

S vs Rebirth 471

Chapter 471 Shock

Bam!

The warhammer struck the ground, splitting it. Some of the cracked stones emerged from the ground and hit three people.

Seeing how Paul had greeted them, Noel shouted to Rose, "Anyone powerful?"

"I'm not sure. They're surprised, but none of them are actually experienced enough to react far faster than anyone else." Rose explained, indicating their strength.

It seemed the enemies this time didn't have any high ranking people. After all, if they had Spirit Master if not Spirit Grandmaster, they would have reacted to Paul's attack or at least launched a counterattack.

Since they didn't react, Noel pulled out his sword and sped up. The others seemed to have the same thought as they ran next to Noel.

Stella reminded them. "We're facing the Supreme Devil Organization. Maintain vigilance. This can be a trap as well."

The rest nodded and started approaching from all directions. In the meantime, Rose jumped into the air, looking at their entire surroundings.

"There's no one around," Rose reported out loud. It appeared this wasn't a trap.

So, Noel and the others didn't have any more hesitation in their hearts.

Noel looped around Paul and approached the enemy from the left. Although this would be a good time to use the Phoenix Wings and Undying Fire Feathers to kill many people at once, he believed this wasn't the time yet, considering there might still be a potential enemy. He was sure a high ranking person was

around the Demon Hunting Squad's base, so he had to conserve a bit of his energy to handle anything that would come their way.

Hence, Noel had chosen his Sword Fire and Ignition Sword as his weapon to kill these Demon Worshipers.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

A series of explosions occurred as Noel skillfully clashed blades with the Demon Worshipers. As a Spirit Wielder, Noel's Ignition Sword was unstoppable. The Demon Worshipers were either Spirit Apprentices or Spirit Practitioners, so their weapons shattered or their bodies were destroyed by the explosion.

"Ah!"

"No!"

"What is this?!"

They were confused because they didn't expect the Demon Hunting Squad to find them like this.

They tried to fight back, but the Demon Relief Squad had an overwhelming strength against them, killing their people one by one.

Even Noel managed to kill seventeen people in this raid alone, giving significant progress to his mission.

There was simply little to no resistance as they finished the battle within fifteen minutes. And those from the Demon Hunting Squad could only look at them from far away.

"This..." They were utterly shocked by the squad's strength. Although they had a lot of confidence in the Demon Hunting Squad, it didn't change the fact that the Demon Relief Squad was ranked higher than them

In addition, the squad before them was their zero squad. They had a lot of things to learn from them, so they didn't join the fight and just observed them.

Noel was looking around to see the surroundings. Unfortunately, he found no one, making him become even more suspicious about the entire group.

"This is weird..." Noel muttered while glancing at Rose, signaling that the entire situation wasn't right.

Rose nodded with a serious expression and told everyone. "There must be something not right."

"What do you mean?" Paul asked while furrowing his eyebrows.

"I'm not sure what is not right, but looking at these people, don't you think it's weird for them to be staying here just by themselves?"

"It's possible? We can't predict what the Supreme Devil Organization wants." Paul still didn't understand what Rose was talking about. He actually forgot about the most important thing in this situation.

Rose shook her head calmly and pointed to the ground. "Paul. You forgot something. Where are we?"

"We are near the Demon Hunting..." Paul wanted to give the base as an answer, but he suddenly stopped, remembering there was a more appropriate answer. "We are beyond the border!"

That was right. They were beyond the border where more dangerous monsters resided. The Demon Worshipers might appear here, but coming here in a group like this was the same as courting death. So, they must come here with someone strong.

And that strong person was most likely the culprit of the entire situation.

"That's right. I'm afraid that many strong ones are hiding somewhere and we don't know what they're aiming for right now..." Rose warned them with a grim expression. They had to be careful so as to not get ambushed. After all, they had been ruining the Supreme Devil Organization's plans multiple times in a short period.

Paul paused for a moment and turned to Ben. "We're going to split the team. You are to lead the second team. Your group will consist of you, Jonathan, Rose, and Iadre. I'll bring Stella and Zion with me."

"Got it." Ben nodded. Normally, the leader would be Stella, but it seemed Paul needed Stella in this situation. Her firepower was second to Paul in the group after all.

As soon as they reached an agreement, Ben asked for confirmation, "Then, we're going back... right?"

"Yeah. Go back to the base and find another trace. I'm assuming they're planning to use these people as baits."

"Got it. Let's go back then." Ben nodded while turning to his teammates. Without wasting any more time, he ran back, knowing Paul would be running around to search for the remaining trace.

Noel and the group ran back to the base while wondering what the Supreme Devil Organization's target was.

Stella was racking her brain while Jonathan observed Noel, wondering what he planned to do. After all, Noel was sharper than Rose. Seeing how Noel had been giving some secret signals to Rose, he believed Noel had found something.

Meanwhile, Ben was bolder than Jonathan this time. He matched Noel's place so that he could say something to him.

Noel was confused at first but soon was dumbstruck when Ben opened his mouth.

He actually asked, "So, what is your plan, Noel?"

Chapter 472 Fighting Together

"So, what is your plan, Noel?"

"!!!" Jonathan and Rose were startled, staring at Ben.

On the other hand, Noel maintained his poker face as if he was trying to play dumb. But with a single glance at Ben's face, he determined Ben had confirmed his identity.

"..." Noel didn't expect Ben to find out about this far faster than Stella and the others.

Ben shrugged and explained the reason so that Noel could reply to him. "It's simple. I'm good at everything, and I have been observing the rest of you, including your work during the reconstruction. That's where I know you have a particular style in that kind of work. So, I know it's you.

"I'm pretty sure that Rose knew about it before anyone else since she cheered up after your arrival. Jonathan should've found out not long before this, but I won't talk about that right now.

"What I want to know is your plan. It seems you have figured out something, so... do you want to add anything?" Ben asked.

Noel was speechless. Because Ben was lacking in presence, he had forgotten Ben's existence and excellence this whole time. Ben was the one who would take care of their mess, so he obviously knew more than anyone else.

"I'm somehow getting scared of you just now..." Jonathan couldn't help but shake his head. Ben was the jack of all trades, so he didn't stand out in the group. Even so, he was actually the person they relied on the most. So, Jonathan wondered how much Ben knew this whole time.

