

Destiny 1001

Chapter 1001 Former Brothers

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Cling!

Clang! Clang!

In the other part of Frozen Kingdom, Diablo was currently being besieged by a group of players filled with the assassin- and thief-related classes. They were trying to kill him with everything they had but still could not get the job done despite their advantage in numbers.

Diablo was skillfully dodging and blocking everything with ease as if he was only fighting a bunch of beginner players. Even if he was being ambushed from behind, he would always avoid it as if he had a pair of eyes at the back of his head.

There was a lot of time when he was almost caught in a predicament that was impossible to escape from, but he would somehow find a way to escape the clutches of death every time.

This made the players attacking him respect him even more. They were already looking up to him when he was still a part of the Pandemonium Descendants, as one of the Troupe members, in particular, but this current situation boosted that feeling right away.

They were one of the best groups within the organization and their task was to assassinate high-profile targets. This main job might be similar to the Sweepers, but the only difference was they were directly reporting to the mysterious leader of the organization. And all of the orders that they were receiving from him were always been confidential.

Right now, they were ordered to head over to the Frozen Kingdom and deal with Diablo, who was constantly getting in their way.

When Diablo was a part of the organization, this particular group was the one that he was leading most of the time. He used to be their captain who led them in every assassination job that they had.

Who would have thought that he would be one of their targets?

Diablo felt a little nostalgia when fighting them, but he knew that it would be impossible to return to the past and fix everything. Now that they were standing at opposite ends, they could only raise their daggers and point at them at each other.

Cling!

Clang! Clang!

Diablo blocked yet another attack from the opposing side in a skillful manner before quickly launching a counterattack.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

A series of flashes flew through the air as he swung his dagger multiple times at one of his assailants. And when that person tried to get away, he suddenly noticed that he could not move away as his leg was caught in a trap unknowingly.

"Crap!" he noticed it way too late and he had to pay for it. Before he could even do anything to escape that predicament, Diablo already emptied out his Health Bar within an instant.

Diablo did not even give the others the time to save their comrade. And when the group saw that, the expression on their faces immediately turned dark. They had already been fighting him for quite some time already, yet they still hadn't landed a single hit on him. They were constantly being led since the start of the battle.

They were very familiar with Diablo's fighting style and set of skills since they were working with him before he left the organization. They were also aware of his secret cards, so they knew that they could not afford to drag this battle.

They were also aware that Diablo was also familiar with each one of them, making it hard for them to take him down. This was the reason why they had brought some elite members of the other squad. And those players were one of the people that the organization had nurtured.

But despite their efforts of trying to make this as fast as they could, Diablo was still able to drag it this long, somehow. And when his 'Demon Eyes' started working, it would be impossible to stop him from turning the tables around.

Little did they know, Diablo had significantly grown after leaving the Pandemonium Descendants. He even reached a higher realm that used to be impossible for him before.

He had to thank Shin for that since their encounter was without a doubt the reason why he broke free from his previous shell.

Even though he did not use the higher phase of Demon Eyes, he could still deal with this group due to the experience that he had from that intense battle against Shin.

Due to this miscalculation from the side of Pandemonium Descendants, they had to pay a heavy price. And this could lead to the failure of their operation entirely.

The group understood their current position very well, so they quickly picked up their pace and started launching themselves at Diablo without caring for their lives. They threw a restless series of attacks which give their former captain a lot of trouble.

Swoosh!

Diablo hopped back dodging the two daggers of the two assassins flanking him from both sides. And when his feet touched the ground, a slight tap of his foot propelled him toward the air before he flipped backward and dodged the other attacks that were directed at his back.

Ta-ta!

And when he fell back on the ground once again, he quickly spun around, swinging his dagger in the process deflecting the flying daggers and needles.

Cling! Cling! Cling!

The group of assassins did not want to give him any window to catch his breath, no matter how small it was. They continued launching a series of coordinated attacks that were fatal enough to cost Diablo's life if he tried to retaliate even for a moment.

But as the battle progressed, the group finally realized that there was something amiss. And when they were trying to figure out what it was, a tragedy suddenly happened.

While two of them were trying to pincer Diablo from different angles, Diablo suddenly disappeared from their sight before instantly appearing right in front of one of them. And before that player could even react, Diablo gave him a hard elbow strike on his solar plexus, punching out the air from that person's lungs.

And when the person was trying to recover himself, Diablo already threw a flurry attack that quickly emptied the health bar within an instant.

He also did not stop in there, he quickly pounced at the other player that was attacking from the opposing direction. He pivoted his feet for a brief moment before kicking the ground and launching himself toward that person.

His stiletto left a cold trail in the air as he thrust it forward and stabbed straight at the next target. And right after he pulled it back, he did a quick spin to dodge the other attacks from the other assassins as they tried to save their comrade.

While doing that, Diablo used the momentum of his spin to strengthen his attack as he swung the dagger he held on the other hand, slitting the throat of the person that he just attacked.

That assassin did not even know how he was killed as his eyes were directed in front of him. At first, his gaze was locked on Diablo before the latter disappeared. Then the next moment, the supposedly 'target' suddenly appeared in front of him once again before disappearing once again.

That was what he saw in his final moments before his vision suddenly turned dark, indicating that he already died.

"What kind of speed was that?!" – were the thoughts that were running inside his head before he died.

In the next moment, Diablo started killing the others one after another without giving them the time to react. They were still processing what just happened to the others when they discovered that they had already been taken down.

They could do nothing in front of Diablo's counterattack!

The others who used to fight alongside him and went through countless battles could not recognize his movements anymore. He seemed to be a completely different person – someone who was much more vicious and ruthless to his opponents when he started attacking.

Understanding that they could no longer be his match, the remaining members could only put up a pointless struggle before they were taken down.

Out of the members of the group, there was a single person who could at least exchange a few blows against Diablo despite the current strength of the latter.

Even though that person was still being pushed back constantly, he was still able to put up a good fight and protected himself very well.

"You've grown so much, little punk! I guess you are not slacking off like the rest of them, huh?" commented Diablo while continuing his attacks on the final person.

The latter was silent for a moment before squeezing out a few words from his throat. "B-Big Brother, I-I'm..."

But before he could even complete his words, Diablo quickly cut him off. "Don't call me that! I am not worthy to be addressed like that anymore as I've let you all down."

"Stick to your choice and be responsible for it!" he shouted before increasing his pace and throwing much complex series of attacks.

That other person was called, Ashen. He was young a couple of years compared to Diablo and received direct guidance from him. Out of everyone in their group, he could be considered the closest person to Diablo.

Diablo helped him and the rest of the members every time they were in a pinch and did not even ask for anything in return. But when he was the one who was needing their help, none of them had the courage to step up and lend him a hand.

They chose the temporary benefits over the eternal comradery that they were supposed to have. They might have regretted it now, especially him, but it was already too late for it. They already betrayed him and his trust.

Even though Diablo was constantly saying that it was his fault and that he let them down, they all knew that it was them who actually turned their backs on him.

Ashen deeply regretted it but after hearing the words that Diablo had said, he could only grit his teeth and continue exchanging blows against the latter. The only way that he could show his former captain his respect was to give his all and show the growth that he had since they last parted.

Diablo was very familiar with this kid, so he was able to read what was running inside the latter's head. He inwardly applauded as he felt proud of this little brother that he used to have. This might be the last time that he would be able to give Ashen his guidance, so he controlled his face and started correcting the flaws of the latter.

This would be his final parting gift, the next time they met each other would be enemies. And when that time came, he would no longer show mercy.

'I hope you find success in the place that you've chosen,' he genuinely wished inside as he looked at Ashen with meaningful eyes.

As for himself, he still had to find a new place where he could stay and belong to.

Chapter 1002 Little Troubles

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As the situation in the Frozen Kingdom was slowly approaching its end, the Saint Heaven Kingdom already passed the setback that it suffered from the previous calamity. They already recovered everything with the help of NPCs organizations.

As for the player's organizations, the group that lend the kingdom the most was the Hand of Midas Trading Firm. And due to that, their influence and reputation with the NPCs reached an unreachable height. They became saviors of the kingdom.

With this kind of reputation, the trades that they could make to the NPCs groups and organizations would be very good. Moreover, the members of the trading firm would also get quests from the NPCs would be much easier.

Even though the Hand of Midas was a lifestyle guild filled with players who focused on production class, there were still some members who had combat class, especially the ones who were assigned to jobs that needed to have combat players such as expedition teams that were looking for rare resources and escorts responsible for guard the guilds caravans.

Such players would benefit a lot from the quests that the NPCs would give them.

On the other hand, the biggest reward that the Trading Firm would get was a huge reduction in their taxes from different NPC cities within the kingdom. Some cities were even exempting them from taxes.

This result alone made Shiella overjoyed. All of the investment that she poured into helping the kingdom was starting to bear fruit. It might take them quite some time before they recovered some of the losses that they had suffered but the interest that they would receive in the long run would be very fruitful.

At the same time, the crusade that the churches of the Saint Heaven Kingdom launched on the Corrupted Cult to reclaim the land that the cult had occupied was slowly progressing without a hitch. And with the help of the players that joined the fun due to the quests released by those churches, it would only need some time before they could take back those lands.

Aside from those two events, there was also the Underground Open Dungeon that they had discovered under Maple Cloud City. It was a place full of unique and rare resources, if they processed it properly, the benefits that they would get would be much bigger than the initial investment that they poured in to conquer it.

