

## **Destiny 1051**

### Chapter 1051 You Did Great

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Hakuna might not be able to see it, but he was able to feel it. Gamma's spirit was thoroughly crushed. It was crushed to the point that it could no longer be recovered. It was the reason why the prideful agent of the organization resigned to his fate and accepted his end.

He did not know what David had done, but from what he just witnessed, he was sure that it was an unpleasant experience.

No.

That was an understatement. It would be more accurate to say that it was horrifying. Gamma should have experienced something so horrifying that it made him surrender willingly.

"The power that can force his opponents to submit or feel despair," muttered Hakuna as he stared at David from the distance. "It is clearly the same as those people."

He became silent for a couple of moments before continuing. "To think that I am going to see it from a young man? This generation sure is something – it far surpassed the predecessors."

In the meantime, Shiella, who managed to witness that sight from the distance, did not know what to feel. As someone with a similar level of talent as David, possessed a pair of eyes that could see through what the surface was showing them, and a mind that could comprehend more than what the eyes could see, she had a clearer view of what David had done.

She was having a conflicted feeling as she understood what just took place. David used a systematic set of movements that clearly countered every move of his opponent and crushed their spirit with it.

She was not sure if it was really what David had intended, but she knew that it was something that could not be accomplished through normal means.

Even though she was confident that she could also beat Gamma, she was still not sure if she could do it better than David. At least, she would not be able to cleanly defeat such an opponent with the Martial Arts of the Springfield Family alone. She had to also rely on her second trump card, which was the other power of her bloodline and the inheritance that she had received.

Then she also tried to put herself in the shoes of the defeated opponent, Gamma. She was trying to see what she was going to do if she was the one facing David in that state.

As someone who was also a prideful martial artist with a similar level of talent, it was natural for her to awaken her competitive spirit after seeing what just happened.

After putting some thought into it, she shook her head as she was not sure about the outcome. She hadn't gone all-out in all of her battles or sparring matches up until this point. She was now curious if she could do it when facing David in his current form.

While she was lost in her thoughts, Hakuna quickly urged the agents, shouting. "What are you waiting for? Charge at him! He is already exhausted and on the verge of collapsing after experiencing such a battle!"

He, himself, was not sure about that, especially when they witnessed how scary he beat up one of the strongest agents that they currently had.

Regardless, he had to lead the others and wake them up from the 'illusion' that David had created. They had to buy a little bit of time until the boats from the 'Sea Giant' arrived.

Waken up by his call, the agents started charging at David once again. They swarmed from every direction, not giving him the time to recover himself.

"Tsk!" David clicked his tongue as he looked at the agents charging at him. He was not sure if Hakuna was able to see through his current state or if it was just a coincidence, but they really chose the right time to strike.

After that fight against Gamma, he expended quite a lot of mental and physical strength. He was currently mentally and physically exhausted. He was no longer sure if he could buy enough time for the reinforcements to arrive.

"Dammit!" regardless, he still had to push himself to the limit and continue.

Taking a quick step back, he avoided a charging agent coming from the side before tripping the guy with a quick sweep of his leg.

That agent instantly lost his balance as the momentum of his charge pushed him to stumble forward. And while he was falling on the ground, a kick suddenly flew straight to his gut, sending him flying in the air.

David ignored that person as another agent arrived. The guy was charging straight at him from the front while throwing a straight punch.

David smirked a little when he saw that. Then he gently placed his right hand on top of the incoming fist, slightly changing its trajectory. And when the fist brushed past his hand, he quickly grabbed the wrist of the agent.

After that, he took a quick step backward while pulling the arm of the agent. He then used the momentum of the latter's movements to generate a stronger pulling force. Then he slightly tugged the arm of the agent downwards, throwing the latter on the ground with a quick flip.

David started advancing steadily as he took an agent one after another. He wanted to quickly charge forward and brute-forced his way toward the location where he sensed Hakuna. That way, he could save more time in exchange for burning more energy.

Unfortunately, these agents were like a swarm of ants, pully packed together. They were aware of his intentions, so they recklessly charge at him while also relentlessly blocking his path.

If he tried to break free from such a blockade, he was not sure if he would still have enough energy to save Shiella.

While he was currently trying to weigh the consequences of either choice, he suddenly felt another group of people entering his perception range through his Spiritual Sense. He could not help but smile before backing out a little to save more of his stamina.

"Took you guys long enough," he muttered as he slowed down his phase a little while patiently waiting for what was about to happen next.

It was at that moment that he sensed the presence of someone reaching him in a stealthy manner. He broke into a smile and spoke. "You are a little too late in the party, aren't you, Sir?"

Joaquin, who was still under his disguise suddenly appeared beside him like a ghost, not caring about the swarm of agents coming from every direction. "Sorry about that. I've got some interesting company earlier."

He then swept his gaze at the agents, who were still oblivious about his presence, before commenting. "Aren't they a little too many? To think there are a lot of agents hiding in the cities of the Eastern Sea Region, I can't help but say that their security and monitoring fall a little too low this time."

He then paused for a moment before turning back to David while saying. "The others are already here, so you can finally relax. The police and military forces are also coming, so this will be over after a few moments."

David hesitated for a moment before saying. "Then can sir help me create a path? I still have one last job to do."

Hearing that Joaquin gazed in the direction where David was indicating before shaking his head. "Trying to be the hero who saves a damsel in distress, huh?"

"Tsk! It is good to be young," he commented before nodding his head. "That shouldn't be a problem. But don't kill the guy yet, alright? We still have a lot of use for him."

David smirked at those words before replying. "Don't worry, sir. I know my limits. It will be fine as long as he is breathing, so breaking a limb or two is not going to be a problem."

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In the meantime, Hakuna was currently running toward the dock. He had no intention of getting in the fight. He might be stronger than most of the agents here, but he knew better than anyone that he was not a match for the current David.

Even if David was currently exhausted, Hakuna could still feel the burning passion that he had in his eyes. It was something that he would not dare to underestimate regardless of the situation. Especially when David had strong momentum after defeating Gamma earlier.

The high-speed boats were already reaching them, so he would be able to leave as long as he reached the end dock in time. With the reinforcement that the 'Sea Giant' was sending, he was confident that he was able to leave.

He could already see the silhouettes of the speedboats driving toward their direction at high speed, which made him sigh in relief and relax a little.

But when he was about to reach the edge of the dock, a massive explosion suddenly erupted behind him.

Boom!

Swoosh!

Such an explosion sent a shiver down his spine, making him halt his steps and turn his head around. And when he did that, he was immediately greeted by the pair of cold eyes, peering through his soul.

He was about to retaliate, but before he could even make his move, his body froze for a moment. He lost his grip on Shiella, who he was carrying over his shoulder, as the owner of those cold eyes snatched her from him.

Then he felt his body slowly being pushed backward as a strong, invisible force pressed on him.

Bang!

Hakuna immediately lost consciousness after feeling his legs, arms, and a couple of his ribs being crushed by the heavy force.

At the same time, the agents that were accompanying him and supposed to be protecting him were blasted away by the strong impact.

All of it happened in the span of a couple of seconds before Shiella found herself standing beside Hakuna and freed from the shackles that bound her strength earlier.

Raise her head, she saw David's smiling face while staring at her. "I know that you are going to do something reckless, but isn't this a little too much?"

She was about to reply when her words were immediately cut off by David's fading voice. "Fortunately- ... I-... manage to-... hold up-... until the-... end."

After that, he slowly closed his eyes as the accumulated fatigue washed over his body. He immediately lost his consciousness as well as his balance, falling toward her.

Shiella was about to dodge due to her instincts before thinking against it. She stayed still, caught him, and let David lean on her while sighing helplessly.

She then raised her hand with great difficulty while gently patting his back. "You did great."

Chapter 1052 Why Is It My Fault?

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Shiella quickly dumped all of the work to the people of the Flying Dragon Corporation right after they arrived at the scene. She instructed the security head to share everything they knew with the police and military forces, who came for the clean-up operation.

She also instructed them to take care of David, who was currently sleeping due to over-exhaustion. She told them to bring him to the nearest hospital for a quick check-up to make sure that he did not suffer any kind of injuries.

As for Joaquin Geovanni, she did not see him from the start to finish. The guy suddenly disappeared alongside his men the moment when the police and military forces arrived at the scene.

But one thing was forced sure, they took Hakuna with them as the guy mysteriously disappeared alongside them.

Shiella had no idea how he did it or what they were planning with Hakuna, but she was sure that this operation would reach her uncle, Nathan Springfield, so all she had to do was to wait patiently and asked him for the details later.

She had a more important business to do, so after dumping all the work on her people, she quickly headed to their place. She still needed to check on her brothers, who seemed to suffer an attack from a mercenary group.

She hurried over to their place, unable to hide her worry. But when she arrived, she could not help but stare blankly at the scene, unable to believe what she was seeing.

The whole place was completely devastated. It turned into a complete ruin. Both of the two villas as well as a couple of neighboring houses were caught in the explosion. She could already guess what happened just by looking at the aftermath.

Aside from worrying for Shin and the others, especially the girls, she was also thinking about the dresses and other clothes that she left in the house. Most of them were custom-made, so it broke her heart just thinking about them.

After recovering herself, she quickly looked for Shin and the others and immediately found them resting inside a tent that the military forces had set up. The people of the Springfield Family were guarding the area, sharply observing anyone who would try to approach the tent.

When they saw Shiella walking over, they quickly made a way for her before respectfully bowing and saluting to her.

Whoosh!

She pushed aside the entrance of the tent as she walked inside without hesitation. Then she saw the trio of Shin, Arthur, and Leonard chatting with each other. And not far from them were the three girls – Alice, Cloe, and Lorraine – resting and sleeping in their respective beds.

The three quickly cast their head at the entrance of the tent when they sensed someone entering. Then they swiftly stood up before Shin and Arthur greeted her. "Big Sis."

Shiella secretly sighed in relief after seeing that everyone was doing fine before slightly nodding her head. She then walked over to them and sat on a nearby chair while saying. "I heard what happened. You had been ambushed by the Oni Mercenary Group?"