Noel wanted to make a comment as well, but he had to focus on the current matter. "Yes. It seems that they're targeting the base itself. I'm afraid our current plan has been leaked. By sending all our people out, they will have a chance to destroy the base. When that happens, no one can predict what will happen to the entire area."

"!!!" Ben and the others shuddered. Ben frowned and asked to confirm his doubt. "So, you're saying they're planning to lead their main force to attack the base?"

"Yeah. I'm not sure about the number of Supreme Devil Organization members. Our Demon Banner Army only has around twenty thousand people. But the Supreme Devil Organization should have a lower standard to become a member, so..." Noel sighed.

"By using these cannon fodders, they're planning to target the base. It's true that reconstructing the base will take a long time, but I'm afraid Hendry Igor will be their target. Without their captain, the Demon Hunting Squad will lose their power after all."

"I have warned him, but I don't know what he is doing right now." Noel shook his head helplessly. He wanted to believe in Igor, but the latter didn't show any sign of trust. So, he had to consider the worst possible outcome.

Unfortunately for them, their worst fear came true.

When they came back from their chase, they found the base being attacked by many demons.

They could find ten humans at the very edge as well. They were wearing black robes to cover their body and facial features. But with their positions, Noel and the others knew they were the culprits.

"Hurry up and attack them! We have to stop all these demons!"

A familiar voice resounded on the battlefield. They raised their heads and saw Richard leading the knights on the wall to crush the demons.

"Where is the signal?"

It seemed like there was a problem with their group. There should be a signal to inform their members that the base is under attack. Yet, they release it this whole time, making Noel suspicious.

"This..." Noel pointed at the wall and said, "I'm afraid that they have encountered a problem. We should go to the wall to help them."

Jonathan looked at the people behind those monsters. "What about them?"

"Although it's very tempting to attack them, it's better to reinforce the base first since they are encountering a problem. We have to know about the problem first before killing those guys." Noel explained before asking Ben. "Do you mind if I take over the command?"

"It's all yours." Ben knew Noel was sharper than him in this group. So, he didn't hesitate to relinquish his command.

As soon as he received the authority, Noel gave his order. "Jonathan. I want you to stay here to watch their movement. If those humans are planning to do something, you are going to stop them. Of course, you shouldn't attack them if you deem they're far too dangerous such as a Devil Bishop.

"Rose will go to Richard. Get the information from him and report it to me. Meanwhile, Ben and I will go to the wall and kill some monsters, relieving some pressure so that you can get the information."

"Got it." Jonathan and Rose agreed without hesitation while Ben asked one more thing. "Do we need to inform Paul and the others?"

"No. It will take too long and our strength is kind of limited. It's better to work with the people inside the base instead of getting Paul, Stella, and Zion."

"Alright. Let's go then!" Ben smiled. It had been a while since Noel took the reign. He wanted to know, when Noel got the authority, how far he would go.

Noel and Ben increased their speed as they planned to open the path for Rose.

"That's..." The ten people covered in black robes saw Noel and Ben, followed by Rose behind them. However, they didn't know that Jonathan was watching them from another spot.

Noel ignored their gaze as he released his Sword Fire, sending for the blazing fire to the monsters.

The flame burned everything and some demons couldn't withstand the heat and died without being able to fight back.

Ben took out a sword and a spear. He first gathered his Spiritual Energy in the tip of his spear before throwing it forward. The intense energy pierced through the demon's body without any resistance, startling the demons.

After that, Ben raised his sword and slightly tilted it in Noel's direction.

"It's been a while, Noel. Let's go, shall we?"

Noel smirked, feeling excited as well. He waved his sword at him as if they were giving each other a high-five.

But in that instant, Noel's fire and Ben's Spiritual Energy came out of their weapons. They waved it at the same time, creating a black and white cross slash that traveled to the demons.

"GO!"

Chapter 473 Sync

"GO!"

Both of them shouted at the same time as they released a cross sword strike. Noel's fire slash from the Sword Fire was in the front while the Pure Spiritual Energy from Ben backed him up, ready to use itself to fuel Noel's fire.

Boom!

The moment the Sword Fire hit the demon, it caused a huge explosion fueled by the Spiritual Energy from Ben's slash.

The explosion blasted all the demons nearby and burned everything inside it. There didn't seem to be high level demons, so every demon engulfed by the flame was burned to death.

Rose was amused by this sight. He had seen them fighting together but was never this sync.

At the same time, she could somehow understand why they fought like this. Even though they had never used this kind of fighting style, they had observed each other's movements. This attack was simply how they greeted each other after Noel revealed his identity.

She couldn't help but smile, knowing that everyone would eventually realize Noel's identity. And at that time, the Demon Relief Squad would finally return to its former state.

Noel and Ben turned their heads around, informing Rose.

"We'll open the path for you," stated Ben with a collected expression as if everything was within his prediction.

"That's right. Just leave everything to us." Noel nodded in agreement as he smirked when looking at Ben one last time. "Are you ready?"

Ben smiled back as he excitedly raised his weapon.

Some of the demons had turned around, planning to stop them.

Rose didn't even bother to look at these monsters as these two reliable backs made her feel safe.

Noel and Ben waved their swords, killing the demons in an instant. Noel used his Sword Fire and Ignition Sword to slash and explode the demons. Every swing was precise, so the demons couldn't last more than one round.

The same applied to Ben as he coated his sword with that Pure Spiritual Energy, cutting the demon cleanly.

No demon could stop them and the group kept getting closer to the wall.

Flame Conjuring.

Noel formed a pair of giant hands behind his back with this Flame Conjuring. These arms started grasping demons one by one. The flame didn't release heat, but it continuously burned the part caught by the hands until it melted them down completely.

"Haaaa!" Noel got even more fired up as he shouted while crushing all the demons. He even stepped forward to take charge while Ben focused on supporting Noel by killing the demons that Noel missed.

It didn't take too long for them to reach the wall. Noel put his sword in his mouth so that he could use it anytime he wanted to while using the two fire hands to protect himself.