With all of this, the entire Saint Heaven Kingdom would be no different from being the territory of the Hand of Midas Trading Firm. Not only they would dominate the market in this place, but they could monopolize it if they utilized the connections that they built with the NPCs residents of the kingdom.

Shiella could even set the headquarters of the trading firm in this place. With everything that they had alongside the current influence that they had in the kingdom, it shouldn't be impossible to achieve.

Shiella was currently in a good mood due to the smooth sailing of the plans that they had. Everything was going according to the plan, so she only needed to wait for Shin and the others to clear their quests before proceeding to the other arrangements that they had.

She stretched her body on her seat after reading all of the reports sent to her. "Finally, I've got the time to relax."

She leaned her back on the chair and was about to close her eyes when she heard that someone was calling her. She turned her eyes and saw that the caller was one of her subordinates whom she sent to the Frozen Kingdom alongside the other chiefs to fix the teleportation formation that Shin and the others had found.

"How is it?" asked Shiella right after answering the call.

The person on the other side respectfully greeted Shiella before reporting. "Guild Leader, Chief Balle said that the teleportation formation is already prepared. We can now open a portal and connect it anywhere we want."

Shiella was already expecting that, so she didn't show any kind of reaction. She just fell into deep thought before waving her hand. "It is fine. Tell them to delay it for the time being. We have other plans for it."

"For now, guard it properly until everything is over. I will be sending additional people and some supplies to build a temporary settlement in that place. Make sure to fortify the defenses in the area, you can use the excess materials that you haven't used."

"If that is all, then I will be hanging up," she added with a quite impatient tone. She was eager to rest right now.

Busying herself both inside the game and in the real world was slowly taking a toll on her body and mental health, especially when she was personally supervising everything. She really needed rest right now.

She just ended the call and was about to rest when someone knocked on the door and called for her.

"Young Miss, it is me, Delusive Smile," said the other person from the other side.

"Ugh!" Shiella furrowed her brows and grunted when she heard Delusive Smile before saying to the latter. "Come in."

Delusive Smile opened the door and entered before carefully closing it when she saw the annoyed look from Shiella. She then walked toward her boss before cautiously saying. "Young Miss, the Madam said that you have to attend the gathering tomorrow night at the Grand Sunshine Hotel."

The corner of Shiella's eyes suddenly twitched when she heard those words. Why was every time she found that she could finally rest, additional work was pouring it?

She fell silent for a moment and thought of the gathering that Delusive Smile was saying. It was a party organized by her mother because some of the important clients from overseas were planning to make a visit.

At least, that was what it was supposed to be on the surface. But she knew that those old foxes were definitely plotting something. But since this would affect the businesses that they had overseas, her mother had to hear them learn more about the situation before making her move.

Shiella normally did not have to attend those gatherings if she did not want to. But she heard that there were some young masters and misses accompanying their parents and her mother was planning to let her handle them, so he had to attend even if she was unwilling to attend.

As if giving her more headache, Delusive Smile even added. "And the Madam also said that you have to bring an escort. Anyone is fine as long as someone is accompanying you. She says that it is to avoid some unnecessary trouble."

The expression on Shiella's face immediately turned dark as she knew what her mother was trying to say. It meant that some of her persistent suitors were attending the gathering.

She had already beaten some of them so badly that they had to spend a couple of months in a hospital bed until they recover, but they were so blinded that they continued to pursue her regardless of the consequences.

Shiella could only think of two people that she could bring as her escort but those two were also a headache for her.

Arthur was one, but given his personality, he would definitely cause a scene if those guys annoyed him or if they try making a move on her.

Even though she knew that Shiella could handle the situation herself, he still would not sit idly on the side when he saw them annoying his sister. Their relationship might not be the best, but she was still his sister regardless.

The other candidate was Shin. In fact, he was the best choice that Shiella had. Given his temperament and character, he would be able to handle any annoying situations properly, without causing a scene, unlike Arthur. Shiella could even see him sending those annoying guys away with shame if ever they tried to bother her.

The problem was that guy hated attending any kind of gathering or party to the core. He would rather sleep at home than attend one.

Shiella was caught in a difficult dilemma before shooing Delusive Smile and saying that she understood.

After Delusive Smile left, Shiella collapsed back on her chair and thought to herself. 'This is really tiring. But regardless of anything, it is my choice, so I have to stick to it.'

Sometimes she envied Arthur for having an amazing sister such as herself and enjoying a life full of leisure.

Throwing all of her thoughts at the back of her head before sending a message to Delusive Smile that she would be logging out for a moment to rest. She said to directly contact her if something unexpected happens.

In the meantime, David, who diligently guarded the portal behind, suddenly felt an intense shiver. It was a premonition when something bothersome was going to happen. He didn't know what it was, but he was sure that it would be very annoying.

"Tsk! What is this? The last time I felt this, Sir Adam hangs me upside-down at the center of the Forbidden Valley. I hope it is not something like that," he muttered as his body trembled when he recalled that experience.

That time was really a hellish experience even for someone like him.

He then closed his eyes, put his hands together, and started praying, calling every god that he could, to save him from whatever disaster was about to fall on him. "Please have mercy on this poor soul."

Chapter 1003 The Final Stretch (Part 1)

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Frozen Kingdom

Shin and the others were currently recuperating at the Frozen City when the mages suddenly noticed the sudden change in their surroundings. The mana mixed in the air was constantly getting restless as if something big was about to come.

Not long after, they saw a silhouette floating right above the city, seemingly overlooking everything.

When the group noticed that person, they quickly picked up themselves from the ground and went into formation to get ready for battle.

All of them seemed to be full of wary as they could sense the overwhelming power coming from the owner of the silhouette. There might be a considerable distance between them and that person, but they could tell that they were powerless in front of them.

That person seemed to possess a power that could hold the world in their hands. Something that they could only feel from absolute existence.

Among the group, the ones who had the most reaction were Leonard, Arthur, Cloe, and Zero. They were all representatives of their respective NPC organizations, so they already met a powerful being that could make them completely powerless. And those supreme beings were the current leaders of the organizations that they represented.

Right now, they could feel that the person floating in the sky was at least as strong as those absolute beings.

Seeing their anxiousness, Shin chuckled a little before saying to them. "You guys can relax a little. He is indeed the Ruler of this land, the Vampire Primogenitor Dracula, and the final boss we must defeat."

"But that is for the latter, what we really need to worry about right now is Immortal and the Guardian Dragon that he is planning to corrupt," he added while stretching his waist.

"Can't we just go and stop him from doing that? We know where the Guardian Dragon is currently sealed," said Leonard with a frown.

"I've already explained it earlier, we need him to awaken the dragon to complete Arthur's Empire Quest. Moreover, without that dragon, we can't defeat that boss later at the extension of the quest," replied Shin while pointing at Dracula.

He turned and raised his head at the sky before continuing. "He is probably lifting the curse of the kingdom right now, so Immortal must be making his move too. Let's go!"

"Do we already have the method to stop Immortal from corrupting the Guardian Dragon once it awakens? It will be a huge headache if we fail at the most critical moment," said Black Hand, voicing out his concern.

Hearing those words, Shin and Cloe suddenly laughed before Leonard pointed at Arthur. "Immortal may have a pretty solid plan, but trust us when we say that there is no one more knowledgeable about dragons than this guy."

Leonard might not know the exact plan that Shin and Arthur were cooking, but he was confident that they would be able to pull it off.

Shin, on the other hand, smiled mysteriously. The Plan B that they prepared might not have happened the way they wanted it, but it would still progress toward the same outcome they had planned, without a doubt.

Arthur was also confident about it. He was even wearing an excited look on his face. Shin could read the meaning behind that expression as he was very familiar with this brother of his. He was sure that Arthur was planning to directly snatch the dragon from Immortal.

As for how exactly Arthur would do it, Shin needed to learn. But this particular dragon fanatic must have a plan of his own. He would definitely not let such an opportunity of contracting another dragon fall into the hands of someone else, especially if they were his opponents.

Not long after, the group immediately noticed the change in their surroundings. It might not be clearly visible but the mana in the air was slowly moving toward the sky where Dracula was standing.

And when the Vampire Primogenitor spread his arms wide, the mana started moving toward him like crazy. They were pouring from every direction like tidal waves in a violent sea.

Shin stared and watched the scene in the sky for a moment before turning his head at the others and signaling them that it was now the time to move. "Let's go! This should be the final stretch before we face the final boss."

Lawless, who was walking right beside Shin, stretched his arm in a lazy manner before commenting. "Finally! This is about to end. This is the longest quest that I've done since I return to the virtual world."

Hearing his words, Shin could not help but turn to the side and asked. "Since the time you come back? Does that mean you've experienced a quest far longer than this one from other games?"

This time, it was Arthur who answered him. "We've only spent a few days or a little over a week for this quest in in-game time. It is practically much shorter than the quest that we are clearing before in «True Era» Online."

"In that game, you will experience what real questing is. You will spend months, if not a year, clearing a high-difficulty quest," he added with a smirk.

This was Shin's first time playing a virtual game, so he was not that knowledgeable about those events, especially when this was an MMORPG game. His experience could not compare to any players within their group.

Of course, if it was about abilities on clearing those quests, his battle prowess in particular, then he still could be ranked one of the highest among them. Only a handful could be compared to him even if it included the other experts of the game.

The group chatted as they walked towards a part of the city. Shin was leading them as he already knew where they were headed.