Shin quickly nodded his head and answered. "Yes, Big Sister. Thankfully, we manage to fend them off properly."

"Do you know their motive?" she asked in a seemingly casual manner, trying to hide her fury.

Shin hesitated for a moment and cast his gaze toward Arthur and Leonard. The two quickly turned their heads to the side, indicating that they were not planning to say anything. They were leaving everything to him.

Shin gave them a snarling look before turning back to Shiella. He also sighed helplessly before explaining. "Based on the interrogation that our people have done – it seems like the group is commissioned to take care of me and abduct Cloe."

He still hadn't finished what he was saying when the temperature within the tent suddenly dropped. The trio could also sense the intense killing intent coming from Shiella, making it hard for them to breathe.

They might have suffocated to death if not for Shiella quickly retrieving everything and calming herself down.

She then turned to Shin and asked. "And the person who commissioned them? Have you gotten the names?"

Shin could not help but hesitate because he had a bad feeling about it. Due to that, he quickly added. "Big Sis, Uncle Nathan is already taking care of everything, so there is no need to worry about it."

"I am asking you if you have gotten the names of the people who commission them," she repeated with a cold tone.

Shin sighed helplessly before continuing. "From the information that the interrogated people have given us, the person who give the commission is the head of the Lufus Weapon Arms Group – the major competitor of the Cilvana Family."

A dangerous glint flashed through Shiella's eyes as she said. "Fill me in the details."

Arthur and Shin could not help but sigh helplessly when they heard that. They knew that their big sister was planning to do something this time. Even though they knew that she would not be reckless, they could not help but worry about what she was going to do.

"Big Sis, Uncle Nathan is already in the matter. He said to leave everything to him," said Shin, trying to reason it out to Shiella.

But what greeted him was an even colder glare while she was saying. "Don't let me repeat it for the third time. I said, fill me the details."

Shin could only sigh in resignation before continuing. "This also concerns the previous incident that happen to Cloe previously."

He started telling her everything while connecting it with the information that she already knew. They were already aware of the situation of the Cilvana Family overseas, so they did not dwell on that manner any deeper.

What Shiella really wanted to know was why they had commissioned the mercenary group to take care of Shin. He was not connected with the conflict between the two big families of the Sun-Moon Kingdom, so she had to know how he got involved.

Then she learned that it concerned the young master of the Lufus Weapon Arms Group, Justin. The guy who got beaten up by Shin pretty badly inside the game – not just once, but twice. Their last battle even resulted in Justin's account being wiped due to the character deletion bet.

Shiella went silent for a moment after hearing everything from Shin. She fell into deep thought, thinking about what she was going to do.

Her silence scared the trio, especially Shin and Arthur, who were very familiar with her. They knew that this was not going to end with a simple retaliation.

Every time she tapped her index finger on the armrest of the chair, the hearts of the two could not help but skip a beat. From their perspective, those rhythmic tapping sounded like the beat of an ancient war drum.

After a few minutes of contemplating, Shiella flashed a smirking smile before turning back to Shin.  
"Don't worry about it. Our family will make sure that they are going to pay the price for it."

"At the same time, we can also use this to our advantage. We can even help the Cilvana Family get out of their current predicament with this," she added as her lips curved into an alluring smile.

"Hah! They can forget getting their hands on the secret of the Cilvana Family and take over of their business. With this foolish mistake of breaking the 'Trinity Agreement' between the World Government, Underworld Organizations, and World Gaming Organization, they can forget about their greed and ambition."

"The virtual world is not as simple as it seems, especially when it concerns «Destiny's Fate». That game has more secrets that most people are unaware of," she said mysteriously.

The trio could not help but sigh in relief when they learned that she is not planning to do anything reckless. It put their hearts at ease.

At the same time, they also become a little curious about the latter part of her words. In a sense, they also belonged to that group of people, who are unaware of the secrets of the game called «Destiny's Fate».

Now that they heard those words from Shiella, they could tell that she knew more than most of the players of the game.

"What do you mean by that, Big Sis? Is the game has important secrets that concern the real world?" asked Shin with furrowed brows before adding. "I also heard Uncle Nathan mentioned a similar thing earlier."

Shiella looked at the three before hesitating for a moment. And after thinking about it, she decided to leave them hanging for the time being. "You don't have the strength to know about it yet."

"If you want to learn the secret of the game, then reach the peak of the Ethereal Opening Stage or Grandmaster Realm as soon as possible. I may consider telling you about it when you reach those stages."

She then paused for a moment as she suddenly remembered something. "Oh! You may even learn it naturally when the right time comes, which is the same as what happened to me. Or you can also learn it from the Academy if 'they' find you worthy of that knowledge."

After that, she quickly stood up and steadily walked to leave. She paused her steps for a moment before turning back to them. "Get a good rest and recover your strengths. You are going to work your \*sses at the resort because of what happened to our villa."

"You failed to protect it, so you have to take responsibility," she added before exiting the tent.

The trio stared blankly at the entrance of the tent as they did not know how to respond. The first part of her words warmed their hearts a little, thinking that she was worried about their wellbeing. But the latter part of her words crushed those thoughts, making them stare dumbfoundedly into the air.

How come it was their fault that those mercenary groups suddenly attacked them?

Arthur and Leonard were even glaring at Shin, seemingly blaming him for what happened. And when the latter saw that, he could not help but curse under his breath.

"F\*ck! Why am I at fault here?"

Chapter 1053 Her Concerns

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Right after Shiella exited the tent, she was immediately greeted by Anna, her personal assistant and bodyguard in the real world.

"I am sorry, young miss. I failed to do my duty due to my negligence," said Anna as she bowed.

Shiella shook her head and spoke. "That is not your fault, Auntie. I've sent you earlier away to investigate that important matter after all."

She then paused and asked. "So, how is it?"

Anna followed closely behind Shiella as they walked toward the parked luxurious car waiting for them in the distance. She lowered her head while walking before starting her report. "Based on the clues that are left behind, we find out that there is an ancient stele that contains the knowledge of the ancient practice of cleansing the impurities within the body."

She paused for a moment, then looked at Shiella, and continued. "It may be a little different from what we expected, but this may be the answer that we have been looking for, young miss. It will be a great help for you and your current problem."

"Do you have any idea how long are we going to find the location of that stele?" asked Shiella after pausing for a moment.

She was one of the rarest talents that the Springfield and Levana families had seen in their entire history. She had both awakened the bloodlines of each side of her family and turned them into a mutated bloodline.

The Springfield Family was famous for their draconic bloodline, which also possessed the power to wield the Eternal Flame. It was an Internal Qi within a form of a special flame that only the bloodline possessor of their family could wield.

On the other hand, the Levana Family was known for their energy control. Their internal training and special practices targeted total control over the energy circulating inside the body. Because of this, their ancestors chose to become proficient in different kinds of breathing techniques.

After training in all kinds of breathing techniques, the members Levana Family picked up a special trait, which became the bloodline powers of their entire clan.

They called this bloodline power 'Spiritual Energy Connection'. It was the ability to be able to have a deep connection with the world and gain the powers that it had.

The family members that had this kind of power had exemptional control over the energies within their bodies and could even communicate with the elements within their surroundings.

During the bloodline awakening of the Levana Family, they would be able to communicate with the world and strengthen the powers that they already possessed. And for Shiella's case, she was able to awaken this bloodline powers which gave her extreme control over the 'Eternal Flame Qi' of the Springfield Family.

Her bloodline undertook some mutations because of the two awakened bloodlines merging together.

But during the merging process, an accident suddenly occurred.

During the awakening of the bloodline of the Levana Family, a powerful 'Spiritual Entity' was suddenly awakened due to the strong connection that Shiella had built with the world.

The aura of that Spiritual Entity affected the merging process of Shiella's bloodline and gave her another type of power, which became a blessing and a curse for her. Most of the members of the Levana Family called it a curse since it was a type of power that harmed the body of its wielder as time went by.

Based on the historical records of the Levana Family, one of their ancestors managed to awaken a powerful bloodline during their bloodline awakening. And this type of power granted them the power to control the frost to an extreme degree.

At that time, it even became the strongest awakened bloodline of the Levana Family as that ancestor was able to surpass all of the talented individuals within the family with that bloodline power alone.

But the family later discovered that the more they wield use that power the more it could harm the body. It might have the power to freeze anything but it also froze the meridians of the latter due to how strong it was.

It was recorded that the first wielder of that bloodline power died before they reached the age of twenty.

It was not the only record that it had. They were also a couple of family members who managed to awaken the same type of bloodline powers. Each of them was extremely powerful but all of them died at a very young age due to the excessive usage of that power.

The Levana Family tried to find a solution to resolve the issue concerning that bloodline power. But even if they managed to prolong the life of the possessor of that dangerous power, those people still died after a certain period of time.

It was the same even if the possessor of that bloodline power did not use it at all. In fact, they would even die sooner due to them having a lack of practice when controlling it. They all died, being frozen by that power.

Starting at that time, the Levana Family called that power – the Curse of the Frost. This power had different forms – it could be from different elemental types such as water, wind, earth, fire, and lighting with coldness special natures.

During her bloodline awakening, Shiella had awakened such a type of power. It was influenced by the Eternal Flame Qi that she inherited from the Springfield Family and the fire affinity that she gained from the bloodline of the Levana Family.

It was a frost in the form of a flame, which the Levana Family called the 'Chilling Flame'. It was a type of flame that could not burn anything but had the ability to absorb the heat from the surroundings and anything that it touched.

When this power was awakened, the Levana Family immediately noticed that this flame was constantly devouring the heat of Shiella's body. It was slowly eating away her heat and steadily freezing her to death.

Fortunately, the thickness and purity of the bloodline that she inherited from the Springfield Family were very strong. It somehow countered the power of the 'Chilling Flame', especially because she wielded the inherited 'Eternal Flame Qi'.

But regardless of it, Shiella was still slowly dying because of the extreme powers that the 'Curse of the Frost' had.

Unless she managed to suppress its extreme coldness and control such a power, then she would solely die without being able to do anything.

And to add more to her and her family's concern, the opposing powers of the 'Eternal Flame Qi' and 'Chilling Flame Qi' started conflicting with each other the more she trained her martial arts.