Meanwhile, Ben stood in front of Noel with his sword so that no one could disturb him when tossing Rose.

"We got you." Noel winked his right eye, signaling to Rose.

Seeing Noel had lowered his body and joined both hands, Rose made a few small steps before stepping on Noel's hands as the latter tossed her into the air.

Rose could easily climb the tower with this, but the demons outside the borders seemed to be smarter than the ones they had seen so far.

As soon as they saw Rose jumping to the top of the wall, two of them leaped into the air, pouncing on her.

Rose just glanced at them to acknowledge their existence. However, she didn't take any action as a fire slash and a translucent sword strike cut both demons down. It was Noel and Ben.

Rose didn't even bother to look back as if she had complete trust in them.

"Heh..." Noel and Ben smirked. Since Noel usually took charge, Ben asked, "So, what are we going to do next? Kill them all?"

Noel confirmed without hesitation. "Yes. Let's kill these demons. We have to be careful against those guys who have yet to make their move."

"Got it."

Noel and Ben began slaughtering the demons without mercy. Meanwhile, Rose hurriedly showed her identity and requested a meeting with their commander.

And the one sent to meet her was none other than Richard.

"I'm here." Richard narrowed his eyes, never expecting Rose to come back like this. "What are you doing here?"

"I'm here to get information from you."

"..." Richard was speechless for a moment. Rose added to let him know which one he should tell her. "I need the chronology of what happened after we left. Then, the identity of those people along with the whereabouts of your captain!"

Richard gritted his teeth while checking the entire situation. He didn't like explaining this problem to her, an outsider. At the same time, she had the right to know some information.

He checked the situation around the wall first. After confirming they were safe, Richard answered, "I'm going to tell you this first. We don't know anything about those people... We're assuming that they are

from the Supreme Devil Organization. Their strength is quite good... From what I have seen, all of them are Spirit Masters.

"Our captain is chasing after their leader... or probably leaders. We're not sure yet, but we're dealing with this kind of situation here. Do you understand?"

"Of course. I have to know about the chronology to confirm whether this is a trap or not. If it's truly a trap, I'm afraid we have a mole, so I'm going to tell my squad about it to see what we can do."

Richard hated how others looked down on his squad or even insulted them. But he couldn't find any words to rebuke him since it was the truth.

As the Vice Captain of this squad, Richard obviously knew about the secret plan. But it was a different matter whether he could tell Rose or not.

After careful consideration, Richard finally opened his mouth. "Alright. I'm going to tell you a bit about the hidden plan we've devised, especially for these Supreme Devil Organization bastards."

Chapter 474 Outplayed

A moment ago.

After the Demon Relief Squad left to hunt their targets, more and more signals appeared. There were already two more people waving their flags as if they had found out about the enemy's trace.

Igor, who supervised the entire thing, frowned as he could feel danger was coming. He couldn't help but remember what Noel said regarding the Supreme Devil Organization's hatred toward their Demon Relief Squad.

Richard came to report. "Sir. There are a total of four signs, two in front, one on the west, and the other one, which has been taken care of by the Demon Relief Squad. What should we do?"

Igor paused for a moment before saying, "Get that sleeping guy here."

"Sleeping guy..." Richard made a weird smile. "Sir. He has slanted eyes, he's not sleeping."

After that remark, Igor didn't say anything else, so Richard had to go back to call his teammate.

As soon as the person in question arrived on the wall, Igor asked, "Those marks are fake and they'll be attacking us soon. If that's the scenario, what will you do?"

"Hmm?" The guy wasn't expecting a question like this. He looked down for a moment, contemplating.

It felt like someone managed to influence Igor since he acted differently this time. But if this was true, then there was something they could do.

"I suggest you leave this place immediately. If they're planning to destroy this base, I'm afraid they're going to send a powerful person to hold you back. In that case, it's better if you go far away from here to avoid destroying the area."

Igor looked this guy in the eye as if trying to confirm what he said. He had caught the hidden meaning behind those words. It wasn't that hard to understand, so Igor finally agreed with that suggestion.

"Alright. Call the second squad here and I'll be going to chase after the enemy."

"Got it."

Just like what they predicted, the enemy truly brought a pair of Spirit Grandmasters to provoke Igor.

They attacked the wall vigorously, intending to destroy it. But Igor shattered everything with his fist, allowing him to gain a good look at these two Spirit Grandmasters.

As soon as they stopped attacking, Igor jumped off the wall and chased after these people. He was rushing as if he was afraid that the squads he had sent around would be attacked by these guys.

The pair believed they had done their job and immediately retreated, trying to buy as much time as possible.

In the meantime, the ten Spirit Masters lured a lot of demons from all directions to attack this base. This way, the Zero Squad that was in charge of the base's protection would have their hands full.

...

"That's what happened," Richard explained the whole story.

"It seems that there is a mole that gives them the news about our movement," Rose muttered, instantly concluding this scenario. "We would have taken the enemy by surprise if our plan was not leaked.

"But at that time, there were only your captain and two zero squads. I don't like suspecting people, but our squad has been ruining their plan this whole time. So, I doubt our squad is the mole. That leaves..." Rose glanced, indirectly implying that the culprit was among their zero squads.

Richard obviously felt offended and glared at them. "Watch your mouths."

"I have a few reasons to suspect them." Rose snorted. "Anyway, we'll be helping you defend this wall. As for those ten Spirit Masters, our squad alone won't be enough. So..."

"Don't worry. We'll be helping you deal with those Spirit Masters." Richard didn't like how Rose spoke earlier, but they certainly needed their help right now. So, he wasn't going to cause more problems than necessary.

After getting the confirmation, Rose transmitted the whole situation to Noel and Ben below.

Noel surprisingly stopped for a moment as if feeling something weird.

'Two Spirit Grandmasters? I'm afraid those Grandmasters are Peak Spirit Grandmasters. They're equal to Devil Bishops.

'After all, those people should know better than anyone else that there will be Igor protecting this base. Even if they can somehow stall him, there is still Richard.

'That's why they have to send two Peak Spirit Grandmasters. And with the current situation, they can defeat Igor over time, but I don't think they have that much time since if we can solve these demons and regroup with Paul, we would be able to repel the other Peak Spirit Grandmasters.