Meanwhile, Immortal was currently walking inside a long tunnel alongside Rust.

He already achieved his main goal of coming here, but adding more to it would not hurt, so he was heading toward the place where the Guardian Dragon was currently slumbering.

As for how he was going to do it, relying on his Doom Knight would do the trick. He spent quite a lot of resources activating the 'Records of Undead' earlier when capturing the 'Demon of Slaughter' and even more resources at turning it into one of his unique undead monsters.

The Doom Knight was currently leading them like a faithful servant.

Controlling it would be impossible unless he properly brainwashed it. And turning it into a loyal servant would be even more troublesome. Immortal spent almost everything he had just to achieve it, but the rewards that he got in return were more than satisfying.

And with him acquiring a Doom Knight, his unique quest of getting a secondary combat class was finally complete. This boosted his strength to a whole other level and increased the number of his trump cards even further.

The current appearance of this Doom Knight was somewhat different from its original form, the 'Demon of Slaughter'. Unlike the savage, and monster-like appearance that it used to have, it now looked like a human knight clad in pitch-black armor.

Aside from its wings, the half-human and half-dragon form that it used to have could not be seen. But the armor that it was currently wearing resembled the hard scales of a dragon, boasting its absolute defense.

Its greatsword was also present. It was not much different from its previous form. Aside from its size being slightly smaller, there was not much difference between the two swords.

Immortal was confident that no one could pose a threat to him right now. In terms of individual strength, he would probably be the strongest within the game because of his overwhelming army of undead alongside the unique and special ones in the mix.

"Rust, go stand in the entrance. Tell me immediately if those guys arrived," said Immortal, instructing the Shadow Queen walking slightly behind him.

"Yes, Sir!" replied Rust before stepping back and melding with the dark. Her stealth was pretty high level. If someone didn't know that her class was an archer, then they would think that she was an assassin or other thief-related class.

On the other hand, Immortal continued to walk forward until he reached the end of the tunnel. This long tunnel led him to a huge hall that was a hundred meters tall and tens of meters wide.

Sitting right at the center of the hall was a huge creature sealed in ice. It had a monster that resembled a huge lizard covered with snow-white scales. Its body was currently curled up while the wings on its back were currently folded and enfolded its body from both sides.

It was hard to completely gauge its size, but given that it was sitting at tens of meters in height in that position, it would not be hard to imagine how huge it actually was.

Such a huge and unmoving body sealed in ice made it look like a frozen statue.

With the sealed dragon as the source, the entire hall was currently covered by smooth and mirror-like ice. The temperature within the hall was very low that it could freeze anyone who dared to step on it.

Fortunately, Immortal was currently being protected by his Doom Knight, giving him the ability to enter the hall. That Doom Knight was also the reason why he was able to arrive in this place without encountering any trouble.

Immortal admired the whole place for a couple of moments before turning to his Doom Knight and ordering it to start awakening the Guardian Dragon.

An impatient look was currently present on his face as he could not wait to get his hands on yet another powerful trump card.

Chapter 1004 The Final Stretch (Part 2)

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As Shin and the others were heading in their direction, the ground suddenly trembled intensely, making them halt their steps and adjust their footing so that they would not stumble.

Not long after, the ground a few distances away from them suddenly humped up, carrying frozen houses alongside it. And quickly after that, the ground burst out followed by an appearance of a huge creature.

It was a massive dragon with snow-white scales, standing tens of meters from the ground and having a pair of wings that extended with a fifty-meter span. Its body was releasing a cold fog, signifying the low temperature that it had.

Arthur could not contain his excitement when he saw the white dragon and could not wait to get near it. On the other hand, the rest of the group were currently wearing a solemn looks on their faces as they could feel the powerful pressure coming from the dragon despite them standing hundreds of meters away from it.

Roar!

The white dragon pointed its mouth toward the sky before releasing a deafening roar that shook the entire city.

A moment later, it lowered its head and directed its gaze at the group, sending a shiver down their spines.

The group was rooted in their place when they saw the white dragon staring at them. Then they saw a silhouette of a person standing on top of the head of the dragon, making the expression on their faces even darker.

As they saw him, Immortal was naturally also able to notice them. He looked at them with a haughty expression on his face as if he already conquered the world.

He was standing quite imposingly on the head of the white dragon holding his bone scepter as his ashen black robe was fluttering alongside the wind.

Not waiting for them to do anything, Immortal slightly tapped the bottom of his bone scepter on the head of the dragon, ordering it to charge at Shin and the others.

At the same time, he waved his scepter in the air and summoned his Undying Army. Unlike before, he was not planning to hold back this time. Different kinds of undead monsters crawled out from the ground, building up rows upon rows of skeleton monsters.

The size of this undead army was much larger compared to when faced Chaotic Luck earlier.

Immortal didn't just stop in there as he raised the bone scepter in the air. A dark light was released at the huge skeleton hand on the head of the scepter as he chanted out a series of incomprehensible incantations.

He was using one of the blessings of the secondary combat class that he just got earlier, the 'Emissary of the Underworld'. And with this series of buffs, his army of undead immediately gained a powerful strength comparable to chieftain-rank monsters with some of them even rivaling lord-rank monsters.

With such a powerful army, Immortal was definitely a force to reckon with.

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Meanwhile, the group quickly assumed a battle position, getting ready to fight.

Shin stood at the front of the group as he gave a series of orders. "Chaotic Luck, summon your legion now! Owen, S.Tigris, and Seven hold the front! We are engaging with it head-on! Alucard and Ara, we are leaving the protection of the back to you."

"Brother Faker, go look for the Shadow Queen. We can't afford to let someone like that snipe our backline from the distance."

"Black Hand, I am entrusting you to lead the others in battle. And please guide Chaotic Luck on how to move his army of Solaris Undead if necessary."

"Brother Lawless, Simba, and Zero, you guys come with me. We are going to kill as many undead monsters as we can."

He then paused for a moment as he turned to Arthur before saying. "I will be leaving that overgrown lizard to you. You already know what to do."

Hearing that, Arthur gave Shin a confident smile before replying. "Don't worry, I've been waiting for this for ages!"

After that, he summoned his golden dragon before riding on its back. He urged it to fly in the sky and head to the white dragon charging at them. He now had the chance to showcase the new secondary combat class that he had just gotten, the 'Dragon Cavalier'.

Compared to the massive size of the white dragon ahead of them, the golden dragon pet that Arthur was riding looked like a dwarf. But despite that being the case, it fearlessly flew straight into it, ignoring the huge difference in size.

At the same time, the others also sprung into action as soon as Shin gave out his commands. They knew that their quest was already reaching its end, so they would not be holding back this time.

Faker suddenly disappeared in stealth before heading in a certain direction. From the looked of it, he seemed to have an idea of where Rust was currently hiding.

Shin, alongside the other three gods within their team, quickly charged ahead and headed to the huge army of undead monsters heading their way. They instantly entered the state of Reality Manifestation, not planning to hold back in the slightest.

On the other hand, the rest of the group quickly gets in formation, getting ready for the battle. Cloe and Black Hand even cast a series of buffs to everyone before Shin and the others could set out, enhancing the overall power of the entire team.

At the same time, Chaotic Luck quickly responded to Shin's command, calling out his Legion of Chaotic Sun by summoning a Solaris Soldier one after another. And when he reached the limit of the number of summonses that he could control, an entire army of skeleton soldiers covered with burning armor appeared around the group.

Their number was significantly lower than the opposing army and their quality was also noticeably worse because Immortal enhanced the strength of his Undying Army with the help of his secondary combat class.

But despite that being the case, Chaotic Luck was confident that they would not lose. After all, he had reliable teammates on his side and most of them had resounding names within the virtual world.

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Shin was the first one to arrive at the ranks of the opposing side as he sprinted forward, turning himself into a streak of light that flashed through the middle of the undead army.

He unsheathed his sword during the process, cutting through everything standing in his path.

Shing!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw – Moonlight Flash'

Swoosh!

The skeleton undead standing on the path that he went through started falling one after another as all of them were cut in halves by his sword. They also could not retouch themselves as the holy flames of the Power of the Brilliant Sun purified them.

After that, Shin quickly sheathed the [Yamato] before switching it with the [Dusk and Dawn Blades]. He also employed his signature energy technique, the 'Eclipse Wielding', for his 'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship'.

He then quickly swung his sabers, cutting down all of the skeleton soldiers that were pouncing at him from every direction.

In the meantime, on the other side of the battlefield, Lawless and Simba were currently slaughtering every undead monster in front of them. It didn't matter if those monsters were currently empowered by Immortal's blessings, in front of these two, all of them were just a bunch of cannon fodders.

With their current state, these two berserkers were like a pair of unstoppable beasts left loose on the battlefield.

Not far from them was Zero seemed to be the personification of a natural disaster, a storm in particular. He was cutting undead monsters one after another as if they were nothing.

All of the undead monsters that he came across were shredded into pieces by the gust of wind produced by each of his swings. He was currently using his own energy manipulation skill, the 'Divine Wind', to employ his swordsmanship inside the game.

In front of these four 'monsters' on the battlefield, the number of the Undying Army should have decreased significantly. But for some unknown reason, the size of the undead army seemed to have not decreased at all. It looked like they had an inexhaustible number.

Immortal watched the battle from the head of the white dragon with an amused look on his face, seemingly satisfied with the current scene.