This was why the Springfield Family asked a favor from Professor Plum to look after her and teach her how to train the two conflicting Qi within her body.

The first was to strengthen the powers of 'Eternal Flame Qi' and make it more powerful so that it could overwhelm the cold that the 'Curse of the Frost' had.

On the other hand, it was also for her to control the 'Chilling Flame Qi' and prevent it from going out of control which would be a disastrous outcome.

And the third reason was to balance out the powers of the two extreme Qi and maintain it as long as she could, or until they found a way to totally suppress the power of the 'Curse of the Frost'.

The old monster was only regretful that his 'Yin-Yang Arts' was not suitable for her to practice due to the nature of the two powers within her.

Even though the 'Eternal Flame Qi' and 'Chilling Flame Qi' were somewhat similar to the 'Yin' and 'Yang' energies, the Martial Art that Professor Plum had created was not perfect yet at that time.

Fortunately, Shiella was extremely talented in martial arts which made it possible for her to reach her current attainment.

Not only did she not let the 'Curse of the Frost' hinder her progress in martial art, but she was also able to turn that 'curse' into another form of power when she reached the Ethereal Opening Stage and promoted her 'Internal Qi' into a 'Natural Force.'

Her Eternal Flame Qi turned into the signature force of the Springfield Family, the 'Emperor Yan Force' most commonly known as 'Flame Emperor Force', while the 'Chilling Flame Qi' successfully became the 'Ice Spirit Force'.

She had named it as such because of the knowledge that she received when researching the past experiences of her ancestors who were also wielding such power.

She might have been successful at strengthening that power and maintaining the balance between the two powers that she had, but the threat of the 'Curse of the Frost' was still present. And it even became even more powerful due to its new form.

The Springfield and Levana Families were looking for a solution for this matter for a very long time already. Even Professor Plum was engaged in the project just to cure her.

Now Shin was currently practicing a newly developed 'Yin-Yang Arts' because of the version of the cultivation practice that Adam had created for training the 'Demonic Qi', but it also gave Professor Plum more hope in finding the solution to her problem.

Shiella was aware of that manner and very optimistic about it. But she did not put her mind at ease since this only solved one of their main problems.

This was only a cultivation practice that she could use to continue training her martial arts. It still did not solve the fact that the 'Curse of the Frost' could harm her body. This was why they were still finding a way to remove that risk when she was developing her 'Ice Spirit Force'.

This particular style that they were investigating might be the answer that they had been looking for.

"Alright, I leave this matter to you until we find it," Shiella briefly nodded her head as she entered the luxurious car with Anna following after her.

And when they were inside, she finally asked about another topic that she was currently interested in. "Our military forces are planning to send people to the Sun-Moon Kingdom to discuss the partnership that we have with their government, right?"

Anna was suddenly taken aback by that question, confused why Shiella was interested in that matter. "Yes, young miss. I heard that they are already getting ready to send the delegates for that matter."

"Tell, Uncle Nathan to also send me there," said Shiella in a demanding tone before quickly adding. "Also mention that I have a matter to discuss with the Lufus Weapon Arms Group. He will understand my intentions when he heard that."

Anna immediately realized what her young miss was planning to do when she heard the latter part of the words. At the same time, she was also feeling nervous about what Shiella was planning to do, especially when she sensed the hint of coldness when the Lufus Weapon Arms Group was mentioned.

Regardless, she still nodded her head and answered. "I will pass the message to Sir Nathan."

Little did she know that this response might cause an extreme disaster for a certain someone.

Chapter 1054 Mentalism Reconstruction

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Shin and the others stayed at the resort that the Flying Dragon Corporation owned in the Corner Stone City. They were to remain in that place until their villas were rebuilt.

Shin did not know whether it was a good thing or not since the re-designing of the villa that they had planned before was now moved forward. They were planning to do it when the school semester of the Magic Ace Academy started. They planned to stay at the dorms for a couple of days to a month until the redesigning was done.

Given the current technology and the strength of the people of this time, constructing a house would only take a couple of days to a few weeks depending on how complicated its design was.

But since the final attempt of Mad Dog to escape resulted in their villas being destroyed during the process, they had no choice but to move their plans forward and waited for the new villas to finish.

Shin found a secluded place on the beach as he trained his Mentalism. And after his regular exercises and deep meditation, he finally had the time to investigate the current powers that he had.

His Mental Energy had become stronger and reached the Divinity Grade that he could only hear from David and Grandmaster Benn. He was still not sure how he was able to wield such a powerful mental energy despite his attainment in Mentalism was still at the lower end.

He heard from his senior brother and mentalism teacher that it was only possible through special means or when he reached the Ruler's Realm.

Even David, who was more powerful than Shin, could only suppress the power of the Divinity Grade Mental Energy through Meridian Blocking. And was also occasionally releasing it through Limit Break when the situation called for it.

Even with that, David could only hold its powers for a limited period of time, or else, he would suffer some severe drawbacks after using that kind of power in his current mentalism attainment.

Another thing was the superpowers that were clearly from that mercenary that he fought last night. He was confident that he acquired that power after defeating that opponent. But the question was 'How?'

The Fire Element Superpower even fused with the Celestial Vermillion Bird Method of his Four Symbol Scripture, which completely confused him.

Shin played with the mental energy flame with his hands while contemplating. He skillfully controlled the flame and continuously changed its form in the air.

It was at that moment when he heard a voice coming from behind. "It is really a Divinity Grade Mental Energy. It even fused with the Fire Element Superpowers. It is indeed amazing."

Shin did not have to turn his head to know who it was. He continued what he was doing while asking. "What do you think, Senior Brother? What let me wield such an advanced power despite having pitifully weak mentalism attainment compared to its requirements."

David hopped on the nearby rock boulder and sat on it before answering. "That case is completely rare and unheard of, but it did not mean that no people achieved it."

"But!" he paused for a moment to emphasize the word before continuing. "Such cases are only recorded and no one was able to prove it."

"Though, I am clearly seeing it right now," he added before turning to Shin and asking. "Can you tell me everything that you've experienced last night? It will be helpful if you don't miss any detail, no matter how small they are."

"That is not going to be a problem?" Shin nodded his head before narrating everything that happened last night in a very detailed manner.

"I see," David fell into deep thought after listening to everything. He also had a pretty serious look on his face as he tried to analyze all of the information that he received.

A few moments later, he started explaining everything to Shin. "It is not that complicated. But not that simple either."

"Where should I start? Hmm?" he paused for a moment, thinking, before continuing. "Ah! That is right, let's start with the mysterious phenomenon that you have experienced."

"In our circle, the Mentalism Circle, it is called the Mentalism Reset or Mentalism Reconstruction. It is a mysterious phenomenon where a mentalist suddenly awakens their hidden potential which leads to a couple of mutations of their mental energy and also results in some changes on their mentalism attainments."

"It is quite uncommon but not completely rare. In fact, there are a couple of situations where a mentalist can awaken their hidden potential with a hundred percent success rate."

He paused for a moment and looked at Shin before continuing. "And that is on the verge of death."

"Because of your near-death experience, you have awakened your hidden potential which leads to the Mentalism Reconstruction. And because the one that you have awakened is your Divinity Grade Mental Energy, the phenomenon became more distinct and special."

"The decomposition of your Niwan Palace and its reconstruction is a special process to match the great power of the Divinity Grade Mental Energy. It is like having a more powerful and much sturdier container to store such a powerful mental energy."

David took another pause, thinking deeply before continuing. "As for why you are able to wield the Divinity Grade Mental Energy-... I think it is because of three combined factors."

"First is because of your Special Body Constitution, the Spiritual Embryo. It is said to be the perfect vessel mentalism and even make anyone the perfect Kaleidoscope Mentalist."

Hearing this, Shin could not help but frown deeply before asking. "But you also have the Spiritual Embryo, Senior Brother. Why can you do the same."

The corner of David's mouth could not help but twitch when Shin pointed it out. This junior brother of his sure hit a sour mark. He glared at Shin and snarled. "Hey! Let me finish first before saying anything!"

"I said there are three factors! Three! What I just said is one! You understand!? Huh?!?" he glared at Shin sharply before quickly continuing. "The second factor is most likely your special 'Niwan Palace', the 'Spirit Pagoda'."

"Such a Niwan Palace is very special which somewhat deviates from the current mentalism paths known to everyone. I can even say that it is unique and no one else has it aside from Grandmaster Benn."

He paused, then nodded his head, and continued. "That is right. Grandmaster Benn poured all of his knowledge about Mentalism to create such a complicated yet powerful Niwan Palace with a solid foundation."

"Because of its special structure, it was able to hold the power of Divinity Grade Mental Energy despite being in the lower realm."

"I can even say that my master's Niwan Palace is not as complicated as yours even in her current realm. After all, she is following traditional Mentalism which is why she only has a normal Niwan Palace just like any other mentalist. Though, hers is much sturdier and more solid than everyone else," he added with pursed lips.

"We can ask Grandmaster Benn about it later to have a deeper understanding of it. After all, he is the one who invented the 'Four Symbol Scripture' that you are practicing, which gives you the ability to construct such a complicated Niwan Palace."

Shin slightly nodded his head, understanding the concept. He then suddenly asked. "Then what is the third factor?"

David glared at Shin sharply, reminding the latter to wait for him to finish. Regardless, he still continued. "That is because your body is much tougher than every mentalist on the same level. This excluded the fact that you possessed a special constitution."

He trailed his words for a moment before continuing. "Because you are unaware of the fact that you possessed the Spiritual Embryo, you trained your body through advanced martial arts and intense Internal Qi practice."

"Due to it, your constitution slightly adjusted itself to match your progress in martial arts while maintaining the Spiritual Embryo. You even engraved your bones with the permanent Qi Reinforcement Skill – not just once, but twice. One is to complement your Sacred Qi while the other is for matching the Demonic Qi that you innately possessed."

"You may not be able to use their real powers right now since your Martial Arts are currently sealed, but the physical boost and enhancements they gave your body would always be engraved on it."

