

Destiny 1091

Chapter 1091 Failure And Assignments

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Shin woke up after a seemingly long sleep. And what greeted him when he opened his eyes was an unfamiliar ceiling that he had never seen before.

And when he moved his gaze around, he found himself lying on a bed within the academy infirmary. It was an 'infirmary' in name, but given the size of the academy, this infirmary was as large as the hospitals that could be seen outside.

Shin was in one of the rooms, which was as large as his bedroom back in the Springfield Residence. There was a huge glass window a couple of steps away from the bed. And given that the sky was so dark outside, he could tell that it was already deep in the night.

Turning his head to the other side of the bed, he saw a small living room. He found Arthur, Leonard, and Lorraine there, playing cards while leaving the television on.

It was at that moment when the door adjacent to the head of the bed was opened. Then Cloe walked out of it before carefully closing the door.

She turned to the side and found out that Shin was currently staring at her. "Ah! You're finally awake!"

She was about to jump on him when she remembered that he was patient and managed to stop herself. She pulled the chair beside the bed and sat on it. "How are you feeling? Professor-... I mean Master told us not to worry since you did not suffer any serious injuries during your battle with that puppet."

"He also said that you already healed most of your wounds and only lost faint due to exhaustion," she added.

Shin lay on the bed and closed his eyes to check on his body before nodding his head. "It seems like I am fine."

He could feel that something changed within him, but he could not tell what it was. But at the very least, it was not something harmful, so he did not think much about it. In fact, he felt that he had become much stronger than before.

He tilted his head to the side before opening his eyes. "How long did I lose my consciousness?"

Cloe thought for a moment before answering. "Almost eight hours I think."

Shin could not help but raise his brows as he felt that it was a little longer than that. Though, eight hours was not that short either. This could also mean that it was already late at night.

He looked at her and asked again. "Then why are you guys still haven't slept yet? You still have class tomorrow."

Cloe glared at him as if telling him that it was supposedly obvious. Arthur, Leonard, and Lorraine also walked over when they heard her earlier.

Arthur clicked his tongue and answered for her. "Hey! Can you see that it is already obvious? We are worried."

Lorraine nodded her head and added. "Even though we already heard from our Devil Instructor that you will be fine after a good rest, you still can't blame us for worrying. Especially when we see the scale of damage that that mechanical puppet has made."

Shin finally recalled that they were supposed to be in the middle of 'exercise' and asked. "Oh! What happened to the test?"

He straight up lost consciousness after receiving the attack from the evolution puppet earlier, so he did not know what happened next.

As for the so-called Devil Instructor, he did not need to ask who that was as he could already guess who they were referring to. There was only a single answer for that.

The expression of the four suddenly turned weird when they heard his question. Arthur was even wearing a dark expression while Leonard and Lorraine could not suppress the twitch of their mouths as if they were suppressing themselves from cursing out loud.

"We all failed," in the end, it was Cloe, who gave him the answer.

"Failed?" Shin's face turned weird when heard those words. He was even suspecting that his ears suffered some hearing problems after receiving the direct attack from the evolution puppet earlier. But after some thought, he quickly rejected the idea since he had never been in the head earlier, much less his ears.

He stared at the group and asked for another time. "Failed?"

"There is nothing wrong with your hearing," said Arthur before adding. "You heard her d*mn right! We all failed that test despite all the torture that we suffered."

"That Old Devil Instructor is so evil. He just said that since none of us manage to complete even a single lap, all of us have failed that test," explained Lorraine before continuing with a cursing tone. "How in the hell are we going to finish a lap with those clay golems and mechanical puppets blocking us?"

"He even got involved at the latter stages!" she added loudly, venting out her frustration.

Then Leonard suddenly added. "He even said that we are going to continue the same exercise tomorrow during our afternoon class."

The corner of Shin's mouth suddenly twitched when he heard that. He could already imagine the faces of the entire class when they heard that announcement.

Given their experiences during the test, he could tell that the Devil Instructor would increase the difficulty of the entire course, especially when they had already gotten used to it during the earlier run.

During this time, Cloe suddenly remembered something and ran toward the living room, taking a stack of books from there. She then walked over to the side of the bed before placing them on the nearby table.

"These are the breathing techniques that Master instructed you to practice," she said while patting the books.

She paused for a moment before quickly explaining. "It seems like he is observing our performances closely during the exercises earlier. He has given different sets of basic breathing for each student, asking them to practice them during their free. Especially during our afternoon class."

"Though, I doubt that we will be having the time to practice them during the afternoon class any time soon given our previous experience," she added.

Shin stared at the pile of books with a weird gaze and could not help but mutter. "Does it really have to be that old-fashioned? Can't he just tell us the names of the breathing techniques, and we look for it the modern way?"