But he didn't let his guard down since he knew how troublesome was it to deal with such a group of moments. Fighting just one of them was already difficult, much less facing them as a group.

Having that in mind, Immortal did not dare to hold back and started calling out his most powerful undead that he could currently summon.

After a series of incantations, a huge shadow gate suddenly appeared behind him followed by his unique undead monsters coming out from it.

The Lich King, the Skeleton King, the True Ghoul, the Shadow Paladin, the Death Knight, the Undead Knight, and the newly acquired Doom Knight – all of these powerful undeads were summoned.

Immortal only had a limited number of resources right now, so he could not summon the others. Moreover, the three transcendent undead monsters from his arsenal needed certain conditions before he could summon them, so he was unable to call them out.

Aside from that, the reason why he only summoned 7 of them, he only had that number of Abomination Elemental Spirits currently.

With a wave of his hand, Immortal let his Abomination Elemental Spirits possess his unique undead monsters.

'Abomination Spirit Possession: Undead Possession'

With it, the overall powers of his unique undead monsters increased significantly. Even their innate abilities were enhanced to a much higher height than before.

They didn't need any command from Immortal as they already knew what they needed to do. They bowed their heads to him before jumping down from the head of the white dragon and joining the ongoing battle below.

At this point in time, they were going to let loose on the battlefield.

At the same time, Immortal also saw the golden streak of light heading in his direction. He squinted his eyes and saw Arthur riding his golden dragon and flying straight to him.

"Heh! You are coming straight to your death, Siegfried!" sneered Immortal as he watched Arthur.

Chapter 1005 The Final Stretch (Part 3)

...

Even though Immortal was confident in his current strength, especially when he now had his secondary combat class, he still did not dare to underestimate Arthur. This man with a solid reputation lived up to his name.

He could also feel that Arthur seemed to be hiding something. After fighting against him in different games, Immortal knew that this Dragon God prepared a card or two under the sleeve to deal with him.

Having that in mind, Immortal ordered the white dragon to halt its advance and focused on Arthur. He waited for the latter to reach his range of attack before throwing a spell one after another, trying to hinder his opponent's advance.

On the other hand, Arthur skillfully controlled his golden dragon in the air, showcasing his dragon-riding abilities. If it was earlier, then he would be a complete amateur when it came to this, but after the struggles that he went through during the Dragon's Challenge, he became more skilled at aerial maneuvers and dragon riding skills.

These attempts of stopping his advance from Immortal were nothing in front of him. Arthur could easily dodge them with ease.

Immortal immediately noticed the strange flying maneuvers that Arthur was displaying. No matter what he used, all of them were either being blocked or dodged perfectly. His shadow spears, dark arrows, abysmal blades, and bone spears missed, not able to touch even a strand of hair of Arthur.

When he looked closely, he discovered that Arthur was employing some strange movements in the air as if he was executing a series of movement techniques on the ground.

"Flight Technique?" muttered Immortal before showing a sinister smile. "So what? I just crush it with raw strength!"

After that, he ordered the white dragon under him to make its move and attack Arthur and the golden dragon.

Roar!

The white dragon raised its front paw and swung its claws forward without any warning.

Swoosh!

The swipe came a little too fast that it almost caught Arthur and his golden dragon. Fortunately, he was able to foresee it with the help of his innate talent.

He pulled the special reins attached to the mouth of his golden dragon, responding to the incoming claws. He urged the dragon to fly alongside the trajectory of the swiping claws while moving upwards before rolling the air, barely dodging the attack.

Arthur did not stop in there as Immortal sent a barrage of spells in his direction, taking advantage of the awkward position that he had after the previous dodging maneuver.

After avoiding the spells and attacks that the white dragon sent to him, Arthur, mounted on his golden dragon, finally arrived at a desirable distance and started his counterattack.

He did not have a lot of range attacks in his arsenal when riding his pet dragon, especially when most of the skills from the 'Dragon Cavalier' secondary class specialized in aerial melee, but he at least had a couple of spells that he could rely on. They were the skills that he rarely used since it was not his style.

He thought that it would be a waste. They were skills from his main class, the 'Dragon Knight', after all. Who would have thought that he would be using it only when he gained his secondary combat class?

He formed a group of lightning spears in golden color before sending them toward Immortal one after another. In terms of a number of range attacks, Arthur would definitely be at disadvantage. Moreover, Immortal was also protected by the white dragon.

Fortunately, his golden dragon pet also had a set of spells on its own. Even though it was a dragon that specialized in close-quarter combat, as a dragon, it still possessed a couple of spells such as Dragon's Breath, Meteor Rain, and other similar spells.

On top of this, his golden dragon was nimble enough to circle around while executing a series of complex maneuvers. With such a tactic, Arthur could constantly harass Immortal, even though, he couldn't get nearby.

Arthur needed to continue doing this until he built up enough energy for his plan. He knew that the longer he waited, the deeper the white dragon fell into Immortal's control. But he had to do it since he could not summon Archon, the Chaos Dragon, in normal circumstances.

He also used up his Dragon's Challenged, and it had a long cooldown, so he could only come up with another plan.

Fortunately, Archon agreed with the deal that he proposed, so there was nothing to worry about. Though, he sacrificed a very important item just to make that deal.

This was an additional reason why Arthur was doing his best. He had to make sure to make up for the loss that he suffered. He will definitely snatch that white dragon from Immortal's hands.

Having that in mind, Arthur intensified his assault. He and his golden dragon might lose in terms of strength and wide-range attack compared to Immortal and the white dragon, but the mobility that they had in the air was unquestionably better. Moreover, the bond between Arthur and his pet dragon was far greater than their opponents, so their coordination was definitely superior.

Immortal might have a powerful dragon on his side, but when it came to understanding dragons, Arthur was without a doubt ahead compared to anyone. Just like Leonard had said, Arthur was a dragon fanatic, so he would definitely be a cut above Immortal when it came to this battle.

Immortal might have a better chance if he was fighting normally and relied on his usual style. But he made a mistake in choosing this method when fighting Arthur. It was even better if he left the white dragon to cause havoc on its own. With its overwhelming power, Shin and the rest would definitely be in deep trouble. They might even ask for some assistance from Lycan and Duke Bellion.

Unfortunately, blinded by his newly found strength, Immortal overlooked the fact that his opponent was very familiar with his methods.

He might have a powerful dragon on his side, but it would still be useless if he could not fully bring out its real power.

...

On the other side of the battlefield, the empowered Undying Army now reached the other members of the group and started clashing against the Legion of Chaotic Sun.

At the first collision, the difference between the two armies of undead monsters immediately surfaced. And the former army noticeably had the upper hand. Not only they had an overwhelming advantage when it came to numbers, but their overall quality was also way beyond the latter.

The benefits that the Undying Army gained after Immortal got his secondary combat class promoted their overall strength to a whole other level.

Fortunately, the rest of the group was there to support Chaotic Luck and his Legion of Chaotic Sun.

Charlotte, Ravier, and Ember, bombarded the opposing side with their large-scale spells, killing a huge number of skeleton soldiers and other undead monsters.

Standing at the forefront of the group, Owen was standing firmly like an immovable object. He guarded the frontline very well, not letting a single undead get near the rest.

S.Tigris and Seven were standing on his left and right side respectively, covering the angles that Owen could not cover. They were also cutting down the skeleton monsters in a steady manner.

With the help of the people from the backline, these three were showcasing great battle prowess. They didn't have to worry about their health bars since they had two reliable healers at the back.

Even if they were an army of undead monsters with an average strength of chieftain-rank and lord-rank monsters, the trio were steadily holding their ground. After accompanying these gods within their group and working together with them, it would be impossible for them not to show any significant growth.

Forget about Seven, who was always accompanying the current number one player of the game, and Owen who was constantly being tortured by the gods within his team, even S.Tigris, who was already an expert in his own right was growing at a rapid pace.

On the other hand, Ara and Alucard had a much simple job compared to the rest. They were only responsible for guarding the mages and healers of their group as well as Chaotic Luck, who was controlling his Solaris Soldiers.

But since they were currently in the middle of the Legion of the Chaotic Sun, the two marksmen did not have to constantly survey their surroundings. And with such a lot of free hands on their side, they could spare the frontline some help.

Naturally, the one who had the most critical role in this battle was Chaotic Luck once again. Without the help of his legion of special undead, the group would have a much harder time.

But despite his knowledge and past experiences, he was still getting overwhelmed by the opposing forces even if he was employing the strategies and battle formations that Shin had passed down to him.

The size of the opposing army of undead was still a little too much for him.

Fortunately, Black Hand was pretty experienced in this area. With his special position within the Wing's Alliance and as someone who ranked in the 'Best Strategist List' of the game, this kind of large-scale battle was one of his main fortés.

He assisted Chaotic Luck in how to move his forces to constantly repel the opposing side. Despite the overwhelming difference in size and quality, their side did not show any kind of weakness and steadily hold their ground.

Even though the main factor was the three powerful mages of their group, who were blasting those undead monsters with their spells, and Shin and the others, who were wreaking havoc at the center of the opposing ranks, the crafty strategies that Black Hand had still played a big role.

The state of the battle continued to be in a deadlock until the unique undead monsters of Immortal finally made their moves.

Chapter 1006 The Final Stretch (Part 4): The Real Might Of The Undying Army

...

As Shin and the others were continuously cutting down the numbers of the Undying Army of Immortal, they noticed the sudden change in the course of the battle. The flow and momentum of the battle where it was still in a deadlock suddenly a significant turn.

