a normal squad of 30 people would give an extra total of 150,000 points.

This comparison clearly showed that completing the objective of clearing an Abyss nest was much more rewarding than clearing up killing the Abyss creatures.

While Emery was engrossed in his thoughts, Annara who was sulking opened her mouth. "Are you all happy now? Next, it will be our turn to destroy the boulder"

While the others had already turned around and wanted to leave, Emery on the other hand just stood there with his eyes closed.

Annara who saw this couldn't help but feel annoyed. She said in a sour tone, "What are you doing now? Let's go!"

"Give me a minute."

Realizing that Emery was no longer paying heed to her after saying those words, Annara could only grumble and wait for a minute to pass. The others didn't say anything either. They, especially Klea, wanted to see what Emery wanted to do.

When the requested 1 minute had passed, Emery suddenly raised his arm, made a circular motion with it, and his special spell was cast.

[Spatial Gate]

In front of the six people, a dazzling swirling portal appeared indicating that the spell was successful.

An exclamation was heard from Klea. "Woah! You can even create a portal from deep down here! This is Amazing!"

In fact, it wasn't as easy as Klea thought and Emery himself initially thought. He didn't expect to expend so much concentration in his Spirit Reading in order to use the ability from 20 miles below the surface. Fortunately, the fact that he knew very well the situation above and below was really helpful.

Without further ado, the group walked into the spatial gate. Immediately, they arrived right outside the entrance of the Abyss nest they had just cleared.

A sigh of awe escaped Klea's mouth and she commented, "This is amazing, really. We don't have to walk past those stinky corpses of bugs." Turning her head to her lover, she said, "Emery, can we just use your space magic to directly arrive at the main chamber next time?"

Emery shook his head in response. As now that he already arrived on the surface again, he could not sense the main chamber no matter how hard he tried. It was as if it didn't exist in the first place.

Klea looked disappointed seeing his negative response. Seeing that, Emery chuckled.

"I'm still not sure right now, but I might have a way."

Since they still had 7 hours before the appointed meeting time, Emery asked Chumo to find another Abyss nest. It was only after half an hour of flying around that the latter finally found another and the group quickly headed over.

This time, however, the group didn't immediately enter the nest. Emery had told the group to wait as he wanted to try a different method he had thought of.

"How do you want it to be, commander?" Annara asked with a smirk on her face.

Emery ignored the teasing tone in her words and calmly said, "I would like all of you to enter with a different group, but this time I will not be joining."

With the abilities they had, Emery decided to permeate the privilege Atlas and Annara in two different groups, and with that, he told Annara to go with Chumo this time.

"Well, at least I got the cute one," was Annara's response. She spoke those words in a clear teasing tone, and the recipient - Chumo quickly grew tense. Unfortunately for the Asian boy, the red-haired girl noticed his reaction.

"You are Chumo, right..? I have seen you at the Darkness Institute quite a few times." Annara got closer to Chumo and saw him getting tense. " You don't have to be so nervous, you know.."

Thrax said, "Don't mind him. He's always like that in front of beautiful girls."

"Really? ...You think I am beautiful?" It was clear to see that the red-haired girl was teasing Chumo.

It seemed that Chumo's embarrassment reached its peak with that, as he suddenly answered loudly.

"I... I... I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND ALREADY BACK HOME!"

"....."

There was a moment of silence, before a burst of laughter occurred.

"HAHAHAH!!"

With Chumo paired with Annara, Thrax ended up getting paired with the powerful Atlas, and Emery could faintly see that the gladiator seemed to force himself to not feel inferior. As for Klea, Emery just said, "You can choose whichever group you want to join."

The Egyptian queen, however, went closer to Emery before saying, "It's not safe to be alone on such a dangerous planet. I will stay here with you!"

Even though he knew what she was thinking, Emery didn't want to argue and just proceeded with his plan.

Chapter 909 - One Mind

"So what's the plan?" asked Annara with her hands folded together.

Emery didn't say anything. He just put both of his hands on the ground and once again cast [Mineralized Warrior]. Immediately after, familiar humanoid figures emerged from the ground one by one.