After learning about the inheritance tomes and scrolls, where they could instantly memorize the techniques that they needed to learn, none of the current generations would want to go back and learn them through reading some books.

Shin did not care, but given the limited time that they had, he was not sure if they could read all those books and even train them. Their daily schedule was fully packed that they would have a hard time finding the so-called 'free time'.

Arthur nodded his head in agreement while Leonard sighed helplessly as his Martial Arts Master also thought him that way.

"Master said that it is also a form of training," said Cloe, seemingly defending Old Man Lin, before adding. "Moreover, these are only basic breathing techniques, so they will be easy to learn and train. It will not take that much time."

"And Master also said that this will help us awaken our innate attributes quicker and learn about their natures more deeply," she added.

Shin was about to say something when he suddenly noticed something. The pile was composed of seven books. And when he heard read the titles of each book, he noticed that they were all elemental breathing such as Metal, Water, Wood, Fire, Earth, Wind, and Lighting.

He turned to the others and asked. "Why is it too many? How many breathing techniques are assigned to each of you?"

Arthur was the first to answer. "I only have three – Metal, Wood, and Water."

He thought for a moment before quickly adding. "The old man said that there is no point in Fire and Lighting since I am already familiar with them due to my bloodline. He also added that my True Nine Dragon Arts and Imperial Tactics are also centered around those two elements."

"But I am quite confused why he asked me to train these three other elements when my bloodline and martial arts are originally not meant for it. When I asked him about it, he also said that I must discover it myself."

After that, Leonard immediately followed. "Mine are Fire, Darkness, Earth, and Water. I am also quite confused about why I am assigned to practice them. But I did not ask about it after hearing what he just said to Brother Arthur."

"I am also assigned to learn four breathing techniques – Water, Wind, Lighting, and Ice. I did not bother to ask why since I will also receive the same answer," said Lorraine.

Then the four to Cloe, who was currently wearing an awkward look. She looked at them and smiled meekly before saying. "I don't know why but Master did not assign any breathing techniques to me."

"He just said that I will be learning my assignment during my personal training on the weekend," she added as her smile was slowly becoming awkward due to the gazes that the three were giving her.

Chapter 1092 Meeting Uno Once Again

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The group immediately left after seeing that Shin was fine. But since he needed to rest a little more, he stayed in the room as the others decided to go back to the resort.

At first, Cloe wanted to stay behind, wanting to take care of Shin. But with his insistence that he was fine, she could do nothing but comply and leave with the others.

Once they left, Shin stayed seated on the bed while observing his body. He knew that something had changed but he was not sure what it was. With that, he could only check everything by doing an Internal Inspection.

After entering the Deep Meditation, he cast his consciousness inside himself, inspecting every part of his body. But after a long time of inspection, he did not find anything. He also summoned his Mental Energy but found out that nothing changes, not even a hint of improvement.

He stayed like that for a couple of moments before deciding to enter his Sea of Consciousness.

Swoosh!

He arrived at the place deep inside his consciousness and arrived at where he met Uno before. It was a place with an endless horizon with the appearance of the sky both above and beneath him.

He also saw his Niwan Palace, in the form of a Pagoda, suspended in the air above him. He observed it for a few moments before walking in a certain direction.

Not long after, he saw a figure sitting in the distance, seated in a lotus position. Shin knew what it was as he already met the guy for a couple of times.

Uno, who was currently in deep meditation, slowly opened his eyes before looking at the figure that was walking toward him. He shook his head a little before saying. "You shouldn't be here."

Shin did not immediately respond to him until he reached a couple of meters away from the latter. He then sat across Uno before asking. "Shouldn't you be sealed with my Martial Arts? What are you doing here now?"

Uno gave him a sneering look before answering. "Whose fault do you think is it?"

He continued to maintain his sitting position before continuing. "If not for you being in danger, then I will not be forced to come out."

"What happens? Are you the one who stopped the attack on that puppet? I remember that I've been hit by it directly and unable to dodge," asked Shin once again.

Uno shook his head. "It is not me. It is you."

He took a brief pause before continuing. "But because of that, he briefly lost control of your powers which led to the berserk Demonic Qi to sense your powerlessness in an instant and take advantage of it."

"It attempted to take over your body which is why I am forced to temporarily stop what I am doing and take over your body instead," he added.

"That happened? But I thought you were currently suppressing it?" asked Shin with a furrowed brow.

Uno clicked his tongue repeatedly and replied. "You are really clueless about the situation of your body, aren't you?"

"What I am suppressing is the already released seeds that you have alongside their Demonic Qi. The one that attempted to take over earlier is the third seed supposedly sealed deep within you."