David sighed a little before saying. "I must admit that I am quite jealous of you. If I also undergo special training in martial arts without touching the mentalism that much when I am young, then I will most likely be able to wield Divinity Grade Mental Energy too."

"I will not worry about the drawbacks and backlash that I may suffer after using them for an extended period of time. Though, I am sure that this also concerns a few more circumstances that I am unaware of."

"But that is most likely what it is. By combining these three cases and a few more hidden factors, if there are any, you are able to wield the power of a Divinity Grade Mental Energy."

He took another pause before adding. "But don't rejoice just yet. What your current Mental Energy has is not its full potential yet. Let's say that you only manage to awake a quarter of its powers while the rest remain sealed within your body."

"But there is nothing to worry about it too. Now that you awaken its initial powers, unsealing the remaining power it has will be much easier to achieve. All you have to do is to continue practicing and reach the higher realm of Mentalism, and the rest will naturally follow."

In the end, Shin still had to train himself diligently to gain more power. He would only become stronger if he continued training and paving his path to reach the peak of Mentalism.

"I understand, Senior Brother," said Shin fully understanding what David was trying to convey.

David nodded his head in satisfaction before continuing. "I will teach you how to wield the power of Divinity Grade Mental Energy later. But first, let's talk about the topic that piques my interest more."

"Let's take about the superpowers that you said you have absorbed," he added with a mystifying tone.

Chapter 1055 Innate Attributes And Natures Of A Discipline

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"Let's talk about the topic that piques my interest more. The thing about the superpowers that you said you have absorbed," said David with a mystifying tone.

Even though he was with his master for a long time and learned a lot from her, there were still things that he was unaware of.

He was also there during Shin's birth when he was young and personally witnessed what happened during that time. He was aware of the innate powers that Shin possessed since he was born in this world.

There was also the time when he played and interacted with the young Shin. In fact, he was the only friend that Shin had when they were staying at the small village within the Forbidden Valley of the Dark Continent, aside from the intelligent beasts residing deep within the valley.

And he was also present when those unfortunate incidents took place in that old home. He knew more of Shin's secrets better than Shin himself.

A proper friend and a good brother – that was how Shin described David during that time.

But despite all of that, he was still not sure what exactly happened during the time Shin had absorbed the superpowers of the mercenary from the last night's incident. Especially when he was not present during that time.

Even though he knew most of Shin's secrets, he was still not aware of all of the things that Evangeline and Adam, the 'damned' parents, had sealed within their child's body.

Fortunately, David had quite a lot of experiences after traveling around the world and exploring its secrets. This gave him a vague idea of what happened to Shin. Though, he was sure that it was slightly different from normal means.

David looked at Shin with an inquiring gaze before asking. "Have you heard about the 'Soul Devouring'?"

Shin could not help but tremble when he heard those words. How could he not know about such a wicked technique that the Evil and Demonic Practitioners were infamous for?

There were only a handful of Demonic Practitioners who were using such an ability now since they already found a safer path to improve themselves, but almost every powerful Evil Practitioner had that ability.

As its name suggested, it was a technique that devour the 'soul' of a person to snatch their innate powers and potential. It did not have a hundred percent success rate, but it could still give the user additional strength after using it against another person.

The scariest thing about this was it could make the use of such a technique addicted to using it. And once the symptoms of addiction appeared, it was already too late for them to stop, turning them into a monster that needed to be taken down as soon as possible.

Shin could not help but become worried about his well-being after hearing the question that David had asked. It made his imagination run wild, thinking that he might become affected by such a scary ability, especially when he possessed the infamous 'Seed of Hatred'.

Realizing his mistake, David immediately clarified. "You don't have to worry. I am not saying that your Seed of Hatred has run wild. I am just saying that something like that may have happened given your circumstances during that time."

He paused for a moment before continuing. "If I am not mistaken, during your Mentalism Reconstruction, a hidden power might have awakened within you and devoured the superpower of that mercenary."

"But it did not devour the superpower just for the sake of it, but it is most likely to accelerate the progress of your Mentalism."

Shin was slightly confused with it and could not help but ask. "What did that superpowers have to do with the progress of my Mentalism?"

David thought for a moment before continuing. "During the Mentalism Reconstruction, the unique nature of your Mental Energy may have also been awakened."

"The unique nature of my Mental Energy?" muttered Shin before quickly asking. "Eh? Are you saying that my Spiritual Force is starting to form? But I am only in the middle stage of the Grandmaster Realm."

"No, I actually regress back to the initial stage after the Mentalism Reconstruction," he added after remembering what happened last night.

David quickly explained. "You may have regressed back to the initial stage but the power that you currently have is at least as strong as most of the mentalist in the middle. Heck! You may even be stronger than them."

"As for the formation of your Spiritual Force, I am most likely sure about it. Though, it is not totally awakened," he added with a confident tone.

Shin became even more confused with what David was saying. But this time, he did not ask any questions and let David continue what he was saying.

David, on the other hand, cleared his throat before continuing. "As you know, when Martial Artists and Mentalists reached a critical juncture in their respective disciplines, they will be able to discover the true nature of their Internal Qi and Mental Energy."

"That time is when they are about to reach the Ethereal Opening Stage and the peak of Grandmaster Realm respectively."

He then paused for a moment and extended his hand forward before making a snap. And quickly after that, his Mental Energy was released from his hand. But instead of the common Mental Energy, a raging silver lightning was produced, releasing a series of sharp crackling sounds and dancing randomly in the air.

"This is my Spiritual Force. Its nature was annihilation and destruction which is why it took the form of lightning," he said before quickly adding. "Of course, not all Mental Energy with the nature of annihilation and destruction took this form. Sometimes, they took the form of violent flame."

"The so-called form of Mental Energy is not final and it varies from one person to another. This concerns a lot of factors that affect their form such as their battle style, innate attributes, and the discipline that they are practicing."

"The more you explore and improve your discipline, the more you understand its nature and discover your innate attributes."

"This works in both Martial Arts and Mentalism as they have their unique Natural Force and Spiritual Force respectively."

With another pause, David snapped his fingers once again which led to his Mental Energy changing for another time. And at this moment, the silver lightning turned into a sphere of water.

"Some people have more than one innate attribute," he then continued.

"My silver lightning is my innate attribute which also runs through my bloodline. On the other hand, the water attribute comes from the discipline that I am practicing, the 'Myriad Manifestation Method', which has a lot of forms and great flexibility."

"I have awakened these attributes when I am about to break through to the peak stage of the Grandmaster Realm. And for me to reach that stage, I have to combine the two attributes together and turn them into a unique Spiritual Force."

Pausing and snapping for another time, the Mental Energy that he was releasing took another change as the two attributes started merging together. Then a cluster of water appeared above his palm with an everchanging form while a continuous flow of crackling lightning danced alongside it.

"I call this personal Spiritual Force, I call it the 'Flowing Storm Force'," he added.

Shin knitted his brow for a moment before asking. "I understand its principle, but what is its connection with the superpowers that I have absorbed and the change in my Mental Energy?"

David flicked his wrist to retrieve his Spiritual Force and answered. "If I am not mistaken, the major attribute of your Mentalism Method is related to fire. And it not only has the nature of destruction but also the nature of creation, which explains why it has healing properties."

"As for how it is related to the superpowers that you have absorbed, it is most likely because of the Mentalism Reconstruction that you triggered last night."

"While you are undergoing that phenomenon, you may have subconsciously awakened one of your innate attributes or the nature of your Mentalism."

"And since it has sensed a similar power that can hasten its progress and strengthen itself, you have most likely absorbed and fused it with your Mentalism by instincts, resulting in what you have right now."

Furrowing his eyebrow, David could not help but add. "Based on this, I am suspecting that your 'Four Symbol Scripture' has three more attributes which correspond with the natures that they represent."

"Tsk! Now I understand why Master is saying that Grandmaster Benn is one of the brightest and wisest Mentalists in the world," David clicked his tongue as he commented. "To think that he can create such an amazing Mentalism Method? He sure is something."

"Now, all of those people, who mocked and belittle him because he delayed his mentalism attainment in exchange for his research, will be banging themselves on the wall after hearing about this."

Shin stared blankly at David as he clearly understood what his senior brother was trying to say. He was already aware of the amazingness of his Mentalism Method after learning the strength of his battle style, which was the combination of the orthodox method and mentalism runes in the battle.

But learning that it could possibly have four types of innate attributes due to the different nature of each mentalism method that the 'Four Symbol Scripture' had, he felt that he was a little overpowered.

Understanding what was running inside his junior brother's head, David could not help but wake up the latter with a bucket of cold water. "Don't get too ahead of yourself. Having multiple attributes is not necessarily mean that you are better than the others."

"Having multiple attributes can give you a lot of flexibility. You can have a greater variety of types of approaches in a fight. Something like having multiple solutions in different kinds of problems."

"However, this also means that the analysis and judgment needed to accurately choose the most efficient, effective, and ideal answer is much more difficult. The more choices you have, the harder it is to choose correctly. Furthermore, the longer it takes to choose, the harder it is for you to fight."

"This is just one of the downsides. The other is you can hone just a single attribute since you have to maintain the balance that they have. If you lean on one side a little too much and neglect even a single one of them, then the balance will instantly crumble and you will lose the edge that you are supposed to have."

Shin smiled bitterly as he was also aware of that matter. He nodded his head and replied. "I understand, Senior Brother," losing the initial excitement that he had.

David nodded his head in satisfaction before continuing. "Anyway, you can expect that you will be able to awaken an attribute of your Mentalism Method each time you have a minor breakthrough starting today."

"It is just my suspicion, but I have full confidence that it is most likely the case. Though, I also suggest you try studying each of the methods of your 'Four Symbol Scripture' a little deeper to know more about their secrets."

"It is your mentalism path, so I can help you much about it aside from sharing my experiences when I am in your stage. I can also share some of the knowledge that I have accumulated after roaming around the world."

"But I must warn you, the path that you are currently taking is going to be a very bumpy one. After all, you also have the 'Jade Kirin Scripture' to study as well as the swordsmanship that you have recently re-discovered."

"This is another downside of practicing multiple disciplines at the same time. Managing your time in learning them also has to be considered."