It was unnoticeable at first, but as an expert, Shin and the others fighting at the forefront quickly noticed the sudden change in the air.

Sweeping his gaze at the surrounding, Shin quickly saw a skeleton wrapping its body with a shadow robe at the far end of the opposing army. There was a glowing purple gem at the center of its forehead while its bone hand was holding a dark scepter with shattered crystals on its tip.

This particular undead was continuously waving its hand and scepter to constantly replenish the numbers of the undead army. It also seemed to be giving out a series of orders, making strategic movements with its forces.

Shin instantly recognized what kind of undead it was. "A Lich! And not your ordinary Lich too."

He immediately recognized what kind of impact it would give in the battle, so he was intending to make his move and eliminate that particular undead as soon as possible.

Boom!

But before he could even make his move, another undead suddenly fell from the sky and landed a couple of meters away from him.

The shockwave caused by the impact pushed him back a little while debris and dust flew in the air, creating a cloud that block Shin's line of sight.

When the cloud of dust settle, Shin saw an undead donning a scale-like armor while carrying a greatsword in hand, letting it rest on its shoulder.

The appearance of this Doom Knight might be a little different, but Shin quickly spotted its resemblance with Grand Marshal Draco. Within such a clue, Shin instantly knew Immortal succeeded at converting the 'Demon of Slaughter' into one of his undead monsters.

Hu~!

A white stream came out from the mouth of Doom Knight as it stood up and block Shin's path, emitting heavy pressure.

Shin could also see the small dragons made of dark aura circling around the Doom Knight. This indicated that this particular undead was in a completely different realm compared to the rest.

Without further ado, the Doom Knight quickly charged forward and swung its greatsword down at Shin.

Boom!

Shin skillfully dodged the sudden attack before quickly counterattacking. It was just a summoned monster, even if it had powerful stats and decent skills, its A.I. shouldn't be that high to endure an extended trade of blows against him.

But to his surprise, the Doom Knight was able to hold itself against Shin despite him being the state of Reality Manifestation. It might be showing an overwhelming advantage, but its fighting style and sword techniques seemed to be very refined for artificial intelligence.

Shin would have found it fine if it was a powerful NPC or special monsters, or unique beings like Dracula, the sentient Draco, the Seraph Michael, and the rest of the unique beings that Shin had encountered within the game.

Moreover, Shin could also see some traces of high-leveled martial arts from the Doom Knight. If he would make a guess, then he suspected that it was the techniques and skills that Grand Marshal Draco had.

At the same time, he could also feel a familiar yet unfamiliar aura coming from the body of the Doom Knight. And when he thought deeper into it, he found out that it was similar to the aura that Grimrace had.

"It must be Immortal's version of Elemental Possession," muttered Shin as he continued to exchange blows against the Doom Knight. "I am not expecting that the fusion between two unique beings can be this strong."

...

In the meantime, the other four gods fighting alongside Shin in the middle of the enemies' ranks also noticed the Lich at the far end of the opposing army.

They were about to make their moves when they were obstructed by the other unique undeads, just like what happened on Shin's side.

Zero, who was supposedly the fastest among them aside from Shin, almost reached the Lich but he was quickly blocked by the Skeleton King.

This unique undead might not be on the same level as the 'knights' when it came to combat capabilities, especially in terms of melee battle, but it had special and unique abilities that could not be underestimated.

It could summon an endless number of skeleton soldiers to fight alongside it. These underlings might not be as strong as the undead monsters summoned by Immortal and the Lich King, nor as many as the Undying Army, but they were still enough to cause some trouble for Zero.

Moreover, their battle formation was also quite decent, forcing Zero to take caution since he would be in a difficult position if he was caught in their formation. At the same time, he also had to be wary of the surrounding undead monsters of the Undying Army.

...

It was the same for, Lawless as he was currently engaging against the Death Knight which had a whole cavalry fighting on its side.

They were circling around Lawless while launching a series of coordinated attacks. It seemed like they were treating Lawless as a beast that they needed to capture or take down.

Lawless was currently wearing a deep frown as he looked at the calvary of undead circling around him, especially the Death Knight that was watching him from the distance as if he was prey.

"Hah! I don't like this feeling, but it shouldn't be bad that I am itching to go all out!" he muttered before bumping his fist against each other, feeling pumped for the fight.

...

Boom!

Not far from that place, powerful explosions could be heard due to the battle taking place in that area. Leonard was currently engaging in an intense battle against the True Ghoul.

Leonard, as a Beastman Berserker Class, had powerful strength and explosive power. But despite that being the case, he was still being forced to take a couple of steps back by his opponent, even with him being in the state of Reality Manifestation.

But that didn't mean that he was losing. In fact, he still had the upper hand when it came to raw strength. The problem was his current match – this particular undead was a little troublesome.

The True Ghoul was somewhat similar to a human being due to its basic appearance. What separate it was the pale gray complexion that it had and the stitches that it had from different parts of its body.

It had an insane regeneration rate that made it unafraid of suffering any injuries. One of its arms was even blasted into smithereens in an earlier exchange, but it immediately recovered that arm after a couple of seconds.

It could also transform different parts of its body into various shapes to fit its need. It could even enlarge if the True Ghoul willed it.

Leonard was also thinking that this True Ghoul had the abilities of different kinds of monsters after seeing what it was capable of during the last exchanges.

...

In the meantime, the final two unique undead monsters were causing trouble for the rest of the group.

The Undead Knight was not as strong as the other unique undeads when it came to individuality.

It was a little skilled and much more powerful in melee battle compared to the Skeleton King, but it did not have a small army of skeleton soldiers that it could summon.

An Undead Knight was also far inferior in terms of swordfights compared to Death Knight and Doom Knight. It also did not have the special abilities that the True Ghoul could cover different kinds of situations.

But this did not mean that an Undead Knight was useless. It might not be as strong as the others when it came to duels, but the value that it had in large-scale battles was more significant compared to the others.

When it was on the battlefield and fighting at the frontline, the whole army of undead would receive a huge boost in stats. It was like a general on the battlefield, leading the charge. Due to it, the morale of the army fighting alongside it seemed to be boosted significantly.

Following a few distances behind the Undead Knight was the Shadow Paladin.

This particular undead might be as strong as the Doom Knight and Death Knight when it came to duels, but its value significantly increases in team battles. The shadow buffs and dark heal that it could provide in battle boosted the fighting capabilities of the surrounding undeads, what more the one that it was providing full support.

With the combination of the Undead Knight and the Shadow Paladin, the overall strength of the Undying Army grew by a large margin. And with the endless number of undead soldiers and powerful spells that the Lich King was providing them, the whole army was bound to become an unstoppable force.

With the appearance of these special undeads, boosted by the Abomination Elemental Spirits that possessed them, Shin and the others finally started to experience the real strength of the Undying Army and Lich God Immortal.

Chapter 1007 The Final Stretch (Part 5): Looking For Solutions

.....

Necromancer was a class that was not only a mage specialized with dark spells but also a summoner who touched the taboo and became familiar with 'Death'. Even though their spells were quite powerful, it was not as strong as the classes that focused on real magic. Instead, their real strength lay in their army of undead.

With them being able to summon a large number of undead monsters, depending on their power and mana, they could be considered a one-man army.

They also specialized in large-scale battles where they distracted their opposition with the swarm of their army of undead while unhinderedly throwing a couple of deadly and powerful spells from afar.

And if they were fortunate enough to possess unique undeads that could assist their army and increase the overall power of their army, then the threat that they could pose to their enemies was very disastrous.

And for someone like Immortal, who had quite a number of unique undead, his real might was only revealed when he summoned his true army. Coupled with the Abomination Elemental Spirits that could possess his special undeads, his forces were significantly higher, if not the best, than most of the Necromancers and Summoners within the game.

With the current state of the battle, it would be more favorable for Immortal if it dragged on into a long fight. It would be dangerous for the group if this battle continued to drag on as they would be trapped inside the almost inexhaustible army of undead.

They would be exhausted to fight such a long and large battle. It would be hard for them even if they had peak players in their ranks.

Moreover, there was also the issue of Immortal having full control over the white dragon. If he was successful in it, then this battle could be considered over. And alongside it was the failure of their quest entirely.

Understanding their current situation, everyone within the group focused their minds, readying themselves to give everything they have.

...

At the center of the group, Black Hand was currently having a headache as he did not know how he was going to adjust their formation. As a strategist, he fully understood the current state of the battle was indirectly not in their favor.

The battle might be in a deadlock for now despite the difference in quality because of his strategic battle maneuvers, but he was aware that it was only temporary. He knew very well that the tides would slowly turn against their favor as more time went by.

He knew the solution to the approaching predicament and that was to take care of the Undead Knight and Shadow Paladin as soon as possible.

They also had to take down the Lich King somehow. It was the biggest threat for them given that it could supplement the opposing army with a large number of undead soldiers, but they could not do anything about it since it was currently standing at the far end, too far away from them to reach.

Unfortunately, they did not have enough people to deal with all of those problems. None of the three in the frontline could leave their post since it would break their formation.

Neither Alucard nor Ara could also leave either. Forget about the fact that the latter might not be the match for either those special undeads, even Alucard, who was clearly stronger than her, might not have the strength to take down even one of them.

The best scenario was if they were able to snipe down the Lich King from afar, but the distance was way too far for their attacks to reach the other side.