Uno looked at Shin's blank face and shook his head as he continued. "You should have already suspected that you possessed all three types of 'Seed of Hatred'."

"One is planted to you by someone. The other is formed due to the traumas that you have experienced. And the one that you have inherited from your bloodline."

"The two that had recently awakened, alongside the inner demons that they have, have already been consumed by me. Their Demonic Qi is the one that I am suppressing. The third one is much powerful that even I cannot suppress."

Uno raised his head and looked straight into Shin's eyes before continuing. "Even if we combined our strengths, we still can't face it. Not in our current powers."

"That seal is buying us some time, but it will not be that long since its power has weakened due to your carelessness. Sooner or later, the third seed will be freed from it and will attempt to take over your body, so we have to grow stronger before it happens."

"This will not happen if you did not seal your own memories," he added while glaring at Shin.

Shin was silent for a moment before asking once again. "Why did I seal my memories? How much of them are true?"

Uno scoffed at those questions and answered mockingly. "Find the answers yourself. And learn about your own powerlessness, cowardness, and stupidity."

Shin was silent once again before continuing. "How?"

He knew that he was unconsciously running away from the truth. He did not know why and did not pursue it purposefully. But after hearing Uno, it seemed like he had to find the answers now to avoid future accidents.

Uno sneered after hearing that. "As I said, find it yourself. I am not the one who sealed them, but you."

After seeing that he could not get any information about his past from Uno, Shin decided to ask about a different topic. "Then let's change the topic. Do you know about the powers hidden within me?"

He paused for a moment before quickly clarifying. "I am not talking about the seed, but the other form of power that concerns my Mentalism."

"Hah!" Uno could not help but laugh when he heard that. It took him quite some time before he looked at Shin with a mocking gaze. "Seriously? Instead of asking me about it, you better seek the answers yourself. It is your powers; you are supposed to know about it."

Swoosh!

He suddenly stopped when he was about to continue mocking Shin. A black flame suddenly rose from his body, seemingly trying to burn him alive.

Shin could feel the deep hatred and resentment from that flame, which instantly told him that it was the Demonic Qi acting up once again. He was also feeling how powerful it was even though it was only a portion of the real thing.

Uno calmly let the flame spread out his body before another one come out. This time, it was a white flame that fiercely fought against the black one.

After intervening with each other for a couple of moments, the two flames receded before gradually going back inside Uno.

After taking a couple of deep breaths, Uno stared at Shin and said. "You should go back. You are bothering me. I am currently busy, so I can't entertain you for long."

"Don't come back until you complete solidifying your Mentalism Path. We will naturally meet again when the time is right," he added before closing his eyes.

Shin stared at Uno for a couple of moments before releasing a helpless sigh. He then stood up and got ready to leave.

She was about to turn around and step away when Uno opened his mouth once again. "If you truly want to seek answers, then I suggest you go ask some assistance from that old man."

Shin halted in his tracks and turned back to Uno while asking. "Which old man?"

He knew that Uno was asking him to ask for some help from his elders. But which one of them? All of those elders were old men.

Uno was silent for a couple of seconds before continuing. "The one who will be guiding you for a couple of years. The one who will be teaching you how to combine 'your' Mentalism and 'my' Martial Arts."

"That old man will help you find the answers that you want," he added.

Shin knitted his brow and tilted his head before asking. "How do you know that?"

"I just know," answered Uno instantly.

Shin clicked his tongue when he heard that before turning around. He waved his head and said without turning looking back. "Let's chat again when I regain those memories back."

After that, he suddenly disappeared.

Uno reopened his eyes and stared at the spot where Shin had disappeared from before muttering with a serious tone. "You better hurry and grow stronger. I don't know how long the seal will last."

Changing the angle, when someone looked at Uno from the sky, the clear surface of the transparent ground where Uno was seated suddenly changed. It suddenly darkened and showed the eternal abyss underneath.

Deep within that abyss, a huge silhouette could be seen. It had a pair of cold and horrifying eyes in crimson color. They stared at Uno for a couple of moments before a huge mouth was suddenly opened deep within the darkness.

Roar!

It released a deafening roar that shook the entire place.

The huge silhouette attempted to head over to Uno and broke the transparent energy separating the two of them, which also acted as the ground where Uno was seated.

But before it could even move an inch, countless chains of golden color suddenly appeared and wrapped themselves around the humongous figure, dragging it back deep into the abyss of darkness.

It struggles relentlessly, trying to break free but failed multiple times due to the powerful strength of the golden chains. They also carried a sacred and divine aura that suppressed the dark and eerie power that the huge figure released, making its efforts fruitless.

It was continuously dragged deep into the abyss of darkness, unable to do anything.

Uno lowered his eyes and looked at that humongous figure before saying. "You stay behave there, old dude. You will get your turn when we are done digesting these two."