"Though, you will obviously be very powerful if you manage to persevere until the end," said David will adding a little as he remembered something. "Maybe the sealing of your Martial Arts is a blessing in disguise since you can solely focus on your Mentalism practice right now."

After that, David suddenly said with great interest. "But still, what I am most curious about is the ability that you subconsciously awaken last night. The one that let you absorb the superpower of that mercenary."

Remembering that, Shin could not help but nod his head and curiously thought. "I am also interested in that. Unfortunately, I don't know how to use it since I have no idea what happens during that time."

It was at this point when David suddenly said with a mystifying tone. "Actually, we can ask someone about it."

Shin quickly turned to David when he heard those words and immediately asked. "Quick, tell me! Who is it?"

"I originally want to ask the Old Geezer and Old Fatty, but it looks like those two are busy with an important mission once again given that I can't contact them even with the special communication device that they have given me," he added while wearing a deep frown.

David could not help but shake his head because of how Shin addressed his masters, who were respectively elders in their respective fields. If he tried to call his master, Evangeline, with something similar, then he will find himself hanging upside-down at the center of the forbidden valley for an entire week at the very least.

Regardless, he continued and asked. "The next school semester is about to start on the day after tomorrow, right?"

He did not wait for Shin to answer as he quickly added "And you are also a part of the Research Department. Professor Henry is very knowledgeable. You can ask him about it and we will surely get an answer that will satisfy our curiosity."

Chapter 1056 School Starts

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Today was the day when the Magic Ace Academy started its school semester.

Shin and the others were headed over to the school early in the morning since there was still a little ceremony to welcome the students who were joining the school.

Or more specifically, for them, it was a special orientation to inform them about their specialized curriculum.

Their group quickly attracted a lot of attention right after they entered the school premises. Not only everyone in their group was eye candy, but they were also quite famous within the campus due to the amazing feat that they had accomplished.

Forget about Alice, who was an idol and was known to everyone. Even Lorraine and Cloe, who were originally not known were ranked within the Beauty Ranking List of the school right after they had entered.

On the other hand, Shin, Arthur, and Leonard – also known as the Monster Trio – immediately attracted the interest of the majority of the students. The faceoff that these three had with the famous 'Three Kings' of the academy already spread throughout the campus. Even their victory over the latter during the special exam was already known to everyone.

The school magazine already published an article solely discussing the feats of the trio as well as their background. There were even some photos of them that were taken during the final stages of the special exam.

This group immediately became a celebrity on campus.

The school gates were already flowing with a lot of students entering the campus. And when their group entered through it, the students were already attracted to them and started whispering with each other.

Arthur, who always enjoyed being in the limelight, was walking proudly with his straightened posture and high chin. He could not hide his satisfaction after seeing the expressions that the surrounding students were giving them, majorly awe and admiration.

The three girls were walking calmly as they were already used to this kind of attention. Given their looks, people tended to look at them this way whenever they went.

On the other hand, Leonard, who was not used to it, and Shin, who hated being in the spotlight, were wearing slightly embarrassed looks on their faces. Fortunately, they were able to recover themselves, especially with the help of Arthur's shamelessness.

The group did not linger around and headed straight to the gymnasium where they took the first part of the previous exam.

Naturally, they were not the only famous people. The other students, who fought against them, during the special exam were equally famous, particularly the Three Kings, who were already famous within the campus even before the exam.

There was also the twin that came from the Sun-Moon Continent and Dylan, who was said to be the closest to being the youngest Swordmaster of this generation. There were also a few people, who were slightly low-profiled but were somewhat famous for their strengths and unique abilities.

When Shin and the group arrived at the gymnasium, there were already a few students waiting inside. They were quite familiar with a few of them as these people were the ones who underwent the same special exam as them.

Their number was quite few which was quite far from the real number of students who were attending the school this year. But this did not mean that they were only the students here. The fact that there were other students walking alongside them earlier.

There were just a special group of students who were undergoing a special curriculum. After all, it was the very reason why they took the special exam – identifying whether they were qualified to take that curriculum.

At the same time, it was also a preparation for the upcoming Battle for Supremacy that was about to come.

The other students, which were the regular students, were gathered in a different place, which was where the normal ceremonies were being held. High school and College students were naturally separated from each other while the latter group was further divided into outer and inner students, which differentiate the regular and elite students respectively.

Shin and the others belonged to the special group of students, who were undergoing a special curriculum based on the results of the previous test and the departments that they had chosen during that time.

Instead of being elite high school students, they would be treated as college students, who would be attending specialized classes prepared for each of them.

The students within the gymnasium quickly organized themselves and fell in line according to the instructions given to them prior to this day.

It did not take for all of the students to the special curriculum to arrive and lined themselves up in front of the stage. And as if waiting for that to happen, an elderly man with white hair walked onto the stage and stood in front of everyone.

"Welcome, students," he was not using a microphone or anything, but his voice reverberated in the whole gymnasium, attracting the attention of everyone. His clear and loud voice even brought those students dozing off in the air back to reality.

"I am the headmaster of the combat department, Professor Gunther Mendeleev, who will be overseeing your overall curriculum for the upcoming years you are staying in this school," He scanned his gaze at everyone, seemingly checking if everyone was paying attention to him, before continuing. "First, the school wants to congratulate all of you for qualifying for the special curriculum."

"I will not discuss much about it since you will know more about your respective chosen fields when you met with your professors. What I want to tell you is to make sure you persevere and stay strong until the end since it will be beneficial to all of you, especially for exploring your martial and mentalism paths."

He paused for a moment and added. "I will not give any boring speeches aside from that and will quickly explain your basic schedules in the academy."

"All of you are required to attend the classes meant for freshmen college students. These classes will last for at least three semesters depending on how quickly everyone is progressing."

"The classes concerning these included, the Basic and advanced knowledge of Martial and Mentalism Paths, Study of Innate Attributes, Elementary Knowledge of Martial and Mentalism Natures, Exploration of Inner Self, Theory of Energies, Study of Individuality and Duality, Theories of Combat, Bestial Encyclopedia, Botany, etc..."

"These were the subjects that you have to finish before you can advance to more complicated studies and personal subjects that you want to pursue. Don't ask me why you have to take such subjects since you can ask your respective professor for each of the said subjects – save your questions for them later."

"The schedule for your classes is as follows: During the day, from Monday to Wednesday, you have to attend these unified subjects while the afternoons will be scheduled for physical exercises. All of you will be taking these subjects together – in short, you all are in one class basically."

"The entirety of Thursday and Friday are reserved for your respective departments. The classes that you will be taking from them will be organized by the personnel from those departments."

"In the meantime, Saturday and Sunday are assigned for the personal tutoring of specific professors who will be taking you as personal students or assistants."

Some of the students quickly show violent reactions, seemingly complaining about not having a rest day. Among these students, Arthur was clearly one of them.

Professor Gunther quickly released a suppression aura that befell everyone, shutting up the students, who were complaining. He glared at them sharply before continuing. "I know that some of will be complaining about not having a weekly holiday, but you have to drill in your minds that you choose to be part of this special curriculum, so you can only blame yourselves for that."

"But I also have to inform you that this will only last for a couple of semesters since the early stages of the curriculum are the only ones that are fully packed. It is because we have to make sure that you are knowledgeable in every field which will be helpful for your future studies."

"Once you went through these hard stages, you will be having more freedom for the latter part of the specialized curriculum. That is why I am telling you to endure and persevere."

Professor Gunther discussed a few more topics such as the rules within the academy and special privileges that they would receive when staying in the academy. And after making sure that he did not forget anything, he dismissed everyone, telling them that the orientation and introduction were already over.

He also informed them to quickly head to the special auditorium where they would be taking most of their theoretical subjects together. It was a special room that was specifically prepared for those who were taking the special curriculum.

"Sigh~! How can this be?" Arthur walked out of the gymnasium with his head hanging on his shoulders. He looked like a lifeless corpse given the blank eyes that he had. He did not expect that he still had to study those theoretical and analytical subjects despite choosing the combat department.

Leonard, on the other hand, was relatively fine. Even though he did not like studying, he did not hate it either. At the very least, he was good enough to maintain a passing grade in every subject.

Shin and the girls were fine. Shin was a good student while the girls were hardworking enough to study.

They were walking together as they headed toward the building where their classroom would be. It was at that moment when the Potter Twins arrived and joined them.

"Good morning, Senior Brother," greeted Molton as he walked alongside Arthur.

Hearing those words, Arthur quickly whipped his head to the side, turning to the twin. But instead of greeting Molton back, he went straight to Jillian and spoke. "Good morning, beautiful. The day is as radiant as you."

The others could not help but groan when they heard those words. They were cringing really hard.

Jillian, on the other hand, rolled her eyes and pointed at the sky. "It is dark and cloudy, though."

After that, she hastened her steps, not wanting to associate with Arthur anymore. She felt that she would be having her worst time in school if she tried to entertain this idiot.

Naturally, Arthur quickly followed, not going to give up just like that.

In the meantime, the others simultaneously released a helpless yet amusing smile before following after them.

Their days in the school might be a very exhausting one given the full packed schedule, but at the very least, they would be having an entertaining time watching Arthur clowning himself.

Chapter 1057 School Starts (Part 2)

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Right after Shin and the others entered the auditorium-type lecture hall, they immediately looked for their seats.

Shin immediately went to the highest point, where the back-row seats were located. Unlike a regular studious student, he always chose to sit in the back row, farthest from the teacher's stand because of Arthur's insistence.

After studying being with such a guy, he had gotten used to it, and became a habit of his. For him, it would be fine wherever he sat when attending class. What was important was whether he was paying attention to the teacher or not.

As for Arthur, that guy obviously chose to seat that the back row to sleep in class. Though, with the sitting arrangement within the lecture hall, where the furthest row was on an elevated position, the professor would immediately spot him if he tried to sleep in the class.

Right after Shin took his seat, the others quickly followed. Cloe swiftly seat on his left side with Lorraine taking a seat beside her. Arthur, on the other hand, sat on the right side with Leonard taking the seat beside him.

