

## O Summoner 751

### Chapter 751 - The Half Time Part 2

The first round of the second event finally ended and the scores has finally appeared. Each team scored more than one point while some prioritized protecting their bases, it is evident that huge clashes occurred as the point distribution is messy.

#### Country - Points

1. United States	- 5
2. United Kingdom	- 6
3. Germany	- 8
4. France	- 4
5. Italy	- 3
6. Ukraine	- 4
7. China	- 6
8. Australia	- 3
9. Japan	- 6
10. Russia	- 9
11. South Korea	- 7
12. Sweden	- 10
13. Brazil	- 3
14. Finland	- 3
15. Canada	- 4
16. Philippines	- 8
17. Thailand	- 4
18. Poland	- 3
19. Malaysia	- 3
20. Taiwan	- 5

Each Team got points depending on the effort that they have used. The one in the lead is the Swedish National Team because of Frey's onslaught on all of the teams that she encounters. The second highest ones are the Russian National team that steamrolled the event with the powerful combo of Sveto and Anastacia.

The third in ranking is tied with both eight points and that is the German National Team and the Philippine National Team. For the German national team, they managed to get eight points because

of the great tactics that they devised. The minds of Faust and Eis is definitely not something to scoff at and their way of handling spells is also ingenious.

The Philippine National Team ascended to this spot because of two dark horses in the game. The powerful fighter named Apolaki and the Trap Expert Dupe. Apolaki will attack bases that are available while Dupe utilized her traps to steal flags from those passing by the middle of the jungle.

The middle zone of the jungle even got called the Forbidden Zone by both players and the audience. It is Dupe that managed to get much attention as she really rose to the occasion despite being a class that did not focus on close combat. The way she laid her traps made even the tactician Faust get trapped.

She is definitely someone that needs to be watched for her great use of traps. If she is great in this vast area, then she will definitely shine on the third event that is focused on hunting monsters. Apolaki is also a scene stealer because of his masterful use of his kampilan and kris.

Apolaki and Blade even clashed a bit earlier, and they were practically matched when it comes to swordplay. Their clash only amounted to a one-minute battle because of the many enemies that arrived in their location. Blade even died once because of being ganged up while Apolaki used that chance to slip away from the fights.

The forums are raving about the matches that they have witnessed. The videos of the highlights and fights of the event are already up in the Hall of Fame for the Pandemonium streaming site. Although, some expressed their displeasure because their favorite did not do much and just protected the base.

This is especially true for Hou Yiwei and Creepysoo as the two have a steady following. Hou Yiwei is famous because he is the top ranker, but Creepysoo's fame came from undead players that wanted to see their prince dominate the battlefield.

The reason why the undead players are raving about Creepysoo is due to the fact that he is the most talked about individual when it comes to the undead under the banner of the Undead King. They wanted to officially see the might of the one who unlocked the undead race in the game.

The next person that has been the talk of the town is none other than Frey. Her cool and calm demeanor with the fact that she does not underestimate her opponent has garnered much attention. They thought that she wanted to win no matter what, but she is actually someone with morals and a code of conduct.

Frey never used sneak attacks in order to get the flags that she turned into points. She will appear in front of her enemies and will fight them without the aid of others. She made use of her terrain and skills in order to overpower her enemies. She fought this way because of the passive strength that Valkyries gain when enemies know that they are in battle.

The biggest talk is the being that Cersei summoned as the players of those in Pandemonium never thought that devils are actually real and not just demons. They had seen a devil before as the battle with the Blood Devil is a real thing, but she was an undead, so people never really entertained the idea that she was an actual devil.

The players actually know that undead can create fake skin for their body when they are high in mastery. This is the real encounter that the players have of a devil, and it was a god at that. Many reporters already wanted the scoop from Cersei, but they were not allowed to bother until after the second event.

Anastacia and Mariposa even congratulated Cersei for an awesome fight via their holoswatch. The number of recruits for their guild has skyrocketed which made Anastacia and Mariposa rethink if they should also go all in.

The stadium is practically almost empty as the people went out to, but they lunch. Each national team discussed their next courses of action while they were dining together. The competitive spirit of everyone became fired up due to how intense the competition really is.

For Adrian's group, they are having another discussion, but it is mainly Adrian, his mother and his sister. They were talking about how Apolaki fought with a sword because he has the same stances that they use when fighting. Mina is the first to notice it and he just went to tell Adrian who was glued to the screen projecting Frey's fight.

"This Apolaki kid is definitely from our clan. Our martial arts are not taught easily to outsiders." Adrian's mother stated as she could see the resemblance.. She could even say that the way Apolaki fights is also something else but the core moves is baked into his body.

#### Chapter 752 - The Hard Hitters Battle I

"This Apolaki kid is definitely from our clan. Our martial arts are not taught easily to outsiders." Adrian's mother muttered as she could see the resemblance. She could even say that the way Apolaki fights is also something else, but the core moves are baked into his body.

The three decided to keep a close watch on the player named Apolaki as per the suggestion of Adrian's mother. The fact that his mother raised this concern made him a bit wary of his surroundings. Adrian's mother never likes to talk about her family despite all his begging. She is even more tightlipped than his father.

Lunch has finally ended, and the participants already returned to their seats while the others just chose the dine out option. Their food did not cook fast enough for them to eat in the restaurant, but this stadium is different from anything else.

Those that book the tickets for the general seating is definitely the best affordable way to watch the fights. Not only does robotic food vendors can take your order, but the arm of the chair also has a secret function that created a makeshift desk for them to place their food.

Even small things like this are becoming viral due to a lot of people praising that Atlas Inc. is doing their best for the consumers. They wanted this event to be memorable and made sure that the seating is spectacular as even the smallest detail can make the biggest impact.

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"Welcome back everyone! We will now start the countdown for the start of the second event. The players will return back to their flag bases and all flags that were not converted to points will return back to their respective areas.