'In that case, their aim is something else. They're just planning to stall Igor while crushing the Demon Hunting Squad.

'In other words, their original plan was this base all along. If this base is gone, no one will be able to stop them from creating more farms. Yeah, they should think the Count is still within their grasp, not realizing everything has started to crumble.'

With that thought in mind, Noel hurriedly raised his head and shouted to Rose, "Rose. I need you to maintain surveillance and find any Spirit Grandmaster. I'm afraid they're planning to destroy this base."

Rose nodded with a serious expression, albeit she froze afterward as if she was startled by what she saw.

She was pointing forward while having no words to say.

Noel was confused by her reaction. Even Richard, who was still standing next to her, followed that direction.

Both of them were dumbstruck when they saw a humongous tiger standing not far from the ten Spirit Masters.

Of course, a single Peak Level Demon wouldn't be so strange. The one that shocked them the most was actually the man that stood on top of the Peak Level Demon's head.

The demon was prideful, so they wouldn't allow someone to stand on top of their head. But this sight made them realize the enemy had managed to tame a Peak Level Demon.

Since the two Spirit Grandmasters that lured Igor away didn't ride a demon, it was clear that this person was the third Spirit Grandmaster.

In other words, there was a third Spirit Grandmaster that would be crushing them. Their target wasn't the base alone. They also wanted to take down Igor.

Noel clicked his tongue, realizing he had been outplayed by the enemy this time.

"Now, now... how should I fix this situation?"

Chapter 475 Leaving

Noel took some time to contemplate. He even said out loud, "Ben, buy me some time."

Ben didn't understand at first, but seeing Noel making a grim situation, it seemed that the situation was more complicated than he originally thought.

Seeing them deploying a lot of Spirit Masters, it seemed that the Supreme Devil Organizations had gone all out.

There were ten Spirit Masters in sight. According to the report, there were two Spirit Grandmasters and a possibility of a third Spirit Grandmaster.

There was no way three Spirit Grandmasters were only accompanied by ten Spirit Masters. So, he believed there were more Spirit Masters around them, and most likely, they were hiding because they knew rushing to this base wasn't a good option.

They wanted to know whether they had prepared a trap or not.

It was easy to see how by sending all these beasts to them.

Noel looked down for a moment. On the one hand, he had to make sure there were enough Spirit Masters on their side. On the other hand, the Supreme Devil Organization should have deployed around twenty Spirit Masters and three Spirit Grandmasters.

It seemed they were planning to destroy the Demon Hunting Squad this time. And with them being unable to report this situation to the other captains, the enemy would always have the numerical advantages.

'Two Spirit Grandmasters... There isn't a third Spirit Grandmaster yet and Captain Igor has left the Zero Squad, the First Squad, and the Third Squad in the base.

'With these three squads and us, it's possible to resist all those Spirit Masters. That leaves only the third Spirit Grandmaster.

'I want to ignore this possibility, but it's quite high to the point I have to put it in my calculation. No, wait a minute... Why does he only bring out the Second Squad instead of the First Squad? I can understand that the Zero Squad has to remain since Richard is the second in command. But First Squad?'

Noel felt something amiss. The one Igor should have brought was the First Squad, not the Second Squad. So, he wondered why he did it.

'Wait... we have enough Spirit Masters to resist the Supreme Devil Organization? Looking at the scale of this raid, the Supreme Devil Organization should have thought of a good plan. And this one is good since we're in a pinch.

'But Captain Igor's movement feels like he already knows about the enemy's movement...'

"!!!" Noel soon gasped, thinking of the ridiculous possibility. He muttered inwardly, 'Don't tell me, Captain Igor has known about this? If there's a mole to let them know about our movement, then... does that mean Captain Igor is already aware of the mole?'

The moment he considered the possibility of Igor knowing about the mole, he realized that the situation might be salvageable.

Suddenly, he turned around and jumped to the top of the wall. The wall wasn't that high, so he easily reached the top.

After that, he went to Richard and Rose while stating, "I need people to chase after Captain Igor. I'm sure that the Supreme Devil Organization has brought those Spirit Grandmasters in order to kill him. The loss of Captain Igor will be devastating, so we have to prevent it from happening.

"That's why I need people to help Captain Igor," Noel explained the situation before demanding reinforcement.

Richard paused for a moment. He was a bit skeptical of this plan, but Noel didn't seem to be planning to harm them.

Hence, Richard immediately asked, "How many men do you require?"

"I need Rose and Ben to come with me. And there should be one Spirit Master with us to turn around the situation. So, the strongest Spirit Master you can give me."

Richard thought for a moment and pointed at himself, "Then, I'll go with you."

"Huh?" Noel would never ask Richard to move together with him. After all, Richard's strength was beyond their league.

However, Richard's overwhelming strength would be extremely useful in this area. So, Noel had no intention of rejecting it.

Though, there was something he had to confirm. "If we leave, how about your team?"

"You don't have to worry about them. The First Squad's Captain can handle this and my squad is good as well. So, we can go just fine.

"Besides, it's better if you bring me here. Our opponent is Spirit Grandmasters. Assuming that the Captain could crush one of them easily, we have to stop the other one from buying enough time for our Captain.

"And the best person to deal with another Spirit Grandmaster is me. Although I don't know whether we're equal or not, I'm pretty sure that we can somehow buy enough time for my Captain to defeat his opponent."

Noel contemplated for a moment. It seemed that he had no other way to reject it. Of course, he was afraid that the enemy would unleash their third Spirit Grandmaster when Richard left.

But Noel knew the base had some Protection Enhancement that could be used to stop a Spirit Grandmaster for some time. Hence, they had the luxury of helping Igor.

"Alright Let's go according to your arrangement." Noel nodded with a serious expression. He knew that this was probably the best course of action they could take, considering they needed speed.

"I'll give my command to someone then. We'll go in two minutes. Get ready."

As soon as Noel nodded, Igor rushed to the other side of the wall to inform him about the new arrangement. As expected, the one he chose to take care of this wall was none other than the guy with slanted eyes. He was smart and quite powerful, so the wall should be safe for some time.