After that, he closed his eyes once again and went back to meditating, returning to the silence and tranquility of the whole place.

Chapter 1093 Students' Disappearance

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Real World.

Eastern Sea Region.

Ace City.

Nathan was currently sitting across a middle-aged man, who was wearing a military uniform. On his shoulders, four-star badges were currently attached, signifying his military ranking.

No one was talking for a few moments until the middle-aged man could no longer endure the silence and was the first to open his mouth. "I must admit that we are wrong to refuse your proposition, so let me apologize for that."

Nathan remained silent and let the middle-aged man continue. And when the latter saw that, he could not help but feel displeased. But he could not do anything about it since they were the ones, who were asking for assistance.

"We are thankful for your achievement as well as the Flying Dragon Corporation on capturing the people of the Hextech Laboratory, who are causing the incident of missing people these past few weeks."

"We also understand that you have to right to take the leading perpetrators captive since you are the ones who captured him. But you must transfer the authority of interrogating the leading figure since the case is originally ours."

Nathan scoffed at those words and calmly replied. "General Herald, you should be aware that what you are saying right now is such a bunch of nonsense. Your position is high, so you must be aware of the rules."

He paused for a moment and crossed his legs while resting his hands on top of his knees before continuing. "In these kinds of cases, we stick on the old rule – finders keepers."

The middle-aged man, who was addressed as General Herald, clenched his fists tightly, trying to hold himself back. He gritted his teeth as he glared at Nathan before saying in a hoarse voice. "Commander Nathan, you should know that we are only asking you this because we respect you and your family."

Nathan flashed a mocking smile as he commented. "More like afraid of us, you say."

The corner of the mouth of the general sitting across him twitched when he heard those words and wore an ugly expression on his face. He wanted to refute it but could not find the right words for it since what Nathan had said was also true.

"D force our hands, Commander Nathan. If you continue to insist on acting this way, then don't blame us for the consequences. We may be wary of your forces, but we are not that weak either."

"If you continued to be hard-headed and don't hand over the captive leader, then blood might be spilled," said the general with cold eyes.

He was not asking politely anymore as he knew that Nathan would continue to refuse. If they could not talk it out peacefully, then it was better to use force.

The smile that Nathan had when he heard those words was quite warm but the tone that he had when he opened his mouth once again was cold. "Can I take that as a threat?"

General Herald smirked before continuing. "We are not the only camp that hates you. There are others as well."

The smile that Nathan had continued to grow larger as he said. "Now, it is a declaration of war."

Right after he said those words, the temperature within the surrounding suddenly turned cold as an intense killing intent suddenly filled the room.

General Herald raised his brows for a moment before snorting. He might not be on the ranking list of global experts, unlike Nathan, but he was still an expert with a similar level of martial attainment.

He released a similarly powerful pressure from his body, fighting the one that Nathan was releasing.

There was a brief deadlock, but it was immediately broken down when Nathan retracted his killing intent and replaced it with a pressure that was coming from his martial attainment.

This time, the temperature within the room did not drop. Instead, it rose drastically, seemingly turning the whole place into a furnace.

When the general realized the change, he quickly increased the pressure, planning to fight back once again. But no matter how much effort he poured into it, it seemed like his pressure was crumbling steadily – it was being melted down by the heat within the room.

Not long after, General Herald was sweating bullets, making his back become drenched with sweat. He was also having a hard time breathing as his throat started to get drier with each passing second.

This continued for a few more minutes before Nathan retracted the pressure. He then watched the general catch his breath before continuing. "We don't care what you think or what you are planning, but make sure that you will be ready to face the consequence if you want to see why we are called the true dragons of the Soaring Continent."

"We will remind everyone of the might of the Springfield Family if they have already forgotten about it," he added as he stood up.

He walked toward the window while saying. "Say this to those people backing you – if they want to 'interrogate' that captive, then they have to wait for their turn."

"You can leave now. I will not be seeing you out," he added as he crossed his arms while looking outside the glass window.

General Herald took some time to be able to recover himself before standing up. He glared at Nathan's back while also carrying a hint of fear in his eyes. He knew that they had become strong, but he seemed like he had gotten even stronger than they had expected.

He then turned around before walking out of the room without turning back. He had to report to the others and make their preparations.

Nathan did not bother to look at the general as he continued to watch the lights outside the glass window. He seemed to be completely unbothered by what happened earlier and not concerned himself about the threats that the general had given him.

In his mind, if they came, then they came. He would not shy about teaching them a lesson if they wanted it.

What he was concerned about was the disharmony that this would give once the conflict between the military forces within the Soaring Continent escalated. He could feel that someone was pulling the strings from the dark but could not properly pinpoint who it was.