To those wondering if they will get points because the timer run out while the timer ran out, it is better to accept that the points can only be generated by stealing a flag or protecting their own team's flag. Players get back to your fighting stations!" The announcer stated as they players all returned to the game pods in order for the countdown to commence.

The players all went back to the gaming pods and the screens that showed the events inside the game map returned. The players all returned to their flag bases and noticed that the buffs given to them is not expiring but getting more powerful.

Each flag skill has the important Ignore Terrain effect as long as the flag is planted in your territory. The next thing that it gives is healing of 10 Health points per five seconds. The buffs that the flags radiated is definitely a driving factor for their star players to go and take center stage.

Of all the athletes that is in this event, Hou Yiwei wanted to make himself stand out because he needed to redeem himself from failing. The audience' excitement could not be contained as they found out the heavy hitters are now gaining traction. They all left their respective team flags in the care of their team members.

The audience saw Hou Yiwei, Creepysoo, Totem and Xinthri all made their moves as they will now join the battle. All eyes are on Creepysoo as he is the first one that actually encountered Xinthri. The garuda and the undead prince met up like it was a destined pairing between enemies as the former still sees the undead as something against order.

The next ones who fought is the most interesting as Apolaki, Frey, Hou Yiwei and Totem all met at the dense jungle area. The battle between the four of them is also the most anticipated highlight of this event that it is overshadowing the battle of Faust and Eis against Blade and Mariposa.

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"Who would have though that the Prince of the Undead will be the first one that will find me?!" Xinthri stated as he knows of Creepysoo because he is famous for being the revered prince of the undead.

"To think that I bumped into this guy when I was looking for that corpse. I need to get that corpse first since there are also other necromancers present in other teams." Creepysoo stated as he regretted his decision not to use his named undead Nomad. He left it at the base with the protector of the flag as the named undead needed to be there for the concealment to work.

"Cat got your tongue. Nevertheless, you must perish as your king goes against order. The flow of the universe must be restored." Xinthri stated as he lunged himself towards Creepysoo.

"Don Quixote!" Creepysoo stated as his undead knight came out of the ground and blocked the strike that Xinthri threw.

Xinthri looked surprised at the undead that Creepysoo summoned as it is no ordinary undead. It is definitely as strong as Creepysoo. The undead prince started chanting spells in order to aid the undead knight that he summoned. The fight between him and Xinthri is not something to go easy on.

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"This is a surprise!" Hou Yiwei stated as he is now face to face with three renowned players. Out of all of them, he is excited to battle Apolaki as he heard from the Twin Blades that he is no ordinary swordsman.

"Why don't we just go our own way and act like we never saw each other." Frey suggested as she has yet to get a flag. She does not want to fight needlessly here because it is pointless. Although, she does want to fight Hou Yiwei in order to defeat him as she was beaten by the latter long ago.

"I agree with that decision." Totem stated as he also does not want to waste his precious skills in fighting a fruitless battle.

Apolaki just nodded with the suggestion but the four did not leave each other's sights. Frey, Apolaki and Totem are all backing away slowly but Hou Yiwei has other plans. He shot three arrows with one arrow for each of the three opponents before him.

Apolaki, Frey, and Totem had no choice but to defend themselves and glare at Hou Yiwei. They then noticed that he is not alone as there are two players hiding behind him.. They now knew why the rank one player is confident in facing all three of them.

#### Chapter 753 - The Hard Hitters Battle II

Hou Yiwei is now attempting to kill the four with his team members as this is the new strategy that they decided to do. The Twin Blades will protect their base while Hou Yiwei and the other two support members will sweep every base that they encounter.

Hou Yiwei supported by a tank type warrior and a shaman class support character is enough for him to show his might. Apolaki, Frey and Totem looked at one another as they are also enemies against one another.

No one will trust the other for backup and that is what Hou Yiwei is anticipating which is why he started the attack. He wanted to put the three under opponents under pressure while they are also wary of each other. Hou Yiwei just needed to keep them from escaping the area and he would most likely be victorious.

"Spirit Walk!" Apolaki stated as he used his other sword the Kris.

Apolaki held the Kris and did something like a ritualistic dance. His body suddenly turned illusory or something akin to white smoke. After a few seconds, Apolaki is no longer to be seen and even Hou Yiwei could not detect him.

Hou Yiwei tried finding the escaped Apolaki but he could not even detect his presence even with his extraordinary Dragon Sense. He felt like the player named Apolaki vanished from existence. The only one of them that somewhat had an inkling of what happened to Apolaki is Totem.

Totem noticed that Apolaki used some sort of ritualistic spell that turned him into something like a spirit. He only felt it but even he could not see what direction Apolaki went. He also wanted to escape but his escape ability is a high-level skill that he did not want to waste.

"Coward! Where did you go?!" Hou Yiwei taunted Apolaki but he was not provoked. More like he is already nowhere in the area right now.

"It seems that he has escaped." The shaman player of the Chinese National Team stated.

"Pressure Totem. I will deal with Frey first." Hou Yiwei stated as he is now clearly disappointed that one managed to escape.

"Roger." The warrior and the shaman of the Chinese National Team stated as they bolted from their position in order to cut off Totem that was backing off.

"Persistent but will you be able to handle me without the help of your leader?" Totem stated as he is now in battle mode. Numerous totems are now flying around him each with different animas carved on it.

"We are more than enough to deal with you." The shaman of the Chinese National Team stated as she started to buff all her team members.

The two members of the Chinese National Team are confident that they will be able to take care of Totem as he is not that high up in the rankings. He is almost on the same ranking as those in the top 20 from their research.

Totem also knew that he is being looked down upon, but he did not mind. He can utilize their poor observational skills in order to defeat them. He will not be able to escape easily like that of Apolaki since Hou Yiwei and his team members are now wary of them. If only he also started to prepare to escape like Apolaki did then he might have escaped as well.