The only saving grace that they had right now was the three mages on their side. Their firepower was so strong that the opposing side could not do much to them either. Even that was temporary. Their mana was not an inexhaustible source, sooner or later they would run out of mana which would lead to an ugly ending for them.

Even if they prepared a lot of mana potions that they had crafted, they would still burn it down if this battle continued for a long time.

At this point, Black Hand could only hope that the mana of the opposing side was also not faring well. But with the Lich King standing on the opposite end, he was not confident that they would be able to last that long.

Trying to find more possible solutions, Black Hand swept his gaze at the battlefield and found that Shin and the others were pretty much occupied with a unique undead respectively.

"Tsk! If only one of them is able to break free from their opponent and deal with the Lich King," muttered Black Hand as an idea flashed through his mind.

It didn't take him long to think that it was worth the gamble.

He turned to Alucard and asked. "Alucard, can you lend those guys in the front a hand?"

Alucard looked over in confusion before turning his head toward the intense battle taking place at the heart of their enemy's ranks. It only took him an instant to understand what Black Hand wanted him to do.

Thinking about it for a moment, Alucard suddenly asked. "Which of them do you want me to help?"

Black Hand did not answer directly and instead asked. "None of them are fighting a simple opponent. Which of them do you think will you provide more support?"

Alucard fell into deep thought before replying. "I am also not sure. But given the current situation and the limited places that I can take advantage of with our current environment, I can either help Simba or Sickarius."

"They are only fighting a single opponent, after all. Targeting those two undeads is much more suitable for me since I only have to focus on a single target," he added before voicing out his doubt. "But are you sure that it is better? I still think that the Undead Knight and Shadow Paladin are easier targets."

Black Hand signed for a moment before replying. "That will be ideal, but it is a minor solution since our main problem is still the Lich King. As long as it supplies the opposing forces with countless soldiers, the tides of the battle are bound to turn against our favor."

"So, you want either one of those four to take care of the Lich King before we take care of the rest," Alucard nodded in understanding as he could clearly see the outcome that Black Hand wanted.

Regardless, the task that Black Hand want to give him was not as simple as how it sounded, especially with the current state of the battlefield. Finding a suitable spot that he could take as the sniping point was already challenging enough, what more taking an aim at his target while keeping an eye on their surroundings.

Stroking his chin, Alucard nodded his head before agreeing. "I can give it a try, but I can't promise that I will be successful. After all, on this battlefield where we have a limited number of forces and a terrible environment is not ideal for us, snipers."

"Though, the surrounding buildings will help me a lot," he added after sweeping his gaze at the surroundings.

Most of the buildings and frozen houses in the surrounding were taken down and razed into the ground, leaving only the ones that were pretty far from the battlefield and not suitable for him to take.

From the look of it, the opposing side already considered him and Ara as possible threats given the sniping abilities that they showed during the previous battle.

In the meantime, the other solution that Black Hand could have considered but did not actually put in the equation was currently rushing toward a certain direction.

Faker, the Death God, was once the top assassin of the gaming world during his peak. He stood at the peak and no one was able to match him in that area. And now that he was gradually regaining his previous form and strength, the threat that he could give to his opponent was overwhelmingly terrifying.

Rust, the Shadow Queen, clearly understood this which was why she was currently in a run. She could not afford to have a frontal confrontation with Faker. Even if her class could somewhat suppress his class base, it would still not be enough to stop this legendary assassin. After all, logic did not work against this kind of monster.

She knew her abilities very well and was aware of her limit. She knew that would not be able to escape with her life the moment Faker caught up to her.

The job that Immortal had given her was to keep Faker occupied until he fully took control of the white dragon. And once that happened, this battle would be no different from being over.

Her presence could make the opposing side wary of her. She could pose a huge threat to them as long as she existed and hid in the dark. In this chaotic battlefield, she was the most threatening to their opposition since she could ambush their members from afar.

Shin fully understood this which was why he sent Faker over. As for the Death God himself, he knew the impact that it could make once he eliminated this hidden threat.

This was the reason why he was pouring everything into chasing after Rust. As long as he could erase Rust from the equation, he could immediately turn around and help the others, fully turning the tides of the battle in their favor.

This battle would be over within an instant, which was why both sides were persistently giving all they had.

This game of cat and mouse would be another decisive factor that would decide the result of the entire battle.

Chapter 1008 The Final Stretch (Part 6): Executing The Plan B

.....

While Shin and the others were currently busy facing the Undying Army, an intense battle was currently taking place in the sky. A pair of dragons, one of them was a massive white dragon while the other was a golden dragon, dwarfed by the former due to the difference in size.

There were a pair of players too, one was standing haughtily at the head of the white dragon while the other player mounted on the golden dragon like a skilled rider.

Naturally, this pair was Immortal and Arthur who were fighting on the ground earlier. The intensity of their battle grew until it was dragged into an aerial battle.

Arthur was currently wearing a solemn look on his face as he was not expecting that the battle would be dragged up to his stage. He knew that it would be hard to charge his dragon energy gauge up to full, but he was not expecting that it would be this hard.

"Maybe it is because my skills under the Dragon Cavalier Class don't have high mastery," he muttered while circling around the white dragon, dodging its attacks.

After a few more clashes with the white dragon and Immortal, Arthur finally accumulated enough Dragon Aura to initiate the next part of his plan. All he needed now was to create some distance away from the white dragon to focus his mind. The extreme focus was needed for the dragon chant that he was planning to use.

Having that in mind, Arthur quickly distanced himself away, catching Immortal a little off-guard. He did not know what Arthur was planning but a sudden sense of crisis assaulted him, sensing that there was something wrong.

Trusting his instincts, Immortal quickly urged the white dragon to give chase, not letting Arthur do whatever he was planning.

But since Arthur took the initiative and his golden dragon was a little faster than the white dragon, he created a significant distance between him and the opposing side. And without any hesitation, he quickly grabbed that opportunity to start chanting a series of mantras in the dragon's language.

As more and more words came out of his mouth, nature seemed to respond to his call. The surrounding mana started to become agitated before gathering toward the sky. They formed an invisible vortex as they pulled more and more mana from the surroundings.

As a magic-related class, Immortal was naturally able to sense the sudden change in the surrounding. He focused his mind and senses and noticed that the mana in the air was being sucked toward the sky above. There seemed to be a black hole in there, devouring everything at an unimaginable speed.

Raising his head, Immortal saw a huge gate made of chaotic mana in the sky, sending a shiver down his spine. He did not know what exactly was happening, but he was sure that Arthur was the one who initiated it. No matter what happens, he could not let Arthur succeed.

Unfortunately, he was already too late.

One of the specks of light circling around Arthur suddenly broke free from the cycle before flying straight to the portal. And right after it came into contact with it, the whole kingdom suddenly shook as if someone was shaking the world.

The monsters and other creatures residing in the Frozen Kingdom suddenly became agitated. The ones that were near the Frozen City started running away as far as possible as if they were running for their lives while the ones that were far from the city hid in their habitats, trembling in fear.

The Drakes that were flying in the sky haughtily as if they were the kings of the air started falling toward the ground as their bodies shook in terror.

Something was coming! And whatever it was, it was a superior being to themselves!

Dracula, who was currently floating in the sky, also noticed it. But he could not do anything at the moment since he was already in the middle of lifting the curse of the kingdom. If he stopped right now, then he would never get the chance ever again.

All he could do was to persevere and continue, trusting everything to the young Nephilim that he had met earlier.

...

Back in the Frozen City, Shin and the others naturally were able to sense the change in the surrounding mana as well as the sudden appearance of a massive gate in the sky. But they didn't have the time to dwell on it since the Undying Army intensified their attacks.

It did not mean that they were not affected by the gate in the sky, but as mindless monsters and abominations that did not know fear, this undead army could only follow the orders of their master and continue until they were done doing the task given to them.

On the other hand, Shin was currently wearing a huge smile as he knew what was actually happening. "It is time to turn the tides!"

...

Back in the sky, Arthur suddenly stopped flying away from Immortal and the white dragon before turning around. He gave Immortal a mocking smile as he chanted out the final word of the mantra.

Boom!

Quickly after that, the massive energy gate suspended in the sky suddenly rotated followed by a gigantic creature coming out from it.

Reptilian arms and legs were the first to step out from the gate, carrying sharp claws and talons. Then a huge body quickly followed alongside the head of the creature.

It was another dragon!

Its size was twice larger than the white dragon that Immortal was riding. It had obsidian scales, boasting its sturdiness and toughness.

Its appearance was much more majestic and domineering than the white dragon and any dragon that Arthur had. The golden dragon of Arthur trembled, showing that it was afraid of this particular dragon.

It was the king of destruction and the symbol of calamity. The Chaos Dragon Archon!

After countless years of imprisonment, it was finally able to step into the Atlas World once again!

Unable to suppress his excitement, Archon suddenly raised his head and pointed his mouth toward the sky before releasing a deafening roar!

Roar!

The world seemed to shake the moment that roar resounded in every direction, making everyone that heard it tremble. Even the intense battle taking place on the ground suddenly halted due to everyone not being able to move.

Dragon Fear!

This was an innate ability that the dragons had. It was a suppression aura that passively made anyone tremble in fear. It paralyzed anyone that was targeted by it. And the stronger the dragon was, the more effective the suppression.

It was the symbol of the apex predators of the world!

Roar!

Fighting the Dragon Fear coming from Archon, the white dragon instinctively released its own Dragon Fear. Despite the difference in size, it was not a bit afraid of Archon.