They had to hurry and find the snake within the ranks before everything got out of hand.

While he was thinking, his advanced watch suddenly started ringing, drawing him out of his thoughts. And when he looked at the saved ID of the caller, he raised his brows slightly before closing the curtain of the glass window as he answered his call.

He also released a barrier with his Domain Power to make sure that no one would be able to eavesdrop while he was talking with the person on the other side of the line.

Swoosh!

A virtual screen suddenly appeared as Nathan answered the call, projecting Joaquin's huge figure.

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

Joaquin was wearing a dark expression on his face as he answered. "It seems like you are right. There is another force behind the mysterious disappearance of the talented young people aside from the Hextech Laboratory."

"They skillfully disguised the incidents to make sure that the evidence will not point at them – directing the blame to the Hextech Laboratory instead. It will be tricky to find them since they hide their tracks very well."

Nathan raised his brows before asking. "What about the Butcher and Coffin Maker? How are they related."

Joaquin clicked his tongue for a moment before continuing. "It seems like they are freelancers. They are tasked with the kidnapping of certain targets that are tricky to deal with before taking them to the Hextech Laboratory people."

"I thought Coffin Maker is a part of that group?" asked Nathan with a confused look.

"That is what we thought too. But based on the dude that we captured, it seems like he already jumped to another ship a few years ago," said Joaquin before adding. "He kept his close relationship with the organization, though. And helping them from time to time."

"It seems like he is double-crossing the Hextech Laboratory then," commented Nathan after a brief thought.

Joaquin nodded. "That is true. Based on the data that we have gotten from the captured people; it seems like Butcher and Coffin Maker are capturing a few more talented individuals after meeting their quota and taking them somewhere unknown."

"Another thing, Coffin Maker seemed to have stolen quite a lot of data from the organization before disappearing. It happened a few days before their supposedly final operation took place."

Nathan raised his brows even further and looked at Joaquin with inquiring gaze. The latter nodded his head and continued. "Yeah, that is right. It seems like the dude knows that their operation will fail or something and take everything he needs before escaping."

Nathan fell into deep thought before nodding his head. "In the end, we still have to capture those two to solve this problem."

"Tsk! This is not supposedly your job, but given the seriousness of the situation, I understand your decision," said Joaquin.

Nathan was about to end the call when the latter suddenly added. "Oh! Wait! There is another thing."

Nathan halted his actions and looked at Joaquin and waited.

Joaquin, on the other hand, scratched his cheek for a moment before continuing. "It seems like the kids that the other side has sent failed their mission."

"They have lost contact with the guys they are supposedly acting as bait and infiltrating the place where the missing kids are being held. It seems like they have fallen into a trap while they are investigating."

"They have sent a couple of reinforcements to investigate the matter since they now have extra people after having the problem with the Hextech Laboratory is solved. But their losses continue to increase, so they are current in pinch."

Nathan shook his head before commenting. "This is what they get for not following my suggestion. If they accept the ones that I have introduced, then they will have a better result."

Joaquin shook his head before saying. "I've heard that they have sent the elite students, but most of them disappeared instead."

"All of them?" asked Nathan with a deep frown.

"Nah! Most of them," answered Joaquin as he continued. "There are others who managed to escape, but I heard that they are very few. All of them belonged to familiar groups, though."

"Which group?" asked Nathan once again.

"You know it too," replied Joaquin. "Wings of Dawn and Sleeping Dragons."

He paused for a moment before continuing. "There are also others from the new club that your niece has created. Aside from the ones belonging to those groups, the rest were caught and disappeared to who knows where."

"If that is the case, then they may have come in contact with the other organization that is responsible for the mysterious disappearance?" muttered Nathan as he understood what Joaquin was trying to say.

"That is what I think too," said Joaquin while continuing. "From the information that I have gathered, it seems like there is a similar incident where people are mysteriously disappearing in a city near the outskirts of the Eastern Sea Region just recently."

"The students may have followed the clues there as that is where most of them are last spotted before they disappeared."

"The ones from those three groups seem to have gone to that place too. But they somehow survive after an intense battle."

Joaquin thought for a moment as he was trying to see if he did not forget anything before continuing. "That is what I know based on the reports that I have received."

Nathan turned back to the latter before nodding his head. "Alright, I will deal with it and try to get in touch with them to gather information."

"You continue to extract information from the guy while keeping an eye on Butcher and Coffin Maker. I'll handle the rest."

Joaquin nodded. "Alright, see you around!" before ending the call.

Nathan, on the other hand, fell into deep thought before dialing another number.

Chapter 1094 Three Aspects Of Disciplines

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The next day, Shin and the others went back to the class. All of them already recovered after a good night of rest.