The warrior of the Chinese National Team is more on the tanky side as the shield he has is bigger compared to the sword that he is using. In fact, he is only using a short sword instead of a standard sword but that did not mean he has no chance of defeating totem.

The shaman of the Chinese National Team is casting multiple buffs and debuffs while being fully aware of the cooldown of each of them. She is definitely a top tier support player as she can balance attacking, buffing and debuffing.

"Spirit of the Bear!" Totem stated as one of the totems which has a bear carved glowed. That specific bear totem suddenly released a silhouette of a bear and passed that to Totem.

Totem's body armor suddenly became fur as if his outer appearance became somewhat reminiscent of a bear. Not just an ordinary bear but a Huge Grizzly which is a type of monster in Pandemonium famed for their body strength.

Totem's job class is different compared to other Druid type of job class since he has a unique class. He can utilize the power of monsters that he has defeated or befriended. The bonus of the buffs he receives is much better when he befriended the monsters compared to when he defeats them.

If he defeats a monster, the totem that he can create from that monster's energy can power him up by 25%. If he befriends the monster, then that power up bonus is doubled. The totem will also be permanent as his arsenal of skills will be filled with that of monsters that he befriended or defeats.

The good thing for Totem is that he also has contract with elementals albeit not a permanent one. He can even stack the buffs he received up to four times as long as his body can handle it.

[Player 'Totem' has increased strength stat by 30% for 30 minutes.]

[Player 'Totem' has increased health stat by 20% for 30 minutes.]

[Player 'Totem' has gained the Bear Brutality Passive skill which makes his first attack against enemies apply a stun and lower their enemy's armor's defense by 10%.]

[Player 'Totem' will gain a burst of movement speed of 100% for five seconds. The movement speed bonus will decay by 20% per second.]

Totem did not wait for the warrior player of the Chinese National Team to reach him as he used his running stance. He clashed head on with the tank warrior of the Chinese National Team and the heavy warrior felt like he got pushed back.

[You have been stunned.]

Totem did not stop there as he smacked the enemy warrior with his bare fists. Each strike felt much heavier than the last as he could feel that Totem is becoming stronger with each strike. Even the debuffs that shaman player used on Totem felt like it is doing nothing because of the natural resistance of the druid type job classes to hexes and curses.

"Spirit of the Tiger!" Totem shouted as another totem activated.

The silhouette of a tiger appeared behind Totem as his buffs started to power up his body.

[Player 'Totem' has increased strength stat by 10% for 30 minutes.]

[Player 'Totem' has increased agility stat by 20% for 30 minutes.]

[Player 'Totem' has increased dexterity stat by 20% for 30 minutes.]

[Player 'Totem' has gained the Ferocious Tiger Passive skill which makes his attacks against enemies apply a bleeding status effect and lower their enemy's armor defense by 10%. Attacking bleeding targets will also result in additional damage.]

[Player 'Totem' will gain a burst of movement speed of 100% for five seconds. The movement speed bonus will decay by 20% per second.]

Totem did leave the warrior that is currently kneeling on the ground and headed straight towards the shaman enemy player. The shaman enemy player did not think that something like that is possible as she only saw a shadow.

Totem's hands look like a tiger's claw, but his hide is like a mix between a bear and a tiger. It seems that the influence of the previous possession is still present. Totem's attacks are so heavy that the shaman's protective charm item that she used went into smoke as it could not handle the onslaught of attacks from Totem.

Hou Yiwei noticed that his team members are now in a difficult situation as he judged that the person named Totem is not that great of a fighter since he has low rank in the leaderboard. Hou Yiwei is about to aid his other two team members when Frey suddenly appeared before him and thrust her spear towards his neck.

Frey's attack became fiercer than before as she remembered that she also wanted to defeat Hou Yiwei in order to reclaim the confidence. She lost pretty badly when she first encountered Hou Yiwei as he is a very skilled archer with lots of powerful skills. The only difference is that the past Frey is no longer there as even the weakest of the older Valkyries fear Frey's talent in fighting.

Hou Yiwei knew that he will not be able to counter Frey unless he also enters close combat mode. Frey is sticking to him like a bug as she is not letting him gain any distance. Hou Yiwei activated the special feature of his bow as it transformed into two scimitars.

"Blade Dance!" Hou Yiwei stated as he wanted Frey to not be as close to him as she will control the pace of their battle if her momentum does not stop.. This skill made Frey gain distance or risk her getting heavy damage as Hou Yiwei swirled with his two scimitars.

### Chapter 754 - The Hard Hitters Battle III

Hou Yiwei managed to get Frey off his back by using skill for a warrior class called Blade Dance. This is possible due to the unique class that he has as it is a combination of an archer and a warrior. Hou Yiwei's current job class is called the God Slaying War Dancer.

It is the new job class he obtained when he received the god slaying weapon as a War Dancer. Becoming a War Dancer is no easy feat because it is a job class that calls for both strength and dexterity. It should have been one of the cursed classes because they usually have low defenses and low intelligence, but he made it work.

He only made the War Dancer job path work because of a special passive that he received when he unlocked the Dragonkin. He received the special passive skill called Dragon Force that makes him not use any mana at all when casting spells because he uses the mana around him as what dragon's do.

Dragons are tyrannical forces of nature that bend the will of mana to their woes. As such, they use little to no mana at all as long as it is present in the surroundings. Of course, the limitations of this are the type of mana one can control as even dragons have attributes.

You cannot expect that a fire dragon to have vast amount of mana available if he is underwater. This is the reason why dragons that can use all elements are rare and even rare are dragons that can utilize every type of attribute because their body is made for it.

Hou Yiwei returned his two scimitars into a bow and aimed at Totem that is about to hit his shaman team member. He launched the arrow just in time to hit Totem by the stomach and sent him flying away due to the impact of the shot. He used the basic archer skill called Knockback Arrow in order to give room to his team members.