Ten. Twenty. Thirty.

A total of thirty Mineralized Warriors had been created by Emery. They all stood there, waiting for their orders. However, before anyone could comment about this rather impressive sight, more figures emerged from the ground.

Forty. Fifty. Sixty.

This time, Emery managed to create 60 Mineralized Warriors in one go. This was indeed a big number, and obviously brought a surprise to the group. Apparently, they didn't expect him to be able to do such a thing.

Sixty humanoid figures, completely made of black-colored stone, stood together in an orderly line, ready to receive any order.

Thanks to the fact that he had cast the [Mineralized Warrior] spell several times until now, Emery was getting used to the requirements of his Spirit Pool. Thus the reason for this spectacle, as the larger Spirit Pool the more summons he could create.

But because he had created 60 of this summon, he felt as if half of his Spirit Pool was no longer accessible until he dispelled the summon. Hence in a way, Emery would become weaker - with less Spirit Pool capacity - as long as these Mineralized Warriors were active.

There was also a part when Emery needed to keep up the use of his Spirit Reading to occasionally give them simple orders here and there, in order to make them more effective in battle. All of this meant that the more summons he had, the harder it would be to control.

However, even with the large number of summons that had been created, Emery still looked like he was not done.

"All of you will go down with 30 of my summons each, and also this."

While the others were wondering what else was there, Emery opened his Spatial Space and immediately 6 plant creatures came out of it. It was Twik and the 5 Chizpur brothers.

A shrill cry rang out in the air.

"They are so CUTE!!!" Klea pounced on the huge one of the chubby creatures like a predator and hugged it tightly as if it would disappear in the next moment.

The other girl in the group, on the other hand, showed the very opposite reaction. Annara furrowed her brows and turned to Emery before saying, "Emery, this is a test that concerns our future; not the place to practice your summon spell and train your pets."

As if he expected such a reaction, Emery calmly replied, "I wanted to test something that might help us get more points in the long run. So, I'm asking you to bear with my actions for now. "

The furrows in her brows eased when she heard that. In the end, the red-haired girl just shrugged.

"Well... at least this time it's our turn to destroy the boulder."

Emery, however, didn't say anything of consent. He smiled and said, "No, We will give the points to Squad 21 again. That way, it will be more beneficial to the platoon."

Hearing that, Annara cursed and was about to start complaining. Unfortunately, Klea quickly intervened with a smile.

"Well, you were the one who chose him as commander first. So here we are."

Annara's face turned dark. Unwilling to dishearten this teammate of his, Emery decided to give another assurance to appease her.

"Don't worry and just trust me this once. We will get more points after."

A soft snort was the response he received. Smiling wryly, Emery turned his gaze to the 60 Mineralized Warriors, Twik and the Chizpur brothers, before saying, "Are you all ready?!"

"Kuang.. Kuang Ku Ku!!"

An energetic response came from the Twik and Chizpur brothers, while the Mineralization Warriors gave no reaction for obvious reasons.

Emery chose Chiku to stay together with Klea and Twik. The rest were then separated into the two groups.

Now that the preparation had been settled, the two groups swiftly entered the entrance of the Abyss nest and parted their ways into two different tunnels.

Meanwhile, Emery sat in a lotus position on top of a rock in front of the entrance of the Abyss nest. His eyes were closed while the air around him was calm, indicating that he was concentrating.

On the other hand, seeing all his brothers enter the Abyss nest, the last of Chizpur brothers - Chiku - was not happy. The chubby creature looked dejected with its slightly hunched body and its gaze fixed on the dark entrance.

"Ku ku... ku.."

"Don't worry, Chiku. I have a different special for you."

Klea moved closer to Emery, as she was curious about what his plan was. A moment later, she watched as Chiku the chubby creature used its ability [Earth Burrows] and its figure completely disappeared into the ground.

As they went deeper, Emery needed to concentrate further in order to maximize his Spirit Reading.

Ever since he reached rank 9, Emery could feel the range that his Spirit Reading covered was doubled. However, he hadn't been practicing with it since his preparation for the duels and the mid-test, and only now that he really focused on it.