Professor Kyrie entered the lecture hall right after the last student entered the hall. It was as if she knew when the final student would arrive. Even her timing was perfect on the dot, right when it was time for the class.

She stood at the platform and swept her gaze at everyone before greeting them. "Good morning, everyone. I heard that you have a lot of fun during your practical activities."

Hearing those words, the entire class could not help but groan as they remembered how the Devil Instructor had tortured them, especially the ones who were beaten up by the mechanical puppets and clay golems.

Professor Kyrie smiled when she saw their reaction before saying. "I know that it is hard, but I assure you that you will benefit a lot when training under Master Lin Huang."

"He is not only strong, but he is very knowledgeable when it comes to training someone," she added as their tone was filled with admiration. "It is a blessing that he agreed with the academy to take over your practical exercises."

She then knocked on the wooden table on the platform before continuing. "Alright, we are not going to start our lesson this morning."

She cleared her throat for a moment before starting. "Our subject for today is the 'Theory of Individuality, Duality, and Unity'."

"These three aspects are important when you are breaking through the Ethereal Opening Stage and the peak of Grandmaster Realm," she added as she opened a huge virtual screen that was projected in front of the class.

"As I already said before, breaking through to Ethereal Opening Stage is a critical stage since this is where a Martial Artist is transitioning from the 'Foundation Building Realm' to the 'Ascension Realm'."

"The Mentalists will be having an easier time when it comes to this since they are only breaking through a minor stage within the Grandmaster Realm. But it does not mean that they can easily achieve it since they also have to go through a similar process as the Martial Artists."

"And as for the three requirements that you need for the breakthrough, you already discussed them yesterday, so we are not going to go back to it."

"Instead, we are going to have an in-depth discussion about the next requirement, which is discovering your 'real' personal style like what I said yesterday."

"And how are you going to discover it? It is simple! You just have to get a better understanding of yourselves and your Martial and Mentalism Paths."

"It is simple to hear, but it is actually quite complicated to achieve, so we are going to slowly tackle this topic. This is the purpose of this subject after all."

She paused for a moment before quickly continuing. "Let us start with 'Individuality'."

"As all of you know, most of you are already following a certain martial and mentalism path, which is paved by another person – the ancestors of your families or martial schools and other organizations."

"You are following the teachings that they have as well as the others you followed after them."

"Then, what is the relationship between this and our current topic? It is still about individuality. What do I mean about individuality? It is having your own version of your respective martial arts, mentalism, and swordsmanship."

"Every person is unique and different from one another. Even though you are following the teachings of your ancestors and predecessors, you still have your own self, your talents, and your own path to follow."

"This is the reason why every family, sect, and other organization has experts that have their own versions of their secret techniques and skills."

"This is the concept of Individuality. It is where you have to discover your own path that you have to follow."

"In this concept, you have to study yourselves thoroughly to have a better understanding of yourself. You have to re-learn your respective disciplines from the start and re-evaluate everything to have a better understanding of it."

"You need all of these to create your own path. You will be able to discover your own styles eventually after reviewing everything."

"There is no one who can help you with this other than yourselves, so I require you to take this seriously if you want to break through to the next realm."

She then stopped talking as she let everyone digest everything that she just said before continuing. "The next aspect is the concept of duality."

"We are borrowing this from the ideology of Dualism, where they believe that there are two fundamental kinds of categories of things and principles – where they believe that mental and physical

are, in some sense, radically different kinds of things – where some believe that everything comes in pair."

"We are not borrowing everything but just a portion of it. It was to help you have a better understanding of your physical and mental properties."

"By following this ideology, you will be able to construct a perfect path for your respective disciplines."

"Another thing, some of you may have more than one energy within your bodies, and some also were also practicing more than one style, so if we follow some of the concepts within this, you will be able to understand yourselves more from a different perspective."

"But this aspect is not as important as Individuality since you are still the one who will decide which path you have to take."

This time, she only took a brief pause to rest before continuing. "But the next aspect is important. The aspect of Unity."

"This aspect concerns two parts which are 'induvial' and 'universal'."

"The first part concerns yourselves. After discovering, learning, and understanding yourselves, your innate attributes, and disciplines, you will have to combine all of them and turn them into a single entity."

"That will be your personal discipline. When you achieved those three, you will be entering a whole new world where everything will be different. Then you will be ready to form a vessel to host all of it before breaking through the next realm."

"The Universal Part, on the other hand, is required to communicate with other people. As what its name impinged, Unity, you have to form a bond with the others, your teammates particularly."

"Understanding each other and how to work together despite your differences will also be helpful in the creation of your respective paths. This will help you understand your chosen paths more effectively."

"If you are able to insert your styles in every situation and environment, and use it against every enemy while working with other people, then that is when you can say that you have perfected your chosen paths."