While waiting for him, Noel had gone down and informed Ben about their plan before climbing the wall with Ben.

Exactly two minutes later, Richard finally returned and nodded to them. "Alright. I'm ready. Do you want me to lead the group?"

"We prefer if ladre leads us, considering he's the only one to see through the enemy's plan." Rose supported Noel.

There was no objection. Richard simply nodded and pointed at Noel. "Shall we go?"

Chapter 476 Ambush

"Hmm?" One of the Spirit Masters narrowed his eyes and pointed at the distance. "Look!"

All of them followed the direction he pointed at and found four people leaping off the wall. It wouldn't matter that much if these people just wanted to die after getting surrounded by demons.

But the ones that came out just now were the Demon Relief Squad and the Vice Captain of the Demon Hunting Squad, they weren't people that would easily die because of some low level demons.

"The Demon Relief Squad?" It seemed they placed more importance on the Demon Relief Squad than the Vice Captain of the Demon Hunting Squad.

They had foiled a lot of their plans recently, so obviously, they were angry at the Demon Relief Squad to the point they wanted to eliminate them completely to show that no one could resist them.

"What should we do? The Demon Relief Squad has left."

"They should be heading to the Demon Hunting Squad's Captain. It will be troublesome if they can help him."

"Then again, there are two Spirit Grandmasters there. Do we even need to help them?"

"Of course. The Demon Relief Squad managed to solve two Superior Demons and one of our bishops, so we can't underestimate them."

"What are we going to do then?"

"We'll split our group into two. Five of you will remain here while the rest will follow them. At the very least, we can stop those Spirit Masters, allowing our side's Spirit Grandmaster to deal with that Vice Captain."

"It seems there's no other way."

"Yeah. We have to show the Demon Relief Squad who is the boss."

The ten Spirit Masters seemed to have reached an agreement. They hurriedly split their team and went after Noel and the others.

Rose obviously saw them coming and reported to Noel, "We're being chased."

"We don't have time to deal with them. So, we'll focus on going to Captain Igor." Noel shook his head helplessly, not wanting to bother with them.

Richard frowned and asked, "But shouldn't we turn around right away to launch a counterattack they never expected? I am a Spirit Grandmaster, so dealing with them shouldn't be a problem."

"No." Noel shook his head again. "If you take a look at the distance between us, it's clear that those Spirit Masters are maintaining a certain distance so that they can avoid our counterattacks. They want to buy some time while waiting for us to find the Spirit Grandmaster so that they can attack us."

"So, it's better to continue without caring about them." Noel shrugged. Instead of wasting their time, he preferred to fall into their traps and overcome them.

He already had a plan in mind anyway, so he wasn't afraid of them.

Rose didn't doubt Noel's judgment while Ben was trying to figure out Noel's plan. Richard was the only one who was confused about this decision to the point he wanted to raise his voice to show his point.

But Noel didn't pay any heed to his concern as he told Rose, "We're going to need you here. Can you fight?"

"Defeating an enemy? It's kind of hard to do that."

"No. I just want you to stall them."

"In that case, leave two of them to me. Ben should have no problem with two, right?" Rose smirked, teasing Ben as if she didn't believe Ben was that strong.

Ben only chuckled while saying, "Hahaha, indeed. I will stop two of them for you. You should worry about the Spirit Master you handle, considering you're still a Spirit Wielder."

"Well, it should be fine for now." Noel nodded, thanking him for the concern. However, it wasn't necessary since he had a certain plan to defeat this person.

They continued to track Igor's movement. They thought Igor had gone too far since he still couldn't see any traces of battle even after running for three minutes.

Hence, the group had to continue until they found a change of trace.

It seemed that his worry was soon answered when they heard a few explosions occurring on the horizon. They still couldn't find out about it, but Rose confirmed.

"There seem to be three people. I'm not sure about it yet, but that should be the number." Rose explained according to the number of noises she heard with her enhanced senses.

With Rose's confirmation, Noel and the others picked up their pace, trying to widen the gap between them and the Spirit Masters.

"!!!" The Spirit Masters were surprised that they decided to increase their pace. They thought it was their plan to ambush them, so they waved their hands, asking each other to lower their pace so that they could react to anything.

However, the noise of the battle soon proved them wrong. There was a fierce fight between three Grandmasters in that area.

The sound they produced could be heard from three hundred meters away. So, the Spirit Masters hurriedly sped up in order to catch up to them.

But the moment they sped up to catch up, the ground seemed to have turned into mud, causing two of them to trip.

"What are you doing?" The three Spirit Masters were confused since it was easy to avoid it.

But before they could reply, they heard another sound. They thought it came from the battle, but they were wrong.

Suddenly, Ben appeared from the right side and struck his blade, stopping them.

Clink! They were shocked and stared at Ben. Ben didn't care about it as he simply grabbed both of them and played with them first.

"Ambush!" The people shouted while looking around, finding a few arrows being shot from around them. They were in the woods after all, so they had no choice but to avoid those arrows.

They didn't realize it was an illusion, and it was the perfect opportunity for Noel to appear.

"!!!" One of the Spirit Masters managed to react and stopped Noel's blade, but because he was startled, he got pushed back a little bit, allowing Noel to grab his wrist and throw him away.

Chapter 477 Unleash Everything

"Kh!" The guy who was thrown away by Noel managed to land safely and stabilize his stance in an instant.

However, Noel was still fast enough to reach him and swung his sword downwards.

Clink!

The guy was forced to pull out his blade and block it with one hand on the handle and the other on the blade, trying hard to stop it.

'What's wrong with this guy's strength?' He asked inwardly, feeling something wrong with Noel's strength.

Noel was only a Spirit Wielder while he was a Spirit Master. There should be a huge gap in their strength.

Noel wasn't like Igor either, who trained his body to the limit and achieved that strength. So, it was quite surprising to find this power in that tiny body.

The Spiritual Energy started to come out of his body and made its way to the sword. Noticing the movement, the enemy also circulated his Spiritual Energy while jumping back to gain some distance to see what Noel was up to.

Before he could escape, Noel used the Spiritual Energy as fuel to light them up with the Ignition Sword.

Boom!