After enjoying the freedom, Archon finally cast his gaze at the white dragon flying below him before smirking. "It has been a while, Princess of the Glacial Tribe, the kings of Ice Dragons, and the ruler of the frozen lands of the north."

Roar!

The white dragon released another as if it was challenging Archon. It even spread its wings wide before releasing a powerful blizzard around its body while glaring at the Chaos Dragon.

Archon gave her an amused look before saying. "Eira, oh little Eira. Even your mother, Edurne, and your grandmother Nevis will not show such disrespect in front of me."

At this moment, Arthur finally arrived beside Archon after urging his golden dragon multiple times. "Archon, remember our deal. You can't kill her. I still need to form a contract with her."

Archon gave Arthur a sidelong glance before saying in a mocking tone. "I know how to do my end of the deal, so you don't have to worry. But I can't promise that you will be able to form a contract with her."

"Regardless of how weakened she is, she is still a princess of a great tribe of dragons. Forming a contract with her will never be easy," he added, acknowledging the strength of the white dragon.

"You can leave that problem to me. I naturally have the plan for it," answered Arthur before looking at a certain notification in the corner of his eyes.

"Remember your promise, young Dragonkin. If you try to play some tricks on me, you will not like your end," answered Archon before diving down toward Eira, the white dragon.

Seeing him charging at her, Eira quickly adjusted her position in the air before opening her mouth and releasing a cold breath from it.

'Dragon's Breath (Ice Dragon): Frozen Age'

Archon maintained a smirk on his face as he faced the incoming breath head-on. He was not planning to dodge or block it. He was planning to dive straight into it.

Boom!

Despite how powerful that ice breath was, it could not leave a scratch on him. Aside from the snowflakes and ice formation on the surface of his scales, it could not pose any threat to him.

Swoosh!

It did not long before he arrived where Eira was. He quickly stretched his arm and grabbed her neck before dragging her down and slamming her toward the ground.

Boom!

"Let me educate you, young princess. I am sure that you will regain your sanity after hitting a couple of times," said Archon with a savage look on his face.

In the meantime, Immortal, who managed to get away by casting a series of Blinks, stared at the sight with a solemn look on his face. With the current development, he knew that the situation had gone out of control.

Bang!

A few distances away from him, Arthur landed on the ground with his golden dragon. He looked at Immortal with a mocking look before saying. "What are you going to do now? It looks like you fail once again."

He then paused for a moment before quickly adding. "Oh! Before anything else, let me thank you first. Because of you, it seems like I will be getting another Elemental Dragon."

While saying those words, Arthur could not hide the excited and mocking look on his face which made the expression on Immortal's face darken.

Chapter 1009 The Final Stretch (Part 7): Failure Once Again

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Swoosh! Whoosh!

Boom! Boom!

Bang! Bang!

A series of explosions could be heard at a certain part of the Frozen City where a chaotic battle was currently underway. On that battlefield were two forces clashing against each other while the main actors of each side were showcasing their strengths and talents, especially the side with a smaller number.

At the same time, there was a pair of massive creatures wrestling against each other in the distance, trampling the frozen houses and buildings around them. At times, they would also be casting powerful spells toward their opposition, further destroying their surroundings in the aftermath.

A stray attack even landed on the battlefield where the two armies were fighting and caused a huge explosion that almost wipe out everyone. Fortunately, both sides immediately noticed it coming from afar and made their preparations before it could even cripple their forces.

With such a powerful explosion, Alucard even took that opportunity to break free from the undead soldiers chasing after him and found a good vantage point where he could have a better view of the battlefield. It was also a perfect place where he could provide support to everyone since its distance was somewhat suitable for his sniper ripple.

Having that good position, he started making preparations to help Leonard, who was currently engaging in an intense fight against the True Ghoul.

Alucard had already considered this earlier. With his unique class as a 'Demon Hunter', he could deal extra damage against dark creatures, especially undead monsters. And out of the options that he could choose from, the True Ghoul was the easiest to target out of them all.

Taking his position and getting ready to provide help to Leonard, Alucard took a deep breath and focus his mind.

...

Boom!

At the same time, on the other side of the battlefield, Arthur, who was riding his golden dragon, was currently chasing after Immortal persistently. After seizing this advantage, there was no way for him to let it go once again.

He had been holding back up until now. After suppressing himself since the first battle, he was itching to teach Immortal a lesson. This guy and the Corrupted Cult had been messing up with everyone anywhere, which was why he loved to consistently get in their way and repeatedly foil their plans. And since Immortal was one of the main actors of that faction, taking him down would always hurt the organization every time he failed.

Arthur was looking forward to what would happen to this certain 'villain' that everyone hated and feared after failing this operation as well.

Though, he was also aware that Immortal still gained quite a few things here despite the losses that he suffered.

In the meantime, Immortal was currently wearing a dark look on his face as he continued to dodge Arthur's advances by constantly using Blinks and other teleportation skills from his arsenals. And that expression became even darker when he noticed that his weak connection with Eira, the Ice Dragon, was slowly becoming weaker and weaker and was about to be cut off.

Everything was just getting well up until now. His control over the white dragon was also getting stronger as he was even able to make it fly in the air and use some of its powerful spells. But within an instant, a tide that he was riding just earlier suddenly turned around and went against him.

At this moment, he was clearly at a disadvantage. His Undying Army might still be holding with a slight advantage due to his second combat class and the Elemental Spirit Possessions of his Abomination Spirits, but it would quickly disappear once Eira woke from her current state.

Understanding his current situation, Immortal could only think of retreating now and abandoning his current plan. After all, he already achieved his original goal and that was getting a vessel for his Doom Knight to obtain his secondary combat class.

He already saw how strong it was the combination of his two classes, the 'Herald of Death' and 'Emissary of the Underworld'. As long as he made himself familiar with his secondary combat class and increase his mastery over the skills and spells under its kit, then he would be more powerful than he already was.

The problem was he was unwilling to go back right now because it would leave a sour taste in his mouth. The success was almost upon his reach yet it was suddenly snatched away from the tip of his fingers by the same people once again.

He at least wanted to kill one or two members from their side. Unfortunately, he was currently not in the position to do it. Not in Arthur's watch.

Gritting his teeth, he had no choice but to take the decision that he did not want to make. He looked at Arthur with a sharp glare before saying. "This is not the end, Siegfried. I will make sure that you and your team will suffer. I will crush you underneath my feet."

Hearing those words, Arthur could not help but smirk before saying. "Yeah! Yeah! That is what you always say whenever you are planning to run away with your tail between your legs, yet the result is always the same."

"Though, I must admit that you get those guys from Silent Night really well. Your backstabbing skills are sure top-notch," he added with a mocking tone.

After that, he paused for a moment as he remembered something before quickly continuing. "Ah! Before you leave, we are going to cut down some of your limbs so that you will stay low and quiet for the time being."

Boom!

Right after those words left Arthur's mouth, Immortal suddenly heard a huge explosion coming from the battlefield, attracting his attention for a moment. And a few moments after that, a series of notifications suddenly came in his system logs, informing him of what happened.

He did not have to look at those notifications to know what happened as he could already see what took place on the battlefield.

From his current position, he saw a streak of light coming from a certain direction away from the battlefield and flew straight to the True Ghoul, who was busy fighting Leonard. It was a holy bullet shot by Alucard after pouring everything in it.

The bullet accurately shot the head of the True Ghoul but it did not deal much damage. Though, the impact from the collision made the undead lose its footing and its rhythm immediately after. There were also the sacred properties that the holy bullet had that suppressed the powers of the True Ghoul for a moment.

It might be a little short but it was more than enough for Leonard to launch an all-out attack without worrying about any kind of retaliation from the opposing party. He threw a flurry of powerful punches at the True Ghoul that exhausted almost all of its health bar before unleashing a killer move at the end, not willing to let the True Ghoul even the tiniest bit of seconds recover.

The power of the final punch was so strong that it blasted the body of the True Ghoul into smithereens. It might not be enough to totally kill the True Ghoul due to its innate ability that almost made it unkillable, but it was more than enough to cripple its battle capabilities at the current moment.

After that, Leonard quickly turned around and wreaked havoc where the Shadow Paladin and Undead Knight were. He then beat them so hard that they also lost their ability to continue the battle.

Leonard did not choose to help either of the three others, who were also fighting a powerful unique undead by themselves. Even though he knew that they would be able to eliminate those undead monsters, it would still take them a few moments before they were able to do it. And it would give Immortal more time to unsummon them before retreating.

Instead, if he directly targeted the slightly weaker unique undead that did not have enough battle capacities to contend against him. The Shadow Paladin and the Undead Knight were the best choices in that situation.

Even though he could not kill them in the end due to the Abomination Elemental Spirits that possessed them, Leonard was still able to damage the vessels of the two special undead monsters.

As for not choosing the Lich King, Leonard also had a valid reason for that. It was because, at the last moment when he was about to charge at the Lich King, he sensed someone rapidly approaching that undead at extreme speed. He did not need to make a guess on who it was since there was only a single person in their current team who could achieve that speed.

Faker, who was originally chasing after Rust earlier, finally gave up on chasing after her the moment when he saw the Chaos Dragon appear in the sky. He fully understood that the tide of the game instantly turned in their favor at that moment, so he decisively abandon chasing after Rust and went back to the battlefield instead and provide help to the others.