The Hou Yiwei's shaman team member recollected herself and cast curses towards Totem while also buffing her allies once again. This time she made use of a stronger curse in order to paralyze Totem, but the United States National Team Captain will not be easily handled.

"Spirit of the Honey Badger!" Totem shouted as the silhouette of a special monster known as the terror of the newbies appeared.

The silhouette of the honey badger is similar to the monster called Apex Honey Badger that is ever present in the early game. It is a terror to newbies because it is not only relentless, but it cannot be affected by any type of status ailment. Even debuffs to stats are only 20% effective on it.

The Apex Honey Badger even made headlines as a newbie killer because of the way it just decimates them. It is actually part of a last questline in the level 40s, but no one even dares to finish

it. Those that finished the quest even said that the Apex Honey Badger continues to haunt them in their nightmares.

[Player 'Totem' has increased strength stat by 10% for 30 minutes.]

[Player 'Totem' has increased agility stat by 10% for 30 minutes.]

[Player 'Totem' has increased defense stat by 20% for 30 minutes.]

[Player 'Totem' has gained the Honey Badger Don't Care Passive skill which makes all status ailments be cleansed and increase his tenacity by 50% for the duration of the possession.]

[Player 'Totem' will gain a burst of movement speed of 100% for five seconds. The movement speed bonus will decay by 20% per second.]

Totem did not even get fazed by the curses or debuffs that he got because all are affecting him. Even the face of the shaman contorted as she could not believe that all her best skills are nothing to the captain of the United States national team.

The shaman decided that her curses and debuffs are not that great when faced with opponents of great tenacity. She decided that the best course of action for her is to buff both her team members. If she cannot lower the opponent's stats, then she will just raise her team members.

"I hope that you are not forgetting about me." Frey stated as her spear swept through the air and hit Hou Yiwei that is still mid-air.

Hou Yiwei felt the damage of her attack as he got sent flying to a nearby tree. The tree even broke because of the impact which is a testament to how heavy the attack that Frey did. Hou Yiwei is now a bit too overwhelmed as he thought that he could handle Frey while assisting his two team members.

He did not think that Totem is actually much more formidable than he has originally thought. He needed to show one of his trump cards here if he really wanted to win but he needed a bit of time to do that. If he could get Frey off his back for a bit, then he is sure that he will be able to use his skill.

Frey did not let Hou Yiwei catch his breath as that will be the most dangerous way of facing an archer. She needs to put pressure on him so that he will not be able to use his archer class skills. Even though Hou Yiwei does not want to admit but he is not that well-versed in close combat fighting.

He is better than a regular gamer, but he is outclassed when faced with a true master of close combat. Frey also knows this from the previous fights that both of them had when they clashed in missions. She needed to end or just incapacitate Hou Yiwei so that she could also runaway.

Just as they were engaging in battle, a notification announced something that no one expected.

[Team member Jiang has been slain in battle.]

[Team member Ye has been slain in battle.]

[The Chinese National Team has been stolen.]

Chapter 755 - Unexpected Flag Stealer I

"Spirit Walk!" Apolaki stated as he used his other sword which is the Kris.

Apolaki's body got enveloped in a mystical mist that sent his body to the spirit plane. A plane of existence present in the mortal realm that is only possible for the dead souls of others to traverse. He managed to do this because the weapon that he has is special.

Apolaki's sword, the Kris, is actually one of the few Spirit Swords available in the game. It is a sword that is in the physical realm but is also in the spiritual realm. It is similar to Adrian's armaments as they are almost the same but still different. Apolaki's sword is actually a creation of a certain mystic when he laid eyes on the wielder of the Soul Sword.

This spiritual sword is created due to the inspiration of that mystic when he laid eyes on the Sword Psyche Armament when he was an apprentice. It is even said that he died after he finished crafting the sword because one of the ingredients for forging a spiritual sword is the soul of a person.

Due to the special materials and process, spirit swords are very rare and only number in the hundred. Despite numbering in the hundreds, only a few have been wielded by swordsmen as the blades also choose the wielder.

Spirits blades need to resonate with their wielder to even scratch something. If spirit blades cannot resonate with their wielders, then they are just rusty old swords that cannot even cut down a tree. If one forced the spirit blade to obey then they will be attacked via their soul which is not a nice experience.

Some of the audience thought that Apolaki is cowardly for retreating instead of fighting, but the others thought that it is a wise move. He did not need to fight Hou Yiwei because he has no flags. It would be a waste of time for him to fight a challenger that just wants to boost his ego and fame up.

"I just need to hit them where it hurts. Just like what the clan has taught me since childhood." Apolaki thought as he did not actually retreat.

Apolaki went deeper in the northern part of the map in order to find the base of the Chinese National Team. He wanted Hou Yiwei to know that this event is not a brawl but an objective based event. Some players in online games often forget that killing enemies is not the only way to win a game as objectives are what really matters.

He already knew that the Russian and Chinese national teams are using the mountains as their area. He wanted to get their flags, but he is wary of Sveto and Anastacia. Thankfully, they were on the swampland area as reported by his team members.

Three of his team members might be a bit lacking but they do have useful skills to use. One of their members is a summoner with a Splitting Chameleon monster as a soulbound. It might not have great combat abilities, but its scouting abilities are top class because of its ability to split into smaller chameleon monsters.

The Philippine National Team has basically all eyes on the jungle area because of the summoner and Dupe. Dupe covered the left side of the jungle while the summoner covered the right side of the jungle. They have eyes all over an area which is very impressive as the scale of the jungle map is not small.

"If I remember correctly then the base of the Chinese National Team should be in a ravine. I saw Hou Yiwei snipe a player on that area. I should start there." Apolaki told himself as he mostly conducted reconnaissance in the first half of the event. He wanted to know the terrain first before he made his move which is why he has a map of all the areas for the second event.