The explosion struck this guy from the Supreme Devil Organization, pushing him downward. The dust was kicked up, covering them.

Once it settled down, Noel actually managed to pin the guy on the ground. His enemy was on his knees, but unfortunately, the fire seemed to be not enough to deal some damage.

"Haaaa!" The guy was angry as his pride was being crushed after this mere Spirit Wielder managed to push him to this state. He let out a roar while releasing all his strength in one go.

The burst of Spiritual Energy allowed him to push Noel back and overpower him.

Unfortunately, Noel had always known that his attack would be completely useless against a Spirit Master like him. Hence, Noel jumped to the side as if he was trying to regain his composure.

His enemy chased after him and covered the distance in a single leap.

"!!!" Noel looked startled as he instinctively raised his sword, receiving his enemy's slash.

Clink!

The single clash actually launched Noel into the air before eventually landing a few meters back.

The enemy didn't give up after that one slash. He continued to chase after Noel as he didn't plan to let Noel go until he brutally killed him. This was the only way to wash away that shame.

Clink!

Clink!

A series of clashes resounded inside the woods as every time he struck, Noel was blown away for a few meters.

It looked like Noel was being pushed back by this guy and had no way to fight back. Little did this guy know, Noel was planning something.

After a few more rounds, Noel's face, which showed his distress, suddenly regained its calm.

"!!!" The rational side of the guy suddenly kicked in, not missing that single detail. Still, he had already swung his blade.

Suddenly, there was a burst of Spiritual Energy on Noel's sword as it received his slash.

Bam!

The swords collided, but the Spiritual Energy that empowered their swords ended up clashing, causing a small shock wave.

Surprisingly, Noel stood on his ground, not being pushed back even an inch.

After so long suppressing this ability, Noel could finally use it.

Everchanging Emotion Sword Style, Surprise.

Yes, Noel finally lifted the ban on his Everchanging Emotion Sword Style. There were three reasons why he decided to unleash this ability. Firstly, no one was around anymore. With no witnesses, no one would be able to recognize this ability.

Secondly, the people from the Demon Relief Squad that were with him right now knew his identity. There was no need to hide it anymore.

And last but not least, Noel always wanted to see how strong the Everchanging Emotion Sword Style was. Although he had been suppressing this sword style the whole time, it didn't mean he abandoned it.

Every opportunity present was used to train the abilities he couldn't show like the Ice Ability and this swordsmanship.

And finally, Noel could unleash everything on this opponent.

'He changes?' The enemy felt something from Noel. His instinct kicked in as his body moved by itself. 'Eh?'

The guy didn't realize it, but he was already a few meters away from Noel. His fear was actually telling him to fear Noel.

He kept staring at Noel dumbfoundedly as he found the Spiritual Energy on his sword and body intertwined with each other as if the sword had become a part of his body.

Noel took a deep breath before leaping forth. He waved his sword from the right. The Spiritual Energy on his sword became far sharper than previously.

"!!!" The enemy felt like this sword could cut everything, so he tried to avoid it.

Unfortunately for him, Noel created the Increase Agility Rune to give the last boost he needed to catch up to his opponent.

Clink!

Their swords clashed as the enemy gritted his teeth while feeling some numbing pain in his hand.

It felt like his sword would be destroyed if he continued this way. And even his hands would have a hard time.

Still, he was a Spirit Master. Unlike the previous battle, where Noel and Anna managed to suppress a Spirit Master from using all his abilities, Noel was alone this time.

The guy covered his body with Spiritual Energy like before. As soon as Noel approached him, he struck Noel's blade first, aiming for his neck.

Another clicking sound echoed in the woods as Noel blocked his swing easily. However, the position was close to his face.

Noel didn't feel anything the whole time until suddenly a sharp pain jolted his mind.

"!!!" Noel was startled and jumped to the side, avoiding whatever his opponent tried to do. But he soon realized the reason for that pain as he put his hand on his cheek, finding blood coming out.

'What?' Noel was dumbfounded, not understanding how the enemy managed to hit him. He had perfectly blocked that attack. So, Noel asked himself, 'How?'

Chapter 478 Clown

'How?'

While Noel asked that question, the guy clicked his tongue before smiling. "I guess even a baby, it's still a lion. Even if you lower your guard, you still put some distance..."

The guy was implying that Noel had the chance to block it right in front of his neck as if he was trying to make no waste movement. But Noel was more careful than he originally thought because he blocked it a bit far away from any vital area as if calculating the opponent's strength.

However, Noel didn't understand what he was talking about. He was still trying to figure out the enemy's strength.

It seemed the enemy didn't intend to wait for him as he charged forward with his blade, making the same swing as the previous one.

Noel remembered what happened in the previous slash and hurriedly used his Everchanging Sword Style to strike it. He used Fear to improve his speed for a split second, hitting the sword upward.

The guy smirked as if he didn't care about this sudden change of trajectory. He used the same ability to put a small wound on Noel's face.

Unfortunately, the distance between his neck and the sword was bigger than earlier. This time, Noel could finally see what was going on and ducked down.

His hair was cut a bit and Noel was forced to leap back.

Still, that clash gave him a lot of information. He recalled what happened earlier.

At the last second, the enemy's blade seemed to be releasing Spiritual Energy that formed another blade like an extension. It turned out the enemy could manipulate his Spiritual Energy freely as a weapon.

As if noticing Noel's change of expression, the enemy smirked and raised his sword to his back. Suddenly, the Spiritual Energy erupted on his sword as it gradually formed a longer blade covering the original blade.

"It seems you have noticed it." As one would expect from a Demon Banner Army's knight, he thought.

He didn't bother to hide it anymore. His smile was confident and his action was bold, thinking Noel wouldn't be able to do anything to him even if he knew it.

And to prove his confidence, he waved his blade horizontally. The Spiritual Energy erupted once again as the blade expanded.

"!!!" Noel hurriedly used the Surprise Emotion to bolster his defense and raised his sword to the right.

This time, the clicking sound felt like something was hit by a huge boulder. The sound was soon followed by a few bumping sounds as a few trees were cut down by this long blade.

Noel gritted his teeth, seeing this ten meter long blade. It was surprising to see there was a blade this long even if it was just an extension.