Molton hesitated for a moment before deciding to sit in the row in front of the group. He chose to sit in front of Shin, letting his sister sit in front of Arthur. But to his and Arthur's disappointment, his plan had failed.

Jillian sighed helplessly before sitting beside her brother – obviously not taking the seat in front of Arthur but the one on his other side. She was used to sitting with him during class, so she would feel a little uncomfortable if she sat in the front row alone.

Alice swept her gaze on the group before taking the seat beside Jillian, right in front of Lorraine. She might be famous in her previous school and had a lot of girls following her. But since she was a student

undergoing a special program, she was currently alone. Afraid of being isolated, she chose to join the group.

At the very least, she was pretty close to Lorraine after living with her for quite some time. It would be ideal to seat beside Lorraine, but since the latter was already at the furthest seat on the left, she could only take the seat in front.

Shin let the others do their own thing as he quickly swept his gaze at the lecture hall. He immediately noticed that some of their classmates were making their respective groups. While some of them chose to distance themselves from the others, wanting to be a loner.

The ones, who had the largest group aside from theirs, were obviously the Three Kings. Jean Camus and his gang of followers was one of the most famous groups in the class.

Not far from them was the twin, who came from the Sun-Moon Continent, Marie, and Mavin. They were a pair of geniuses in the field of advanced technology and engineering. From what Shin had heard, these two were the Twin Stars of the said continent.

There was also Diel Hendrickson, who was leading a small group of his own. From their group, the one, who piqued Shin's interest aside from this guy, was Falcon Hawkins, the personal aide of Diel.

Falcon Hawkins possessed strength and talent that was enough to be ranked as one of the top students of this special class. He was too good for being a personal aide of a certain young master.

There were also a few smaller groups within the class. But they were too low-profiled for Shin and the others to take notice. Instead, the lone wolves were the ones who were attracting the attention of the top students.

Dylan White, the Sword Genius, was one of them while Ezio Williams the second lone wolf, stood among the others.

The more Shin looked at the class, the more interested he became. He felt that his time in the academy would be worthwhile.

While everyone was busy with their own things, a beautiful woman in professional clothes entered the lecture hall and stood at the front platform. Based on her appearance, she seemed to be in her early thirties.

She immediately attracted the attention of everyone when she entered, making the others, who were busy chatting with each other, shut their mouths. It was not only because of her stunning appearance and striking figure but also because of the powerful presence that she was emitting as she entered the lecture hall.

She did not immediately say anything after she stood at the front platform. She just calmly put the tablet and small box that she was carrying on the table before sweeping her gaze at everyone.

Seeing that everyone was paying attention to her, she slightly nodded her head before introducing herself. "I am Kyrie Pride. All of you can call me Miss Kyrie or Professor Kyrie – whatever works for you. And I will be your class adviser for the upcoming years when you are studying in the academy."

"I am easy to approach, but make sure to not act too familiar with me when we are outside the classroom, or else, you will face the consequences," she added with a threatening tone.

As someone as beautiful as her, it was natural for some of the bolder students to dare to approach her. Especially with her stunning figure. She was already too tired to deal with them, so she would always be teaching those students a lesson if they tried to flirt with her.

Even the other professors, who were her colleagues, were too afraid of her due to her aggressiveness. Moreover, she was one of the strongest professors in the faculty department, so provoking her was no different from asking for a death sentence.

Professor Kyrie nodded her head in satisfaction after seeing the reaction of her current students. She then waved her hand and spoke. "This is your first day of school, so I will not immediately start with the lecture. But I will also not waste our time on a stupid introduction."

"Instead, I will be discussing how are you going to spend your time in this school. I know that you already heard the rules from Headmaster Gunther earlier, so I will immediately proceed with the duties and responsibilities that you are going to have as elite students of the Magic Ace Academy."

She walked around the table on the front platform and caught a glimpse of the box that she was carrying earlier. She then turned to the students and quickly said. "Ah! I almost forget. Here are your personal watches provided by the academy."

She made a snap with her fingers as a name was projected behind her. "If your name is flashed on the screen, then quickly come forward and take your watch. This thing will serve as both your ID Card and record book of all of the activities that you will be taking part in the future."

Shin was the first to be called out. He stood up and walked forward, taking the thin and ordinary-looking wrist wrap given to him by Professor Kyrie.

That wrist wrap was obviously made of unique materials. Because despite being so thin and light, akin to being a thin sheet of paper, Shin could feel how sturdy they were. And when he wrapped it around his wrist, he could not even feel or see what it was as it quickly mimicked the color of his skin. It was as if the wrist wraps were a part of his skill.

The professor called it a watch, so it should have a similar function as an Advance Watch that people were using in this modern times.

Curiously, Shin light tapped the top of his wrist and saw a stretched, rectangular screen lighting up on it.

'It was indeed a watch,' Shin could not help but be impressed while his curiosity grew.

He naturally did not forget to respectfully bow to their professor before turning around and walking down the platform while playing with the new technological watch that he just received.

Professor Kyrie did not say anything and just nodded slightly to Shin when he bowed. She then waited for the next person, Jean Camus, to walk up the platform and take his personal academy watch.

She waited for a few students to pick up their respective academy watches before explaining some of their functions. "These watches are almost no different from the regular ones that you are using. The

only difference it has is the private line that it was using when you are communicating with each other, which is a more secured line compared to the public lines available to everyone."

"It also has access to our school database that you can use for the activities that you are going to do in the future. Of course, you also have to pay enough merit points if you want to access certain information."

"They are also connected to the school portals and mission boards of the academy."

"In this watch, your scores, grades, and merit points are being recorded. Speaking of merit points – the merit points that you have accumulated during the previous exam are already distributed to you, so you can look at them now."

She paused for a moment to make sure that everyone was able to follow before continuing. "As you already know, these merit points have a lot of uses. You can exchange it for special potions, pills, and even equipment that you need. You can also use it to buy some of the special tools that you will be needing for your respective missions."

"The merit points are also a special currency that you need to gain access to some of the special facilities and areas within the school that can help your progress in your respective discipline. For example, there are the Volcano Chambers, the Winter Chambers, and the other advanced training chambers where you can boost the training process for certain skills and techniques."

"There are also the Spiritual Pool, the Dragon Lagoon, the Sword Peaks, and True Qi Lake, which can hasten your progress when accumulate enough energy within your body."

"There are also some ancient tomes, scrolls, and tablets that contain a lot of insights that can improve your comprehension abilities or other things."

"You can even hire some instructors or professors to teach you a couple of things as long as you can afford their lectures."

"Merit points have a lot of uses and you can benefit from them greatly, so make sure to use them wisely when you are planning to spend them," she added, pointing out the importance of merit points.

This time, she did not wait for everyone to process her words as she quickly continued. "You can earn merit points by visiting the Mission Portal. As its name implied, you can accept missions from that portal. The harder and more complicated mission you have, the better the rewards obviously."

"But I must warn you, you can't accept a mission higher than the recommended difficulty of your grades. The risk of such missions will be enough to take your lives if you are not careful."

"Missions have different grades and they varied from 1 to 10 stars from easiest to hardest. It is similar to the grades that you have which correspond with what difficulty is most suited for you."

"One-star student is recommended to take a 1-star mission, and so on. Of course, you can also form your respective groups if you want to tackle a much harder mission. It will be safer that way. But the rewards will be divided among the members of the group."

"There are different types of missions too – such as stealth-type ones, hunting missions, assault missions, escort missions, bodyguard missions, and others."

"Choosing a mission that perfectly suits your skillset will also be reflected in your final grades, so we recommend you to think about it wisely."

"Aside from the missions, you can also accept some errands from the school if you want. You can also help the school in different ways such as being a student assistant, research assistant, or others."

"Overall, you have a lot of ways to earn merit points, so don't complain to us that we are treating you unfairly when the time comes."

She paused, then slightly scratched the back of her neck, and continued. "Every end of the month, we will have different rankings and one of them is for the accumulated merit points that you have. As well as for the mission success rate."

"This way, we can see how good you are when dealing with different kinds of situations. Additional merit points will be given to the students who are ranked at the top five of the class while the 5 bottom rankers will face some punishments in the form of running some errands for the school, free of service."

Professor Kyrie could not help but pause once again when she reached this point before continuing. "Speaking of rankings, here are the current rankings that we have for this month."

Chapter 1058 Rankings And Clubs

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Merit Points Class Ranking.

1. Shin Kinghad – 10 800

2. Jean Camus – 9 800

3. Diel Hendrickson – 9 700

4. Dylan White – 8 200

5. Arthur Springfield – 8 000

6. Leonard Fireheart – 7 800

7. Simone Bartolomeo – 7 700

8. Thomas Brook – 7 200

9. Falcon Hawkins – 6 900

10. Ezio Williams – 6 500

11. Cloe Cilvana – 6 300

12. Alice Stuart – 6 200

13. Lorraine Goldstein – 6 000

14. Jillian Potter – 5 900

15. Molton Potter – 5 800

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There was a total of fifty students that were accepted for the special program of the school after a series of exams and all of their names were ranked based on the merit points that they had accumulated.

There was a noticeable gap between the top-rankers and the lower-ranked ones. It was because of the individual assessment of the professors and instructors given to each student. It was based on the overall performance that each student had shown during the entirety of the exam.

The duels during the final stages of the exam also affected their scores and gained them a lot of extra merit points, especially the ones who won over their opponents.

The gap between the top rankers might be noticeable, but the scores of the lower rankers were tightly packed together. Some of them earned the same number of merit points, making them occupy the same ranking.

Professor Kyrie let the students look at the merit points ranking for a few moments before continuing. "These are your current merit points. Some of you may be confused about how you earned them, so I will explain it to you."

"Most of the merit points came from the number of prisoners that you and your group have killed during your time in the Prison Island."

"Some of you even killed a huge gang or someone with a very high ranking on the island. Some even killed a notorious prisoner with a lot of criminal charges. Each prisoner had a bounty on their head, so there is no need to explain much about it."

Pausing for a moment, the professor cleared her throat while sweeping her gaze at a couple of remarkable students. "But killing the prisoners is not the only criterion for earning these points. There are a few students among you who perform well and showcase their wise thinking. In this area, the captains of each group scored an extra number of points."