Other than Spirit Reading, Emery had another skill he prepared for this plan.

[One Mind]

The fact that the Fey's innate skill worked well with Twik and the Chizpur brothers was very important because now Emery could see what was happening to the two groups through the eyes of the 4 Chizpur brothers who accompanied them to the Abyss nest.

Surprisingly as he suspected, when he used [One Mind], Emery was able to have a better understanding of things around his plant creatures, even though they were separate and deep underground.

He once again proved this by concentrating on Chiku, who was currently digging away from him at high speed.

Emery was elated to find out that with [One Mind], he could utilize the plant creatures as a beacon of some sort to further expand the range of his Spirit Reading.

"This is amazing," Emery muttered as he was immersed in the extraordinary sensation of his expanded Spirit Reading.

He continued to maintain his concentration and push the limit of his Spirit Reading with the help of the plant creatures. With Chiku's help, he discovered that the maximum range of [One Mind] for Spirit Reading to still be used effectively was around 300 miles.

This meant that through this method, Emery's Spirit Reading was able to cover three to four times its normal range.

At that moment, the Chizpur brothers suddenly turned into Emery's best recon unit, especially with their outstanding burrowing skills.

A few hours later, when the two groups had reached the main chamber of the Abyss nest, Emery came down from the rock he was sitting, and casually cast [Spatial Gate].

Because of the presence of his plant creatures, he successfully sensed the area 20 miles deep underground. Together with Klea, he entered the swirling portal and arrived at the main chamber where Annara and the others were.

Just like before, 500 plus abyss creatures were waiting for them in the main chamber with half a dozen stage 4 standing near the runed boulder.

"Let's clear them up!"

It didn't take long for the six people to clean up all the Abyss creatures that were in the main chamber. In fact, the Abyss creatures could only put up a pointless struggle as they were slaughtered like chickens.

Knowing Emery would give the final reward to Julian's squad again, Annara turned more aggressive in killing the stage 4 creatures, giving her 5000 points each.

Now that Emery has a better grasp on the Abyss Nest and also better understanding of his skill. He swiftly created another portal to return and meet up with the other squads.

Chapter 910 - The Plan

When Emery returned to the outpost together with the others, he was quite surprised by the sight that welcomed him. The dilapidated outpost that was on the verge of collapse no longer existed, replaced by a completely new reinforced structure. It was a stronghold, to put it simply.

In a mere 10 hours, Julian had succeeded in reforming the Andora native outpost into something completely different from what it was before. The thin, brittle-looking walls were replaced by thick, polished stone walls that were 8 meters high - three times its previous height.

Moreover, Julian also decided to construct bretèche along the defensive walls. Apparently, he went for this extra mile in the hopes the natives would find it easier to defend against the attacks of Abyss creatures with their weapons in the future.

All in all, thanks to the upgrades, the outpost had definitely become much easier to protect.

Emery also noticed a mob of people hundreds of meters away, making their way towards the outpost. It seemed a new batch of Andora natives from nearby settlements had arrived.

Okoye was there with her Akanda warriors, leading the thousands of people into the newly-upgraded outpost. On the other hand, Aiko had also returned to the outpost. It turned out she had finished her task of bringing in the natives an hour ago.

The girl bearing the Jade Flash moniker approached Emery. Before he could ask if there was anything he could help with, she seized the initiative and said, "It was you, isn't it? Thanks for the points." Again, before Emery could muster any response, the girl had walked away. She came quickly and left just as fast.

Seeing this bizarre sight, Annara stepped closer to Klea and nudged her before saying, "Your boyfriend really knows how to impress a girl, doesn't he? Aren't you worried?"

It seemed the provocation was ineffective, as Klea was seen smiling nonchalantly.

"My man is indeed popular... but I know that he's loyal. So I'm not worried at all."

Hearing her tone and the conviction on her face, Annara chuckled and turned to look at Emery, "Hmm... You're really confident, aren't you?"

Klea turned to her and beamed the brightest smile she could make. "Yeah!"

...

The group gathered in a simple, three-story building - the largest building in the outpost. Julian was the one who had instructed for it to be built, as he thought they would need a base of their own during the test.