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"He has already surveyed the area like expected and is now going to carry his attacks." Adrian stated as he observed Apolaki's movements.

"That is the standard tactic in warfare with unfamiliar terrain, but it is still terrifying that he managed to grasp it in such a small amount of time." Mina stated.

"He is definitely trained since childhood as it feels like it has been ingrained deeply into him. In the first half, he did not even fight others but just used surprise attacks to steal flags from other people. He is able to do that because of his mastery of the terrain plus the support of that summoner's soulbound." Adrian stated as he pointed to the Splitting Chameleon.

"If that soulbound is really useful then why not get one?" Marlon asked as Adrian barely praises a monster unless it is special.

"I would have but they are very rare and difficult to find. They also have a unique brain which will make anyone who use them have migraines. That is the reason why the Splitting Chameleon got forgotten despite being extremely useful.

That summoner must not be fully human or has a special skill because having lots of images being uploaded to your head will make your mind split. He might not be up to par with the other rankers, but he is not useless. In fact, he is one of the most useful in these types of scenarios." Adrian stated as he praised the summoner player that can control a Splitting Chameleon.

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Apolaki did not wander too long as he finally reached the location that he wanted. In the end of a ravine that is backed against the wall are the Twin Blades. The flag of the Chinese national team is proudly swishing in the air, and no one seems to even want to attempt to challenge it.

"I guess they do not want to get on the bad side of the best player of the game but that is not my problem.." Apolaki stated.

## Chapter 756 - Unexpected Flag Stealer II

Apolaki spotted the base flag of the Chinese National Team and smirked as he noticed that no team even dares to steal it. He has thought as much as no team would want to get on the bad side of the rank one player, but Apolaki is different or rather he does not care.

"The other players are just waiting for a chance to strike but they are hesitant because they do not want to be Hou Yiwei's target. It is a sound explanation, but the event would be very boring if that is to happen. The event needs to be unpredictable in order to be great." Apolaki muttered to himself as he clutched his kampilan.

If the Philippine National team is asked why they are not venturing with Apolaki as a team, then they would all have the same answer. They would answer with one sentence and that is 'I am not crazy enough to travel with that guy even if he is our leader!'.

The reason that they do not like traveling with Apolaki as a duo in the map is that they have a difficult time keeping up with his hyperactive playstyle. There is also the fact that he has a difficult time controlling himself whenever he is fighting another skilled player that he often times forgets that he has team members.

Apolaki does not suck at team battles, but his playstyle does not revolve around it. In fact, their team had better synergy when they just let him do as he pleases while still supporting him from a distance. They are a very unconventional team if one describes their national team.

Upon spotting the Twin Blades, Apolaki disabled the Spirit Walk skill as he cannot deal any type of damage when that skill is active. He will take twice the magic damage if he gets hit with something while under the influence of the skill. He deactivated it in fear of the sword carried by Jiang that can cut even mana.

Apolaki did not even try to stealthily approach as he showed himself to the Twin Blades. The Twin Blades are now fully healed as they have restored their mana and health in their base. The cooldown of the skills that they used are not yet recovered though.

"It seems someone is very confident my love." Jiang stated.

"Indeed, my love. He even came alone." Ye stated as they looked icily at Apolaki.

Apolaki did not bother to even retort their remarks as he charged towards their location at a moment's notice. The Twin Blades did not comment anymore as their opponent is serious in attacking them. The Twin Blades still did not look at Apolaki in equal eyes as they do not know him because he is not even that high up in the leaderboard.

Apolaki is actually at the rank 50s when it comes to level, and he is even below in the warrior category. They think that rank is a determination of one's own power because they have the rank one player on their team and even, they are in the top 10s. Needless to say that it is a mistake to do so because their opponent is not an ordinary player.

Apolaki swung his kampilan downwards and is blocked by Ye. Jiang then followed up with attack to the neck, but Apolaki reached out for his kris and poured mana onto it. Apolaki's body that is physically there vanished into smoke. The next moment, Apolaki appeared behind Ye and swung his kampilan towards her back.

"Aack!" Ye shouted as the attack is powerful and precise that she even got the bleeding status ailment.

"Is that all you two got? I am a bit disappointed." Apolaki stated as his calm and composed self is now looking like a beast has been unleashed.

Apolaki felt like he became a different person that is not the honest looking person in the entrance ceremony. Inside of the sheep is actually a wolf that is ready to bite his opponent's head off. The Twin Blades could not keep up with Apolaki's momentum that they actually struggled to synergize.

The flow of the battle is now controlled by their opponent that they cannot recover. More cuts started to form in the bodies of the Twin Blades as they are relentlessly assaulted by attacks. Apolaki's sword style is vastly superior to that of the Twin Blades.

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"Do you think that the team captain is fine?" The summoner from the Philippine National Team asked the other two that were guarding their flag.

"He is fine. In fact, I am more worried about his opponents. I am still in shock that he transforms into another person during combat like he is possessed. The calm and stoic team captain that has a caring personality flip into a blood hungry monster." The mage player replied as he reminisced on the practice sessions that they did as a group.

"It is actually scary that he managed to defeat the three of us including Dupe all by himself. It feels as if he is like a warrior in the legends that have been told to us." The priest player added as all of them shuddered together upon reliving the scene on their minds.

"Be ready as many players are coming their way here. I think they want revenge for being caught in the traps. Worry about yourselves before you worry about the team captain." Dupe stated as she went to warn the three that many people are coming from the left side of the jungle.

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"That guy's expression is somewhat familiar. I cannot put my finger on it, but he reminds me of someone. He looks like he is enjoying the fight like a maniac. He is definitely a battle junky, but I cannot remember who he resembles." Marlon uttered to himself as his cousin and Jade looked at him in disbelief.