Closing the projected scene, she turned to her students and continued. "It will take some time before you are able to achieve all of these, so I suggest you focus on one of them at a time."

"Take it slow and have a steady step. Build a better foundation before proceeding forward."

"In this case, it is best if you focus on Individuality before anything else. This is the hardest part, but it will benefit you a lot if you manage to achieve it."

"Achieve the Individuality, understand the Duality, and master the Unity – these are the words that all I can say to you," said Professor Kyrie with full seriousness.

"I can't help that much in this subject since it requires your self-comprehension, but you can still come at me, and I will answer your doubts to the best of my abilities."

"Aside from that, we will continue our discussion about these topics in the future class of the subject. I will also give you several examples that can give you an inspiration at discovering your own path."

After that, she continued the discussion and even gave simple examples about the topic. She also told them the histories of a couple of old individuals who founded their respective schools and sects and established some Martial Arts and Mentalism Families and Clans.

The discussion lasted until it was noon before Professor Kyrie dismissed everyone. "Alright, that is all for today."

"I will not be giving you any assignments but make sure to study properly. I will also remind you of your regular injection of energies in your Energy Conductors."

"Class dismissed," she said as she started walking out of the lecture hall.

At the back of the lecture hall, where Shin and the others were located, the group started to stand up while discussing what they were going to eat for lunch.

"Should we go to Heavenly Taste again? We still haven't gotten the information that they have promised too. Maybe we can ask them more about the item that they have given us," said Arthur as he walked out of the hall.

"That is good too, but I think it is better if we try the other restaurants," said Lorraine before turning to the twin. "Which one are you going to introduce us now?"

While the group was discussing, David suddenly approached them when he saw them walking out of the lecture hall.

Shin was the first one to notice him and asked. "Are you waiting for, Senior Brother?"

The group suddenly paused their steps when he heard him and turned to David. The ones who were already familiar with him just tilted their heads while the twins observed the guy.

David chuckled a little before greeting them. He then turned to Shin and answered. "You can say that. But more accurately, I am waiting for you and Leonard."

"Can the two of you join me for a moment? I need to talk with you about something," he said, directly stating his purpose.

The two furrowed their brows for a moment before turning to each other. The rest of the group was also the same before shifting their gazes between the two and David.

"Alright, let's go," answered Shin as he gestured to David to lead the way. From what he could see, this senior brother of his seemed to be needing their help with something.

Though, he was having a bad feeling about it.

Chapter 1095 Mission Invitation

.....

David brought Shin and Leonard into a secluded corner, where no students were passing by. He then looked around to make sure that there was no one eavesdropping on them before setting up isolation and concealment barriers as an extra precaution.

When Shin saw David's meticulousness, he knew that this matter was going to be serious.

David turned to the two before continuing. "There is an urgent request from Sir Nathan, and he needs the two of you to participate in it."

"Urgent requests? Is it a special assignment?" asked Shin in response.

David nodded his head. "That is right. This mission is extremely confidential which is why he needs some people that he can trust."

Shin raised his brows when he heard that before saying. "If that is the case, then he can just ask some of his people. We may be good and already used to these kinds of special assignments, but there are still better choices from his people."

David nodded his head again in agreement. But quickly after that, he explained. "That is right. But this assignment has a special requirement. It is an undercover mission and the people needed to be in a certain age."

Shin furrowed his brows. "Age requirement? Is this related to the case concerning kidnapping incidents?"

"Yeah. Somewhat," answered David.

"From what I hear, Uncle and his people have already captured the culprits," said Shin before quickly adding. "Oh! And aren't you one of the main players in that operation? I heard you played a very important role."

This time, it was David's turn to raise his brows. "You've heard of it? I thought that the information about that operation is being controlled."

Shin shrugged his shoulders. "Of course, the detail about that operation is still being controlled. But when Big Sis visited us that night, we heard from her people about the incident when we asked them what happened to her."

He then raised his brows and said. "You are pretty good at hiding secrets. You did not even mention it when we last met."

"Kid, you should know why it is called confidential," said David with a twitching mouth before going back to the main topic. "Anyway, since you already know about it, this is going to be much easier to explain."

David started narrating what had happened in detail. Of course, he did not forget to make himself good for being the main player in the operation and how he saved Shiella during the incident, which earned him a skeptical look from Shin.

After that, he proceeded to the information that he had gotten from Nathan and Joaquin last night before finally stating the main assignment.

"So, that is the special mission that the elite clubs are taking, which makes them unable to attend the recruitment festival," muttered Shin after listening to everything.

He then turned to David and asked. "So, Uncle Nathan needs some students to act as undercover agents? Or more specifically, baits – baits that will lure out those people hiding in the dark."