But it also did not mean that he would let Rust run around freely. He used one of his trump cards under his sleeves. He summoned an Abysmal Clone which was completely identical to him. It had the same stats and skills as him on top of having a very high A.I. that could fight in the same manner and style as him.

He could only keep it for five minutes at most since it consumed a lot of mana for it to be summoned. And needed to have additional mana consumption to keep it on the field. With his current Mana Pool, Faker could only keep this clone for short time.

But with the current situation, that time was more than enough. He only needed his clone to stick to Rust and buy him some time until he reached the Lich King.

It did not take long for Faker to reach the Lich King and forced it to engage in a battle with him. And since he had the class advantage, Faker was able to take down the Lich King after persistently pursuing it.

It was all according to what Shin had told them earlier before the start of this battle. They needed to deal a series of blows to Immortal before he could run away. Blows that would hurt him very much.

Immortal might be able to re-summon those special undeads later, but it would cost him a lot to bring them up to what they were right now. After what those guys had done, the vessels of those unique undead monsters were badly damaged and needed a lot of effort and resources to restore them.

Seeing that the situation could no longer be saved, Immortal turned to Arthur, who paused his attacks for a moment before saying. "We will meet again in the Hegemon Cup, Siegfried."

After that, he took out an instantaneous teleportation scroll before crushing it immediately. And before his body fully dissipated into specks of light, he quickly added. "Let's see who will be taking the crown this time."

When those words left his mouth, his body already disappeared from Arthur's sight. And alongside his departure, the entire Undying Army quickly followed. All of them turned into black ashes that were easily swept by the wind, scattering them in the air.

Arthur stared at the spot where Immortal last stood before sneering. "You are talking as if you are the champion of the last Hegemon Cup."

He then suddenly tightened his grip over his spear as the figure of the person who snatched the crown from everyone at that time suddenly flashed in his mind. He then turned to Shin before muttering. "This year's collision between gods will surely be the most interesting out of all the wars that we have experienced up until now."

Chapter 1010 The Promise Of The Frozen Kingdom (Part 1)

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The moment when the group saw the Undying Army turned into black ashes that scattered along the wind, they finally sighed in relief before collapsing on the ground, mentally exhausted.

The series of continuous battles that they went through was really too exhausting and the physical and mental fatigue that they were getting was starting to pile up, making them feel their exhaustion more and more.

Unfortunately, it was not the time to rest yet. They still had a few more fights to finish before all of this was over. But the good thing was this next battle seemed a little easier compared to previous battles that they went through since they now had powerful helpers on their side, backing them up.

Having that thought, they forced themselves to stand up and ready themselves. It was also at that moment when Shin arrived on their side. "We are almost there. One final job and this troublesome quest is over."

He swept his gaze at everyone and saw the fatigue on their faces. He took a deep breath before continuing. "You can leave the next part to me, Simba, and Siegfried. You guys can guard the surrounding area and stop the Pandemonium Descendants from interfering."

He then turned to Black Hand. "As always, brother Black Hand here will be leading you."

"I hope that we are not burdening you too much," he added before saying in a very sincere tone.

Black Hand appreciated the gesture and added. "That is all good. In fact, we should be the ones who are thanking you for bringing our team here. If it is just us, then I am sure that we will not be able to reach this place, much less complete our quest."

Due to the connection of the quest that they had earlier, their small team encountered Shin and the others. Moreover, they were also saved by Arthur during that time. If he did not step up and help them at that time, then the quest item that they had would most likely be lost.

While Black Hand was lost in his thoughts, Cloe suddenly walked to Shin and asked. "Are you sure that you will not need me to help you guys? Do you really not need a healer to support you?"

Shin understood what she was thinking. "It is fine. It is not like we are the ones who will be taking the frontline. This is the main scenario of the quest, so we will be relying on the help of NPCs to finish it. It will be much easier compared to the previous battles."

"Instead, your help will be more helpful to them. Your large-scale Buffs and Heals are perfect for such situations. It is also perfect for Chaotic Lucks' army. With you on their side, the power of his forces will always be a notch higher."

Cloe pouted her lips for a moment before nodding her head reluctantly. "Okay! Just be careful. It is the most critical part of the quest. We can't afford to have any accidents happen to you three."

"Don't worry, it is not like we are going to blindly charge at the enemy. We will be playing this safe," he added as he patted her head gently.

After that, he walked toward the others and started making arrangements, especially for Faker, Ara, and Alucard since they would have a more important role this time. Their scouting abilities were required for the completion of this quest.

While Shin was discussing the final strategies with the others, Arthur quickly flew toward the place where Archon and Eira were fighting. He could leave all of the complicated stuff to his brother while he would be taking one of the rewards that he deserved.

The battle between the two dragons was still underway, so Arthur could not recklessly get near them to avoid getting hit in the crossfire by accident.

Flying in the sky, he saw Archon fearlessly charging at the ice spells of Eira. He was leisurely advancing forward, not caring about the hail of icicles and blocks of ice hitting his body. He was treating them as if they were ordinary pebbles being thrown at him.

And when he reached Eira with his talons, he repeatedly hit her and smashed her head on the ground. He did it until the snowstorm-like spells around them finally subdued.

A moment later, Archon let go of her and spoke. "It seems like you finally regained your consciousness, stupid brat. I wonder what your mother and grandmother will think when they learn about this."

On the ground, Eira picked herself up with great difficulty while shaking off the dizziness that she was suffering. She did not respond to Archon at all as she focused on recovering herself and reorganizing her thoughts.

She might not be herself earlier, but she still could remember what she had done as well as the beating that suffered from Archon's hands.

Not long after, she raised her head and glared at Archon. "Chaos Dragon Archon! So, you finally escape from your imprisonment."

She then focused her gaze on him and suddenly sneered. "But you've become so weak. If those enemies of yours learn about this, then your life will surely be difficult."

Archon did not mind her ridicule since he was more than aware of his current state. Which was the reason why he agreed to form a contract with Arthur. He was planning to use that little Dragonkin to hide while he was recovering his strength.

He knew better than anyone who he was hated in the world after all of the 'sins' that he committed in the past, so he had to hide from the eyes of many to avoid unnecessary troubles. Especially when most of his enemies were currently at the apex of the world.

Eira ignored him before casting her gaze to the sky where she saw Arthur riding a golden dragon. A certain part of her memory was suddenly triggered when she saw him and the dragon. "Child, come down here. Let me thank you properly for saving me from the hands of that filthy undead."

She could still remember what had happened. She also saw the current form of her previous partner, who fought alongside her in countless wars and battles. It pained her so much and felt sorry for him. But she had to move on.

Dragons were creatures that could live for countless years. They already experienced a lot of things, especially deaths, and partings. She was already familiar with these feelings and had already gotten used to them.

Death and departure were common things for creatures who could live for countless years and survive through the passage of time. They had long become numb to such lonely feelings and thought that it was normal for all living things to go back to nature.

All they could do was treasure the memories of the others who they held dear and prayed for their souls while continuing to live on. Sooner or later, it might be their turn to leave the others and enter eternal slumber.

Arthur controlled the golden dragon skillfully and let it land gently on the ground. And after landing, he quickly dismounted and gave Eira a salute unique to Dragons and Dragonkins. "Greetings, Senior."

Eira observed him for a couple of moments before nodding her head. "The density of your bloodline is pure. You may already have reached that certain threshold."

She then paused for a moment before continuing. "I can also sense 'his' inheritance on you. I guess his legacy will continue despite him departing from this world."

Arthur knew who she was talking about and slightly nodded his head. He knew very well that dragons did not want to be interrupted while talking. Unless he was permitted to talk, he could not open his mouth, or else, it would be taken as them being challenged by the other party.

Naturally, there were always been exemptions for everything. Archon, who did not know the meaning of fear, was one of them.

The Chaos Dragon ignored Eira and turned to Arthur. "Brat, I've already accomplished my part of the deal, so it will be your turn next. I hope that you will not play any tricks, or else, I will guarantee that you will not like the consequences."

He did not wait for Arthur to reply as he quickly turned into a speck of light. He then went back to Arthur's side and circled around in a unique cycle just like the rest.

Eira watched them in amusement as the scene reminded her of her old memories once again. She then looked at Arthur meaningfully before saying. "I did not expect that the most arrogant and most prideful dragons out of everyone will form a contract with someone."

"If the Dragon Tribes have learned about this, I can't imagine how large the ripple that it will make," she added as she looked at Arthur in a new light.

She then paused for a moment before continuing. "Since you are the only Dragonkin around, then you must be the one who I have sensed earlier. I am also sure that you have already sensed my presence at that time."

Arthur understood her words as he looked at the certain notification that he received earlier when he first entered the Reality Manifestation during their initial collision with the army of wolves.

He nodded his head and answered. "Yes, Senior."

Eira also nodded her head. "Then I will not explain it anymore. I trust that you are already aware of our tribe's customs when initiating a contract. Prove yourself and I will swear my allegiance to you."

Right after she said those words, Arthur could not contain his smile as everything went according to plan. He then bowed at Eira while responding. "You can trust me in this, Senior. And I will not disappoint you."

After that, Eira raised her head and looked at the certain part of the sky above the city where she could see Dracula trying to lift the curse cast upon his kingdom.

"It looks like it is finally time to fulfill that promise," she muttered in a quiet voice between turning her head towards another direction where some old acquaintances were present.

"It looks like that stupid wolf is the only one left too," she added with a tone that was full of meaning.