But wielding this kind of blade would surely take a toll on his physical body, so Noel ignored the numbing pain in his hands and leaped forward, trying to defeat him in close combat. With a sword that huge, it would be hard to use it anyway.

The guy had already expected this kind of movement since there were a lot of people who used the same strategy in the past.

Still, no one managed to kill him yet because... The guy's blade shrunk in a split second as the energy went backward, forming an extension to the guy's handle.

'A spear?!' Noel was shocked because the new form looked like a spear. That shock actually stopped him from attacking this guy as the latter was trying to stab him.

Noel was annoyed because he was forced to block this attack.

Meanwhile, the enemy was trying their best to defeat him and get all the glory.

After striking Noel, the guy retracted the blade again and changed its form again. Noel wasn't planning to lose either. These two strikes provided a lot of information about this guy.

His mind was pondering an attack pattern to use against such an opponent.

Before the third strike came, Noel rushed to the enemy while gathering his Spiritual Energy on his boots instead of his sword.

The guy was confused for a moment but decided to use the long sword again. He used the weight of a long sword and its momentum to launch Noel away.

To his surprise, Noel actually stopped and raised his right foot. Instead of blocking or avoiding this blade, Noel actually kicked it.

Clink!

The surprise didn't end there as another clicking sound echoed in their ears. The guy was astounded to see Noel's boot was actually as strong as a metal. He didn't know that his boot had been enhanced by the Hardening Rune.

Noel used this swing to step on the blade before using the sword's momentum to launch him forward.

The guy was shaken as Noel actually managed to come closer. Luckily, Noel would have a hard time stopping that momentum, so he would crash somewhere.

But what he didn't understand was why his instinct was telling him to block an attack.

The guy decided to follow the instinct that had helped him a lot in the past. Unexpectedly, Noel was actually right next to him.

Noel just used the Hyper Jump to step on air, stopping all that momentum. He thought he could catch the enemy off guard, but it seemed the Spirit Master was far stronger than his previous opponent.

"Tsk." Noel clicked his tongue, disappointed.

"Do you think you can defeat me just like that? A mere Spirit Wielder..." The guy shouted in anger, using all his strength to launch Noel away. "No matter how hard you struggle, it's impossible for you to go against me!"

"Oh really?" Noel actually smiled after that provocation. After all, he had left another package for him.

There was a sudden fluctuation of Spiritual Energy on his blade. The guy's body was shaken as he raised his sword, trying to figure out the situation.

But in that instant, ice formed on his sword, expanding to his head.

The guy tilted his head to the side out of reflex and the ice ended up cutting his cheek quite deep. It was different from Noel's superficial wound.

And Noel used this chance to provoke him.

"What did you say again?"

Chapter 479 Fighting A Spirit Master

"What did you say again?" Noel snorted, not scared against a Spirit Master like him at all even though he was stronger than the one he faced in the town.

There was a huge difference between the previous battle and this one. In the previous battle, he couldn't use his Everchanging Sword Style and the Ice Ability.

Now that everything had been unleashed, there was nothing to stop him anymore.

The enemy was utterly shocked. He had seen Noel using a Fire Ability, but this time, he actually wielded an Ice Ability.

This was the first time he saw someone with two elements.

He sucked a cold breath emanating from the ice while gritting his teeth.

On the one hand, Noel was his enemy that he should kill. On the other hand, Noel had a rare talent to wield two elements at once.

He might have to capture Noel since his talent was so rare that it could go beyond this kingdom. As for whether they could turn Noel into one of them or not, it would be a problem for the organization as a whole.

He still believed Noel couldn't go against him because of the difference in their strength.

But this was actually the situation Noel envisioned in his mind. With his opponent being unable to kill him, Noel could go all out to a certain degree until the enemy felt his life in great danger and chose to kill him instead. This was the reason why he chose to fight a bit further from the rest since his talent couldn't be revealed yet.

His enemy suddenly lowered his spear and turned it back to a sword. At the same time, he pulled out another sword from his waist. A chain made of Spiritual Energy connected the two swords at the back of the handles.

Noel knew he had to unleash everything in order to find an opportunity to kill him. He had used his Ice Infusion earlier, but it seemed that the Spirit Master reacted better than he originally expected since it only left a wound on his cheek.

He leaped forth while covering his sword with Spiritual Energy.

The enemy seemed to be focusing on his blade as if wondering what kind of element Noel planned to use next.

This was a dual element advantage. Normally, it would be beneficial if the two elements complemented each other since they could boost each other to a whole different level.

But Noel's elements were the exact opposite. The fire and ice would neutralize each other.

Still, the one who used these two elements was Noel. These two conflicting elements actually suited him the most, especially with the fire being the strongest he had ever seen.

Noel first released his ice element. The Ice Infusion was used again.

Now that he was aware of Noel's two elements, the guy instantly recognized the freezing energy from that Spiritual Energy.

He hurriedly poured more Spiritual Energy into the tip of his blade and struck Noel's blade.

Clink!

Their swords clashed for a split second. Noel had left his Ice Element there and it was about to erupt to strike his neck this time.

However, the guy released a burst of Spiritual Energy on the sword's edge, spreading it to create a shield.

The ice emerged, but because of the shield's surface, it couldn't penetrate the blade and ended up spreading on the shield's surface.

With the left sword blocking Noel's attack, he used his right sword to hit Noel on the knee.

Noel glanced down. As he expected, the guy intended to subdue him instead of killing him. It was proven by how the guy spread the Spiritual Energy in the way he formed a club instead of a sharp blade.

Noel also used his Everchanging Emotion Sword Style. But instead of using the Disgust to turn his blade into the same bat, he used Fear to increase his speed.

In that instant, it felt like his swing blinked for a split second as it struck down the blade, planting it on the ground.

"!!!" The guy shuddered when he saw the speed. It was for an instant, but this was extremely dangerous for his life since a single cut to his neck was what Noel needed to kill him.

He knew that even if he was a Spirit Wielder, his talent and current ability were beyond his level.

With that thought in mind, he forgot Noel's current strength and treated him as an equal.

He kicked Noel in the stomach, which was blocked by Noel's blade.