The place where they gathered was on the roof with an open area that allowed them to clearly see all the areas around the outpost.

Roran, Lydell, Sigurd, Orion and the two kin, Wage and Ryan Gasa, were already present; so was Julian along with Anas and Orycon.

"Alright, Emery's here. Now, we are only missing Rayne and Trish."

About a minute after Emery arrived, Trish the water element specialist came.

"I've contacted Rayne, she told me she's in a bit of a problem and therefore will be late. We don't have much time to spare, so we'll have to start without her," Julian said, to which the others answered with agreement.

Immediately after, Julian showed the map of the continent that had been marked all over, about more than a hundred, which was the number of Abyss nests that had been discovered. Everyone present in the meeting without exception had pensive expressions as they looked at the map.

Emery then stepped in, sharing about his experience delving into and clearing an Abyss nest. He also didn't forget to tell the others about his calculations and opinions on what they should do to get ahead from this point.

No one voiced disagreement after Emery finished his words. It seemed everyone unanimously agreed that clearing the Abyss nests was more productive and should be made a priority, as it would earn them more points than roaming around killing stray Abyss creatures.

However, Julian, who has had a contemplative expression since Emery spoke, expressed his concern. "We found a total of 152 nests during our exploration. Plus the areas that Trish hasn't given yet and maybe a few that we've missed, leading me to believe that there are no more than 200 Abyss nests on this continent."

Hearing this, the two Gasa who were looking forward to getting into action and earn points said, "So? Just divide by 10. Everyone will get 14 to 15 each, that will do it."

However, contrary to their expectations, the entire place was silent. Then, Julian expressed his concern which also occurred to several people when they heard his words.

"The problem is that one Abyss nest will only give at most 250,000 points including the bonus. That's about 7,500 per person, and 15 Abyss nests will only give each person an average of 110,000 points."

It finally struck the Gasas.

This was a problem, because the minimum points a regular acolyte needed to pass the test was 200,000. The requirement became even more outrageous for elite and privileged acolytes, respectively.

"This means the test wants us to do more than just clear the Abyss nests."

Again, everyone quickly agreed with the conclusion Julian drew. In fact, if they didn't plan this right, they might have ended up fighting against each other over the Abyss nests in order to get more points.

"This is also why I rebuilt this outpost into a base we can use. I strongly believe the way for all of us as a Platoon to pass the test is to help as many Andora natives as possible."

When the others heard this, most of them showed anxious expressions. After all, for most of them, killing Abyss creatures was far easier than protecting lives.

Emery opened the data from the device and looked intently at the notification that appeared.

[Platoon Objectives: Save survivors]

[Survivors: 14,402,540]

[Time left: 9 days, 11 hours and 49 minutes]

It had been 12 hours since the mid-test started, and the initial number had decreased by 200,000. This meant that more than 16,000 people died every hour. A staggering rate of death, to say the least.

This objective was not popular, because not only was it more difficult to do, it also only gave one point for every 10 lives saved. To put it simply, in the eyes of most people, the reward was not worth the efforts expended.

Julian, however, tried to argue against this stereotype. He quickly explained that, considering the three continents, there were about 4,000,000 to 5,000,000 survivors still hiding in each continent.

If they manage to save a portion of them, saving one million people would give 100,000 points to everyone in the platoon. That's a total of 30 million points.

"If we work earnestly together, I'm sure we can do it," added Julian.

Unfortunately, it seemed his optimistic view was not shared by Roran. The latter was concerned about the technical definition of saving the survivors. There were no details, thus 'saving the survivors' could literally mean anything.

Comparing their current situation to the other similar events, Roran believed that on the tenth day the gathered people would be allowed to enter the transport and leave this planet. That meant they needed to gather all the survivors from a 3,000-mile radius to this outpost, which was close to the transport.

If that was really the case, then Roran believed this objective was impossible. Many of those survivors were old and weak. They wouldn't even survive 100-mile trip, much less thousands of miles.

However, Julian answered his doubt with a glance towards Emery.

"Other platoons might find it hard, but not ours. You do realize what kind of acolyte our commander is, right?"