Jade held Marlon's head and directed his face to look at Adrian after he said those words.

"Ah! Now I see the resemblance!" Marlon shouted as if he got an epiphany.

## Chapter 757 - Apolaki

Of the national team members in Apolaki's group, only he did not need to audition because he already got the part when his name got popular in the scene. It is actually the highest ranked player in their country that told the recruiters to prioritize him if they wanted a medal in the upcoming Pandelympics.

Needless to say, Apolaki gladly joined the Pandelympics with the consent of his clan. They usually do not trouble themselves with the outside world but gaining an achievement for the country takes precedent which is why their clan will give the country athletes to win medals in the Olympics and such.

This is no different as it is a prestigious event that is paid attention by the world. Since Apolaki is actually one of the few that play Pandemonium in their clan, he is given the opportunity to show his prowess. He is the perfect example of applying the rules of the real world to virtual reality because he has formal training.

He is also one of the best fighters of his generation in his clan which makes him the perfect candidate. His reason for playing Pandemonium is simple and that is a chance to use what he learned in the real world as he cannot simply ask people for sword fights. He would definitely be dragged to a mental institute or jail if he kills someone.

He started with the warrior class and chose human as his race because he wanted to be close to reality as possible. He also chose to become a light armored warrior which many try to avoid as they want to be the tank warriors which is famous for being newbie friendly.

He played the game and discovered how fun it actually was to use the things that he learned in the real world like combat and survival. In this world, he could run wild without caring as he would not be judged if he killed his opponent or beat them to a pulp. He always wanted to fight to the utmost of his abilities, but he still tries to maintain a level headedness albeit not being good at it.

The game, Pandemonium, unleashed Apolaki's limiter as he always tried to hold himself back in fear of hurting other people. This is the reason why he loved playing Pandemonium so much that he would travel distant lands in order to fight strong NPCs that are higher level than him.

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"He is a battle junkie." Adrian commented which made all his friends almost choke on their drinks.

"Talk about the pot calling the kettle black." Jade muttered.

"What did you say?" Adrian asked as he did not catch what Jade muttered.

"Nothing! I said that you are right." Jade stated in order to affirm that she was not saying anything else, but she had an anxious look on her face.

"I am actually surprised that he could drive the Twin Blades on the edge like that. He is basically dealing with two rankers at the same time without much difficulty." Marlon stated to shift the topic before Jade buries herself.

"That is definitely the sword style of the clan. So, he is the participant that they chose for this event. He is probably from a branch family and will not recognize me." Adrian's mother thought to herself as she knows of the inner workings of the clan.

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Apolaki used his kampilan to deal great damage to the Twin Blades. His sword style is leagues above the two and even they could not help but admit it. The Twin Blades has no choice but to activate their sword auras as they will not be able to turn the tides without it.

"Sword Aura!" The Twin Blades shouted as they got coated in their signature black and white colors once again.

The stats of the two roses as they become twice as fast that even Apolaki is having trouble keeping an eye on. They are now like blurs passing through his eyes as he is now using pure intuition to predict their attacks.

Jiang swung his sword towards Apolaki's left side while Ye swung her sword to his right side. He did not notice that he has been caught by the attack pattern of the opponents. A normal player would have panicked and admitted his death there, but Apolaki is smiling ear to ear.

"As expected, the official event is really nice." Apolaki stated as he let himself be cut by the two swords.

His health suddenly dropped to a third of his maximum health while he distanced himself from the Twin Blades. The Twin Blades thought that it was odd that they did not kill Apolaki seeing that he is only wearing light armor, but they just needed to strike him again to finish the job.

The two would have attacked Apolaki but they saw him smiling widely. He is even chuckling a little bit like a kid that became high on sweets. The two instantly felt that something is very wrong with their opponent.

Their instincts are basically screaming at them to run away but they are too proud to do that. The Twin Blades just looked at each other and nodded to kill Apolaki. They might just be high strung from the battles that they have fought earlier.

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"The most terrifying thing about the team captain is when he is smiling and having fun. That was the start of the hell that we all fear. Just thinking about it is giving me shivers." Dupe stated as they have killed off all the players that attacked them albeit being battered and low on health.

"Yeah! It is like a demon from the underworld possessed him or something." The summoner player nodded his head vigorously.

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"I am really having fun" Apolaki muttered as his eyes look like that of someone possessed.

"Battlefield of the Damned!" Apolaki stated as he held his kris and dropped it to the ground.. The Kris did not get stuck to the ground but instead fused with it as a dark haze started to form in the surroundings.

## Chapter 758 - Battlefield Of The Damned

"Battlefield of the Damned!" Apolaki stated as he held his kris and dropped it to the ground. The Kris did not get stuck to the ground but instead fused with it as a dark haze started to form in the surroundings. The Kris melded with the ground and an ominous aura suddenly enveloped the part of the ravine where the Chinese National team use as their base.

The Twin Blades thought that they had the advantage, but their opponent used one of their hidden cards. They felt an ominous feeling on their backs like they are fighting an undead horde but without the miasma. The surroundings became foggy as the two are now back-to-back against each other as Apolaki disappeared from their sights.

"Can you see him?" Jiang asked Ye.

"I cannot even detect him." Ye answered as she is the most perceptive of the two.

With their backs against each other, the Twin Blades protected the flag that is being targeted by their opponent. If this is not a battle that they need to protect something, then they will definitely go away from the area affected by the skill.

"Is this one of the domains that is said to be a precious skill?" Ye asked Jiang as she wanted to be sure that this is a domain. If it a real domain then they will need to use their trump cards as well in order to just survive.

"I think so." Jiang replied as a swift whistling sound suddenly emanated from somewhere.

The whistling sound actually came from the sound of Apolaki's sword slicing through the wind and hitting Ye's right shoulder. The female swordswoman cried out as she felt the damage through her bone despite the cut not being that deep.