She even gave Shin a meaningful look before continuing. "There are also the monster beasts that you have hunted during that time. Those savage creatures also have a corresponding score when taking them down, so the merit points that you have earned majorly come from them."

With a flick of her wrist, the virtual screen projecting the names of the students suddenly disappeared as she continued. "You may have earned quite a lot of merit points from that event but don't expect that you will easily earn more just because of it."

"Earning merit points is much harder than you think and the missions that you are going to do just to earn them will wake you up from reality."

"Normally, we are refraining students from partaking in any kind of mission until they are in their sophomore years, ideally in their junior years. But since you are chosen to be in this special program, the academy has no other choice but to let you accept certain missions to accelerate your growth."

She paused for a moment to wet her drying throat by drinking the bottled water on the table before continuing. "Speaking of the mission. We will also have a corresponding ranking board for it. The criteria for this particular ranking will be the quantity and quality of the missions that you are going to accept. Whether it is a group or individual mission, you will receive a corresponding grading for it."

"The success rate will give you more score obviously, but it is not the only one that you need to consider. How well and how well you performed during the missions will also affect your scores. This will

reflect from the reports that you are going to make after every mission as well as the intelligence network that the academy has."

Bang!

She slammed her hand on the table as she gave everyone a warning looking before adding. "Do you dare give us a false report or some sugarcoating to look yourself well during the mission since the academy will verify each of your reports after you submitted it?"

"Of course, you are more than welcome to try to test our intelligence network if you want, but make sure that you are ready to face the consequences once everything has been verified."

The threatening aura instantly disappeared as she quickly retrieved it after saying those words. She then recollected herself before continuing. "You are required to finish a number of low-grade missions every month or one middle-grade mission. It is to make sure that you are making progress."

"You have the entire month to prepare for your missions, so you can't say that you are too busy to do them. You can also communicate with your respective departments to ask for leave when you are doing your missions."

"Personally, as your class adviser, I suggest you form a group and pick one or two middle-grade missions at the start of the month. Then make your preparations and discuss with each other during your free time before tackling the mission at the end of the month."

"This is the most ideal way of doing missions when you are still students. Most of the famous groups within the academy are doing their mission like this."

"You can also do it individually, but it is more ideal to do it in groups," she added before proceeding to the next topic. "Next is the combat rankings."

"I know that most of you will love this since this is a straightforward way to know your progress. You can also compare yourselves to your classmates with this and have a clear understanding of the gap between you and the others."

"Every start of the month, we will be having a special sparring session designated just for the combat ranking. Each of you can challenge anyone you want to snatch their ranking from them. You will only have two chances every month, so think wisely about who are you going to challenge."

"Of course, if you are satisfied with your current rankings, you are more than welcome to not use your chances of challenging someone."

"You are also forbidden to challenge anyone who has a lower ranking than you for obvious reasons, but you can't refuse the challenges that are issued to you by the ones who are from the lower ranking."

"And to be fair, everyone can only be challenged twice. It will be too unfair of anyone to get challenged repeatedly and exhaust themselves after each match."

Professor Kyrie thought for a moment before continuing. "For the Mission Rankings, we will obviously not have one yet. I will give you some consideration and let you adjust to the current rules of the academy for a month, so you can have more time to prepare for your first missions."

"The compulsory missions will only start for the second month, so don't complain that I am not considerate, alright"

"As for the Combat Rankings, we will go with our current Merit Rankings. We will use the same set of arrangements for that one. When the next month starts, the sparring session will follow these arrangements."

Shin could only help but raise his brows when he heard those words. He was currently the first ranker for the merit points, so he would obviously be the target for everyone. Fortunately, they could only be challenged twice, so it would still be manageable.

Well, it was not he was complaining about it. He would welcome every challenge with open arms since he was confident with his current strength, especially since he now gained a new form of power for his Mentalism.

While he was lost in his thoughts, Professor Kyrie suddenly remembered something. "Ah! I almost forgot! Since you guys are being threatened as college students, you are required to join a university club and partake in club activities."

"The Magic Ace Academy is encouraging everyone to socialize and build up some good connections. The real world is harsher than you think, so it is better to have more connections with different people from different fields."

"You can also ask for some help from certain people when you are out for your missions. If you have a better connection, then you will be able to do more missions and accomplish more feats."

"The Club Recruitment Fair will be held later in the afternoon. I can cancel your classes later for you to participate in them and choose a club that suits your tastes or matches your skills and talents."

"Don't neglect this since you will also gain a lot of merit points when you are doing some club activities. The benefits that you will get from the clubs are much better than you can imagine."

Professor Kyrie could not help but furrow her brows slightly when she saw that none of her students were showing any kind of enthusiasm or excitement when she mentioned the matter about the clubs.

But when she thought more about it, she found it quite reasonable. If this class was a normal group of students, then they might feel a little excited about that topic. But since they were elites who were meant to participate in the upcoming Battle for Supremacy, then it was pretty normal for them to not feel anything about such 'trivial' things.

"Anyway, this is one of the things that you are required to do, so make sure to choose a club. The academy will give some demerits if you refuse to join any."

She paused for a moment before quickly adding. "Well, if you are not interested in the already existing clubs, then you can make one your own. Just make sure that you have enough members and merit points to create one."

"But let me be clear. A club is like a little organization within the academy. They will get some funds and support from the school as long as they are regularly doing your responsibilities and club activities. And if you neglect even that, then not only your club will be dissolved, but you will also pay a huge amount of compensation for your negligence and score some demerits."

Seeing that she could still not get any reaction from her students, Professor Kyrie tempted everyone more. "And one more thing. Every semester, the academy is having a semi-annually competition and the only ones who are qualified to participate are students affiliated with clubs."

"It is a Club Exhibition Matches. Each club will send their representatives to the competition who will be facing the other representatives. The club that will be crowned as the champions will have a lot of prizes such as merit points, more funding, and special entry for special facilities or cultivation areas."

"So, I encourage you to partake in such an event," she added with a pleased tone since she was finally able to get some reaction from her students. Some of them were even considering which club were they going to choose.

She then nodded her head before clapping her hands to gather their attention. "Alright, that is for today, I guess. Since this is your first day of school, I will dismiss you early and let you visit the Academy Square to check on the clubs recruiting there."

"The Academy has a lot of clubs, so you have a variety of choices. But you still have to choose wisely since it is ideal to join a club where you can showcase your talents, which will also give you more chances to earn merit points.

"I wish you all the luck," she smiled at them before quickly gathering her things and leaving the lecture hall.

Chapter 1059 School Clubs

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After the class was dismissed, Shin and his group immediately exited the room through the door at the back of the lecture hall.

There was a staircase there that was leading toward the exit door. And when Arthur saw it, his rich imagination quickly started working out. He could not help but think that this spot was a perfect place to hide. He could hide here whenever he wanted to take a nap during the boring lectures.

Shin, who was very familiar with this brother of his, knew what was running inside Arthur's head, especially when he saw the excited look from the latter. He shook his head as he felt that this guy was hopeless when it came to studying.

The others also felt the same. They also knew Arthur for a very long time already, so it was natural for them to know what he was thinking. They could only shake their heads helplessly as they watch them formulate a perfect 'plan' inside his head.

Jillian, who subconsciously joined the group with her brother following after them, could also see the excited look on Arthur's face. And after a few deductions inside her head, she also got an idea of what he was thinking.

Immediately, the expression on her face suddenly became cold while also threw a skeptical look at Arthur. She quickly snatched the arm of her brother and pulled him away from Arthur's side, thinking that her brother would be influenced badly if he continued hanging out with such a troublemaker.

With his senses, Arthur could feel the gazes that the others were giving him. And when he raised his head and swept his gaze at them, he immediately realized that he had been figured out.

He could only smile embarrassed him and scratched his head awkwardly at them. "It is not what you are thinking about. I am actually quite curious about the clubs that our school had. I wonder which one are we going to choose?"

Unfortunately for him, his actions already sold him out even after saying those words.

The only person who was clueless about the situation was Molton, who quickly brought up what Arthur had said. He then took a small notebook and started flipping its pages.

"If you are interested in the clubs, Senior Brother, then I can give you the list of all of the clubs," he said in an innocent manner.

Arthur did not know what this junior brother was thinking, but he was very thankful for being saved from that awkward situation. He let out a fake and forceful laugh before saying. "Is that so? Which one do you think is the most famous?"

The others clicked their tongue after hearing him ask for the most famous group. They knew that this guy only wanted to join the clubs to attract more attention to himself.

Molton did not know about that, so he quickly answered. "Hmm... that is a pretty difficult question, honestly. The academy had a variety of clubs in which they excelled."

"Some of the clubs focused more on having a leisure life, some are interested in exploring different places and hiking – there are some that are interested in cooking and looking for different kinds of

delicacies, there are also clubs that like arts such as painting, sculptures, and other forms of visual arts, there even clubs that like making music and create a band."

"There are also some clubs that focused on completing the school tasks such as doing missions, participating with important researchers, presenting remarkable theses, and many more."

"There are also some clubs that focus on sport-related events. Most of them want to revive the old sports that are already being disregarded due to our current era."

"The clubs can be separated into these groups and all of them have the most famous club, which one do you want to know about? Which of them falls in your interest?"

Arthur had a blank look on his face as he stared at Molton for giving brief, simple, but quite detailed information. It seemed like he caught his tongue as he felt somewhat impressed on this junior brother that he had 'picked' up 'accidentally'.

The others were also giving the little strange yet impressed looks, which made Molton a little embarrassed. He did not know why everyone was looking at him that way.

Shin quickly recovered from the 'surprise' that the guy had given them and swiftly stepped forward while shaking Molton's hand. "As expected of the 'Molton Potter'! I am truly am a fan."

When Shin was just starting the game, he regularly watched some videos from the experts to learn some hidden and special mechanics. And from all of the articles and videos that he was using as study material during that time, the name 'Molton Potter' was one of the best in his opinion.

His lengthy but very detailed videos helped Shin a lot during those times. This was why he claimed that he was a fan since the first time they met in person.