"..." They were at a complete standstill for a while before the guy spun his body and kicked Noel with the other foot.

Noel clicked his tongue and took it head-on, only to get pushed back. He hurriedly covered his sword with fire and slashed downwards, releasing a crescent-shaped fire wave.

Sword Fire.

The guy pointed the blade at each other. Then, the blades seemed to be multiplied by his ability, creating a wall that received the fire wave.

The fire burned the wall. As one would expect from the Undying Fire, it started melting the wall the moment the fire touched it.

However, the wall had done its job well as it protected its owner.

The enemy looped around the wall and struck Noel from the right. Noel tried to gather enough Spiritual Energy for his Ignition Sword, but the enemy didn't give Noel enough time.

He had reached Noel and struck him with his blade.

Clink!

Clink!

Clink!

A series of clicking sounds echoed. In just five seconds, they clashed their blades twenty times.

Noel jumped back while furrowing his eyebrows. Although he could match the enemy's speed, he was forced to use his Fear Emotion.

'Tsk. I guess I could reach the situation I like, but not everything goes according to the plan.' Noel complained inwardly, knowing that the enemy was calmer than he wanted. He thought he could make the enemy angry by provoking him with the help of the gap between their strength. But the enemy was able to maintain his calm.

Noel took a deep breath, coming up with another plan to catch the enemy off guard and end him in one strike.

Chapter 480 Dangerous Fire

The enemy planned to stop him from using all his abilities, so Noel placed his hand on the ground to confuse him.

"!!!" The guy became wary of this ability, wondering if he channeled either element inside.

However, the fluctuation of Spiritual Energy was weak, making him think there was no way an attack that small would harm him.

So, he chased after Noel while forming a shield with his second blade just in case.

As he expected, Noel leaped back to get away from him.

He lowered his shield to block everything from below while chasing after Noel.

The Spiritual Energy fluctuated violently the moment he stepped near the ground Noel put his hand on earlier. However, this amount of Spiritual Energy wasn't enough to harm him, so he focused on going after Noel.

This was his mistake because what Noel left behind was the Softening Rune.

As soon as he stepped on the ground, the soil became so soft that it felt like it absorbed his foot.

"!!!" The guy lost his balance immediately. Although he managed to use his other foot to support him, his left leg was already on its knee.

Before Noel attacked him, he actually used his Ice Control and froze the ground. The ice reached his opponent's knee and made it stick. This way, the enemy wouldn't be able to get into his stance.

Noel took this opportunity to jump back to strike the guy's head. He wanted to hit him from the back, but the guy would have already broken free. So, he had no choice but to attack head-on.

Clink!

The guy managed to raise his sword at the last second, blocking Noel's attack. But because of his stance, he could only muster sixty percent of his power.

On the other hand, Noel came to him with all that momentum and power, knocking him down to the ground.

He ended up in an awkward position, with one knee stuck on the ground while the rest of his body was lying on the ground.

He gritted his teeth as he tried his best to recover from such a situation.

On the other hand, Noel had turned around and summoned three giant swords on top of him.

Sword Fall.

"!!!" The guy was shocked because he didn't think he would be able to block these huge swords. But as expected from a Spirit Master, he joined his blades together and spread the Spiritual Energy to form a sturdier shield.

Instead of blocking this Sword Fall, he chose to let the three swords slide on the shield's surface.

Still, the Sword Fall was one of the strongest attacks Noel had. His hands felt numb just by deflecting three of them.

Noel even had another package for him behind those swords.

"!!!" The guy widened his eyes in shock, seeing a snowflake above him. That snowflake was giving a dangerous vibe along with a vast amount of Spiritual Energy.

He instinctively changed the shape of his shield.

Freezing Crystal.

The snowflake burst, freezing the entire area. But when the mist was gone, Noel could see dome-shaped ice that followed the shape beneath it.

The Spirit Master managed to form a dome to block the Freezing Crystal.

Noel wanted to take this opportunity where his vision was blocked by the ice. He had concentrated his Spiritual Energy to use his next ability.

But the Spirit Master managed to react before him.

The ice was shattered with a single swing.

"Ha... Ha..." The guy was panting as he had used a lot of energy to block the last two attacks. He glared at Noel, wondering if he could take down this guy by himself.

He was sure that Noel couldn't win against him, but capturing Noel was a different case. Capturing needed him to control his strength since he couldn't harm Noel, while killing him only required him to go all out. That was why he believed his team could finish their battles first before helping him to take down Noel.

Even if the mission failed, as long as they got Noel, they would surely be rewarded.

Hence, the guy changed his approach. Instead of capturing Noel, he would just buy time from him until his teammates finished their fight.

Even if they were Spirit Masters, they still outnumbered them by two to one. So, they should be able to win somehow.

With that thought in mind, the guy came out of the broken ice dome and walked to Noel as if he wasn't planning to attack him anymore.

"..." Noel frowned because an enemy like this was more troublesome to him. Since he had used both elements, he had to kill the enemy if he didn't want his secret to be leaked.

But because the enemy did his best to buy time, it would be hard to kill him.

Noel wanted to use the Spiritual Energy he had just gathered for the Flame Conjuring, but it seemed he had to use all his Spiritual Energy in order to kill him.

The Spiritual Energy soon gathered on his palm. He waved his hand and formed a black-colored phoenix.

Undying Fire.

The phoenix let out a cry as it flew toward the enemy. The guy jumped to the side to avoid the phoenix, but the latter actually turned around, matching his direction.

The Spirit Master had no way to escape other than crushing the phoenix. Hence, he extended his blade as far as possible while swinging downwards, afraid that this phoenix would explode like the snowflake crystal.

The phoenix went straight to the blade and got slashed. The phoenix might get slashed just like that, but the Undying Fire remained on the sword's extension and began to spread by using the Spiritual Energy as its fuel.

"!!!" The guy was startled because the fire was approaching him. The blade extension was made of Spiritual Energy, so it only took like two seconds before it reached his handle.

Luckily, his reaction speed was fast enough as he cut off the Spiritual Energy with his other sword, making the blade extension break apart.

The blade extension fell to the ground and kept burning until nothing remained.

'What a dangerous fire...'