Another whistling sound is heard, and it is Jiang's left leg that is cut by the force of Apolaki's blow. The Twin Blades suddenly felt something that they have never felt before and that is despair. They were prodigies and the swords they carried are not normal weapons, but a no name player is actually beating the two of them single handedly.

The people in the audience are dumbfounded on what they are watching especially the fans of the Twin Blades. They have never seen their idols being pushed to the breaking point like they are children. Even their sword aura can barely defend them against their opponent's strikes.

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"If that guy is that good, how did he die on the first round so easily?" Marlon wondered as even he could not believe what he is witnessing. It is almost straight up bullying if people did not know that the one pinning the Twin Blades is actually lower in the leaderboards.

"He did not die easily but the series of disasters that struck took a toll on him. He also felt that he should lose in that event as he has seen some of the moves of his opponents. He is a very dangerous foe." Adrian stated which made his friends look at him.

Adrian rarely uses the word dangerous when describing players as he only used that description if someone is at the same level as Hou Yiwei or Eldritch. They know that this Apolaki player is no ordinary player despite not being that popular. He did not even stream or post videos which is why he is very anonymous, but this event highlighted his peak skill in the game.

"If you were to pick between Eldritch and Apolaki, who would be the most difficult opponent?" Jade asked as she wanted to know.

"I am not sure because I have not yet fought Apolaki but he is leagues more difficult compared to Eldritch because he specializes in close combat. I am only saying that because I am of the summoner class and if he gets close to me then I have a high chance of losing." Adrian answered as he knows the strengths and weaknesses of his character.

"Hey! Look at that!" Mina stated as she pointed to something stuck on the ground.

The thing that she pointed is actually a sword, but it looks like an illusion due to its ghostly appearance. They then noticed that the sword that Mina pointed out suddenly vanished from its location. The next thing that happened is a slash attack on Jiang's chest.

"He is using a skill that can generate swords that can deal magic damage. This is the first time that I have seen a warrior class that actually deals magic damage since magic swordsmen are very rare since they are difficult to become and difficult to strengthen." Adrian commented.

"Here I thought that it was a domain skill." Jade stated as she does not really have a domain skill like Adrian or Marlon.

"It is not a domain skill because a domain is something that you can control, and it moves with the caster. It is also something only someone or someplace divine could be generated. Domains are basically a part of a divine realm that one has gained mastery over." Adrian stated as he casually revealed the information about domains.

If Adrian sold the information that he knows of the ways of Pandemonium, then he would have been rich by now. This is one of the reasons why he is not high leveled as he tends to get distracted by the lore and knowledge of things. If he did not focus as much, then he might have undergone his second awakening by now.

"It is over for the Twin Blades." Adrian thought as he could see that the Twin Blades did not use or rather would not use another trump card in their sleeve. The PVP event is actually in the fourth day, and they have a higher chance of winning if they do not reveal all their cards now.

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As Adrian thought, the Twin Blades could not fight back as their skills literally hit air whenever they swung their swords. It did not take long for Apolaki to defeat the two and get the flag of the Chinese National team.

"One down. Another to go.." Apolaki stated as he climbed the mountains.

#### Chapter 759 - Special Bird

When Hou Yiwei learned of the defeat of the Jiang and Ye with their flag being stolen, he suddenly lost his composure for a second. He wanted to kill the group that actually defeated the Twin Blades, and he could see the flag location on the map.

If Hou Yiwei learned that only one person actually defeated the Twin Blades, then he would also become wary of him. As he became distracted, Frey managed to shrink the distance between them. She is about to stab Hou Yiwei in the chest when the shaman player interfered with a spell that can momentarily disorient or confuse an enemy.

"We are tracking down the guy that stole our flag." Hou Yiwei stated as he provided cover fire for his other two team members to retreat. Their objective now is getting back their flag as the generated points stopped.

Frey and Totem suddenly got bewildered by the sudden change of attitude of their opponent. The two did not understand why Hou Yiwei and his team members suddenly stopped fighting. It dawned on them a few moments later that something must have happened to their flag.

The Chinese National Team retreated and left the two rankers looking at each other. Frey did not want to waste her time fighting anymore as she needed more flags. Totem is the same as he needs to make up for the lost time that was taken from him.

The two did not look talk to each other and just went on their separate ways. Of course, they still remained vigilant against each other as they are still enemies. They only dropped their vigilance when they could no longer sense each other.

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A person's luck is said to be a number that changes but what if you have a stat that actually increases your chances of becoming lucky. That is the story of a player from the Finnish national team named Onnea as is a thief job class player with the advance job class of Lucky Thief.

Her skillset is heavily based on luck, but she also has some skill since not everything can be compensated with luck. Her skills are luck focused because landing a critical hit or something is determined by her skill called 'Roll the Dice'.

She can use this skill to give a random buff to herself depending on the face of a polyhedral. This special dice decides the buff that she can gain but she can also gain debuffs depending on the occasion. The skill called 'Dead Man's Luck' also activates for him whenever he is close to death.

It is actually a flip coin type of skill that determines whether he would die from the damage or reduce it with a number that is also rolled by another dice with a max value of a hundred. This time, his skill activated but the damage only got reduced to 5% of his health.

"To think that this jungle area is really laid with numerous traps." Onnea stated as she stood up and patted her clothes from the dust.

She only escaped because of her skill but she also managed to get three flags that came flying her way. She did not know why she is really lucky, but she never complains. She does not complain because she is never lucky in the real world.

Whenever she plays gacha games, she never really gets the rarest character. Even if she rolled for a gacha that has a fixed chance, she would still get the weakest unit of the bunch. She is definitely not lucky in the real world which is why she tried changing that in the virtual world.

She basically researched luck in Pandemonium and a way to obtain it. She actually managed to activate the luck stat in the starting village due to her curiosity. She got the luck stat and used that as a basis of her gameplay.