Molton was not used to receiving such praise, so he could only let Shin shake his hand while wearing an embarrassed smile. He knew what the latter was talking about because of their first encounter with each other.

Those videos discussing the basic and advanced game mechanics of virtual games were just a hobby of his. He did not even think that he was good at it since his contents were not being viewed by many.

There were only a handful of people who were reading or watching those articles and videos, so he thought that he was not good at it.

Most of the reviews that he was receiving were also quite discouraging. Most people said that his contents were too boring to watch and such basic mechanics could be learned by everyone through simple methods, so watching his videos was a waste of time.

It warmed his heart that someone was genuinely praising and thanking him.

Little did he know that only a weirdo like Shin would spend his time studying basic game mechanics through a lengthy video.

Nevertheless, a fan was still a fan. So, it was still a good thing unless they were some obsessive fans that would turn into crazy stalkers or sorts.

After letting Shin shake his hand, Molton suddenly remembered something. "Ah! All of you are playing virtual games, right? There are also some clubs that are created by the in-game Guilds, Adventurer Teams, Mercenary Groups, and other virtual organizations. I think you will be interested in them."

"The most famous club within the academy that is created by an in-game guild is the 'Hand of Midas'! All of their members are members of their guild within the game. Not only their members are talented in different fields, but they are also quite strong."

"Most of their members are also from a variety of courses and the majority of them were top students within the school. And because of that, their club is very influential within the academy. Even the Student Council and the Disciplinary Committee, who have the most remarkable students even among the most elite students under them, are wary of the Hand of Midas."

He paused for a moment and scratched his cheek before continuing with an unsure tone. "I heard that the club itself is built by the mysterious guild leader of the Hand of Midas themselves, alongside their chief executives."

"Even though it is more like a rumor, I think it is very possible since I heard from a senior within the club that their guild leader is a student of the academy," he added with a knitted brow.

The bodies of Shin and Arthur could not help but turn stiff after hearing that. Of course, they knew that the so-called rumor was true since they were aware that the guild leader of the said guild, their big sister, was indeed an elite student of the academy.

'As expected of her. She can always expand her sphere of influence wherever she goes,' – they thought while also telling themselves not to join that club no matter what.

Cloe and Lorraine could not help but giggle when they noticed the actions of the two. They were close to them, so they were familiar with the relationship that these guys had with their big sister.

As usual, the clueless Molton asked with an innocent tone once again. "What kind of club are you most interested in?"

Arthur felt a little too powerless to respond while Leonard was too lazy to think about it. Cloe would obviously go with whatever Shin decided while Lorraine was the same for Leonard.

On the other hand, Jillian was seriously considering her choice. She was Molton's twin sister, so she obviously heard all of it from her brother before. And as someone, who would be one of the members responsible for the future of her family, she had to make a choice that could benefit her a lot. A club where she could increase the connections of her family would obviously be one of her choices.

Meanwhile, Alice felt that she should join a music club or some sort. Given her talent as a singer, it would be an obvious choice. And aside from playing games, where she could feel her freedom, singing was one of the most important things that she had. And as an idol in the real world, it would be a pity if she did not use her talent in singing.

Aside from that, she was also not that close with everyone for her to join the same club as them, so her decision would not be influenced by them. Even though she felt a little uncomfortable when she thought that she would be alone once again, she still stuck with her choice.

At worst, she would go back to her style of life that she had before she met the others. It might be short, but she felt a little belonging after being with them, especially when she was getting close to Lorraine recently.

Having that in mind, she braced herself and was the first to voice out her thoughts. "I think I will join a music club."

Chapter 1060 Enjoying In The Academy Square

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"I think I will join a music club."

Right after Alice said those words, the group came to a sudden halt as they looked at her. They were not sure how they were going to react. And when she received their gazes, she could not help but feel a little uncomfortable and could only lower her head to look at the floor.

The first to recover was Arthur who forced out an awkward laugh. "Ah! Yeah! You are an idol, so it will be a waste if you did not join a music club. It is very fitting for you. We will support whatever you want, but hang out with us a little more so that we can be familiar with each other more."

"After all, you are one with us now. Not only you are staying with our big sister and the others, but you are also a part of our Adventurer Team, so we have to know and understand each other more, don't you agree?" he added.

He then swept his gaze at the others and saw that they still did not know how to react, so he took the initiative to voice out his choice. "Well, I don't have a specific type of club in mind. As long as I can have a lot of freedom when joining them and get a lot of time for exposure, then I will not have a problem joining them."

This time, Leonard quickly added. "I am not specifically good at anything aside from doing all kinds of odd jobs. I guess I will join whatever you or Shin Bro are going to pick."

Arthur shook his head and clicked his tongue as he gave some exaggerated "Tsk! Tsk! You should know that this guy knows to do anything. He is good at cooking. The food that he makes is like a gourmet for gods."

"He is also good at singing and playing all kinds of instruments. Heck, he can even make his own music. I will not be surprised if he chooses a music club too."

"Even if he is only a freshmen high school student, I can say that he is smart enough to join those thesis-loving clubs," he added before turning to Shin while asking. "What do you think? Do you already have a choice in mind?"

Shin rolled his eyes at Arthur before replying. "You are exaggerating it a little too much. Let's go. Let's take a look at the clubs that the school has and make our choice later."

Arthur clicked his tongue once again before suddenly saying. "Ah! The idea of making our own club is also quite good too! What do you think of making Emphyrean Talons a School Club?"

Shin shook his head and turned around. "Let's go."

After that, the group resumed their steps and made their way toward the Academy Square. Shin, Arthur, and Leonard banter with each other a little while Cloe and Lorraine laughed at them from the side and also poked fun at them from time to time.

Molton silently walked behind them while observing everyone. He rarely socialized with others because of his introverted nature. But the atmosphere of this group gave him a refreshing feeling and sense of belonging, so he did not mind hanging out with them.

Jillian was only here to keep an eye on her brother. She and their mother were worried that he would not be able to make friends after transferring here, so she had to support him from the side. She was always been with him, so it would not be a problem.

But after seeing her honest brother being badly influenced by Arthur, she could not help but have conflicting feelings.

Alice stayed rooted in her spot for a few moments as she watched them. She still did not know how to feel about this group, but she had to admit that she was starting to like them more as time passed.

It was a new feeling for her since she was usually alone. Moreover, the people around her, before she met this group, were always looking at her with expectations.

Whether they were from her family, from her fans, or from her agency and career manager – all of them were looking at her with such gaze. Especially from her family which started when her big sister ran away from home and disappeared.

It made her feel pressured and suffocated. She thought that this must be what her big sister was feeling at that time. She might be trying to escape from everyone, unable to cope with the pressure.

This was the reason why she built up her cold and indifferent personality. Most of the time, she was also acting like a spoiled princess, who demanded everything from the others. It was to protect herself from the pressure and those gazes directed at her.

She was used to that kind of life until she met Shin and the others. After meeting them, she felt that she could act more relaxed and showed them her other side, her real self. They were treating her like everyone else and looking at her without any kind of expectations.

"It was really not a bad feeling," she muttered as she looked at their backs.

While she was lost in her thoughts, the group suddenly paused their steps once again after noticing her absence. They then turned around and saw her looking at them from the distance.

"Are you not coming with us?" asked Lorraine. She was the closest to her compared to others, so she felt more comfortable talking to her.

Alice was finally able to recover herself and responded. "Wait."

She then started running toward them while wearing a bright smile unknown to herself.

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The group stood dumbfoundedly when they reached Academy Square. They were already expecting that the place was going to be lively given that Professor Kyrie emphasized the importance of joining a school club, but they were still not expecting that this was going to be like this.

The whole square was filled with people and stands. There was a continuous flood of students who were looking for a suitable club that they could join while the seniors that represent their respective clubs were doing all kinds of things to attract new students.

"There are a lot of people."

"It is like a festival."

"Are we going to squeeze our way in?"

"It looks like this is going to be a little bumpy."

"It looks fun."

The group started giving their comments as they stared blankly at the scene in front of them. The girls were starting to have second thoughts, especially Jillian, who did not like crowded places. Even Molton was feeling uncomfortable. Given his personality, being in this kind of place scared him a little.

Alice was also wearing an unwilling look on her face. She was an idol and a lot of people knew her, so she was afraid that someone might recognize her and these people would suddenly charge at her.

Fortunately, she was a mentalist, so she could just put on a disguise with her mentalism techniques like what she usually did whenever she was going out or shopping in the mall. When she remembered that, she could not help but sigh in relief before quickly shrouding her face with mental energy which altered her appearance a little.

After adjusting their composure and readying themselves, Shin walked forward and lead the others. "Let's go. Let's take a look around."

The group joined the flow of students as they looked at the stands that the seniors had put up for recruitment.

They really felt that this event was like a festival. They also saw all kinds of people who were doing all they could to attract the attention of the new students. Some were doing martial exhibitions to showcase their martial prowess while others were doing some mentalism techniques.

They also saw the clubs that were focusing on the arts. They saw their artworks and crafts. Even though most of them could not understand what was the meaning behind each artwork and craft, looking at them was fun.

There were also some clubs that were doing entertaining performances such as dancing and singing. Even though they were not as good as the ones that could be found on television and great idols, who were doing big concerts, their performance was quite good.

The group watched those clubs for a few moments before moving on. And when they continued, they stumbled upon a particular section of the square where all of the clubs related to cooking were gathered.

"Wow! A food bazaar!"

Smoke mixed with a rich aroma of different delicacies filled the air as they looked at the sight in front of them. The stands lined up on the side were very busy at making all kinds of delicacies and presenting their signature dish.

And most of all – everything was free!

"I suddenly feel hungry!" said Arthur as he looked at the food stands with bright eyes and a slightly salivating mouth.

"Let's try some," said Shin as he walked to the stand nearest to them.

Cloe, on the other hand, quickly followed while saying. "What do you mean 'some'? Let's try them all!"

And just like that, the group temporarily forgot their real purpose in coming to this place and started their food adventure.

From the looked of it, they seemed to be really going to try all of the delicacies presented by each club. After all, these were all free, so why not enjoy them to the fullest?