In each roll for rare items, she would get the best ones. In every drop, she would have a higher chance of also dropping the rarest of the items. She is living her virtual life with the best that luck could offer her as she always treated herself as unlucky.

In fact, the Finnish National Team picked her as a player because she also has a passive skill that boosts the chances of something great happening to them. She is the reason why their flag is concealed in a special place that even other players could not locate and such.

In fact, this competition really tested her luck as she feels that it is stretched thin. The first event never did her any good as she did not survive the disasters. Now, the second event is actually testing if she is even lucky at all.

Her team member triggered a trap that simultaneously set a chain reaction that killed him. She is left with such low health that she is actually debating to kill herself but the three flags that she got said otherwise. It seems that luck has not forsaken her as she got three flags without doing much. All she needed to do is return it to their base before their other enemy teams find out.

"I am already exhausted and barely living. I do not know if I could even reach our base as this rate." Onnea stated as she suddenly felt something small bump into her head.

She turned her back to see what is the thing that bumped into her as she got reduced by one health. She is going to beat this thing to throw it far once she sees it, but she suddenly changed her mind. The small thing that bumped into her is actually a small black bird that is very adorable. One look at the small black bird and one would see that it is absolutely adorable.

"You are lucky that you are cute or else I would have killed you." Onnea stated but she suddenly received a notification.

[Do you want to restore your health and stamina back to full health with the added bonus of cleansing the flag debuffs?]

## Chapter 760 - Results Of The Second Event

The infamous special NPC that every player in the battlefield is trying to glimpse is actually a small black bird. Only a handful of people has encountered this black bird as it appears in certain areas but there is actually one in each area.

The small black birds just rotate every three minutes in an area which is why it is not easily encountered. In fact, it can be seen to eye people with flags as it is its favorite meal. If a player has one flag, the small black bird will not come to you as it is wary of the player.

If a player has two flags, then you can see that it will come close to the player. If the player has more than two flags, the player could expect that the small black bird will come to your area and beg you to give it a flag. This is the situation that is happening all over the area of the second event.

Players that have multiple skirmishes and taken flags from other players are not in their best shape. They happen to chance upon the special NPC that the announcer said and is able to go back to their bases with one less flag from what they have obtained.

The fact that the special NPC does exist, and it is in the form of a bird made the players become bolder. The players have gone berserk as they wanted to get all the flags that they could and just find the special black bird. If they get four flags and get cleansed, then they can safely return three flags to their bases.

The battles became chaotic, but the audience became even more excited. Battles in the shores of the beach, battles inside caves, battles in the jungle and battles in the swamplands are all in session. The audience could not even see all the battles much less process all the battles they are watching.

Fortunately for the audience, they could rewatch what they missed as the videos for the battle are all being uploaded in the Pandemonium Hall of Fame. The hall of fame features all the videos of the contestants as they are the big sluggers in this time period.

In fact, not much is actually happening inside the game because of the soft freeze that the developers coded. This is to make sure that no kingdom would wage war on another when the

rankers are doing battle in the Pandelympics. They did this so that rankers will always attend the events like Pandelympics.

There have been cases in past video games where the rankers were off to an event and then their enemies that were not part of the event waged war in the kingdom. Needless to say, that game died in just a year because of the backlash that they received and no rankers ever attending their live events ever again which made the events stale and uninteresting.

The constant battles have started to die down just a few minutes after the initial bouts. Battles between rankers are very interesting because of the skills and gameplay mechanics that they use. Unlike other games where ranked battles end in ten to fifteen minutes, battles in Pandemonium last for hours depending on the difference in strength.

It could also end in minutes if the players are drowning in buffs like Sveto. Still, the fights are exciting to watch because of the fantasy elements added to the mix. Every person as a child once dreamed of becoming a knight or mage.

In the end only three teams managed to become victorious, and it was not the teams that they have thought. Still, many dark horses have been revealed in the second event as the audience can now expect that the voting poll of winners could actually change. Many were hopeful as they bet on the underdog and the cash return would be amazing.

#### Country - Points

1. United States - 7
2. United Kingdom - 10
3. Germany - 11
4. France - 6
5. Italy - 5
6. Ukraine - 5
7. China - 9
8. Australia - 5
9. Japan - 10
10. Russia - 15
11. South Korea - 14
12. Sweden - 15
13. Brazil - 5
14. Finland - 7
15. Canada - 6

- 16. Philippines - 19
- 17. Thailand - 8
- 18. Poland - 5
- 19. Malaysia - 8
- 20. Taiwan - 8

The winner for this event is actually the Philippine national team. In second place is the Russian and Swedish national team as they tied. They did a tie breaker and Russia became the winner as they managed to take the flag of the Swedish national team in the end.

Pinning down Frey became an easy task for Sveto because of the immense buffs that he received as the Swedish national team lacks a burst damage player that is needed to kill someone like Sveto that is supported by Anastacia.

The MVP for this match is surprisingly a 50-50 vote between the audience and the system. The audience voted for the MVP that they want, and the system will add that score to its analysis. In the end, the MVP for the event landed on Dupe as she is recognized by everyone as the one who did the most for the event.

The audience became enamored by her ingenious use of the traps that she laid as if she is playing a song. It is a chaotic melody that drove those caught in her trap to their untimely deaths. The audience also got to witness funny scenes from people foolish enough to accidentally step on her traps.

In fact, there is already a compilation of the players that are deemed with the funniest reactions from the traps. It is actually in the top trending page of all streaming sites because of the hilarious expressions.

The top video is that of a player having a face that is already so done with life that he just accepted the outcome of his demise. He had the face that said, 'Why are we still here...just to suffer'.

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Ranking:

1st Team Philippines

2nd Team Russia

3rd Team Sweden

MVP - Dupe