"But what if the same thing happens to us? Just like our seniors from those elite clubs," asked Shin.

"Don't worry. We are already making the precautionary measures to make sure that such a thing will never happen," replied David with full confidence while adding a little to reassure Shin. "Moreover, we also have backup plans if such accidents happen."

"Even if you have been captured, we have a way to locate you. No matter where those guys bring the two of you, we will be able to find you."

"In fact, it is better if you let yourself get captured so that we can locate their hideout," he added, suggesting an even bolder plan.

Shin fell in deep thought before asking. "Uncle Nathan had already laid out the plan?"

"Not only him, Sir Joaquin and Sir Eugene took part in it and even planning to participate personally," said David.

Shin knitted his brows after hearing that such experts were planning to join. If peak experts like them were joining this operation, then there was no point in asking youths like them to take the risk.

Seeing that look, David quickly understood what Shin was thinking and added. "They will be ready to make their moves at any given time. What they need right now is to locate where the mysterious group is hiding. Once they've gotten their hands on the location, then everything will be a walk in the park."

Shin nodded his head before asking once again. "Another thing. Since this mysterious group have such a detailed list of who are they going to capture and even have some moles in large organizations such as the Hextech Laboratory, they will most likely know who we are. Especially when we are also elite students of the academy. How are you sure that they will not be suspicious?"

"They will surely be suspicious, alright," David nodded before quickly continuing. "Which is why we need the two of you instead of asking the other students."

He pointed to Shin. "You are very skilled in taking up a disguise due to the illusion technique that comes from the 'Heavenly Black Turtle Method' of the 'Four Symbol Scripture'."

"While I heard that this guy learned the shapeshifting technique, which is much better than most of the disguising techniques out there," he added while pointing to Leonard.

Shin was surprised before whipping his head toward Leonard. "Is it true?"

As someone who studied under old experts such as Professor Plum and Grandmaster Benn, Shin naturally knew about such peculiar and special techniques.

He heard from Grandmaster Benn that the 'shapeshifting' technique was one of the pinnacles of disguising techniques since it did not only have the ability to change the appearance of someone, but it could also adjust the skeletal structure of a person to their desire – which was similar to the skeletal adjusting technique that he learned from Professor Plum but in a much higher level of effectiveness, albeit difficult to master.

Leonard shrugged his shoulder as he replied. "It is not like I achieved it without effort. Do you think moving your bones and adjusting their shapes is easy, much less unpainful?"

"It hurts a lot, you know? I've gone through a lot of torture just to achieve a basic mastery of it," he added with a painful expression. "And with my current level of mastery, I can only have one or two disguises at most. Unlike my master who seems to have countless of it."

"He is changing his appearance like it is nothing. I even doubt if his real appearance is the one that I remember," he said with full suspicion.

David, who was listening in front of them, felt like sweating profusely after hearing the latter words from Leonard. He gulped secretly while thinking to himself. 'This kid hasn't realized yet that the appearance that he thought his master is actually his grandmaster. Though, Sir Joaquin is just impersonating Master Galileo when he took him as his disciple.'

He watched the two for a few moments before quickly continuing with the topic. "Alright, you can talk about it later. What I have to ask is if you are going to accept this mission."

"Tsk! I don't feel like accepting my uncle's mission right now. I want to focus on our studies for now. I find some interesting and helpful stuff during our lessons. And aren't you more than enough for this mission?" said Shin indirectly saying that he did not want to take part in this particular mission.

Hearing that, David quickly continued. "This mission is going to be an official one. The academy will be giving out this secret mission. And the merit points that you will receive will be bountiful, especially when it concerns rescuing those guys from the elite groups."

"Still, it is too risky for us. I don't feel that this is going to be as simple as that, especially when there are three top experts joining in," said Shin strongly.

"Which is why the rewards are going to match the difficulty," said David trying to persuade Shin.

"Moreover, you can also establish a good relationship with the elite club members when you rescued them."

Shin remained unconvinced as he stared at David with squinting eyes.

David sighed before continuing. "You two are critical parts for this plan to work. I also want to volunteer to take this role, but I can do it right now since the mysterious organization will be keeping an eye on me after I foiled the plans of the Hextech Laboratory just recently."

"I have to make sure to appear in public to make sure that those guys are not going to suspect anything when the operation is ongoing."

"The military is also in a bind right now because of the conflicts that the two camps are having. The local branch of the military situated in this region is having some conflict with Sir Nathan. There is also the issue of a mole within their ranks, so they can't move their people properly."

"The only option is to ask some people from the outside which we can also trust."

"Sir Nathan actually wants to talk with the two of you, but he has to keep the other branch at bay to make sure that they will not be doing anything reckless, so he asks me to talk to you instead."

"He is aware of the risk of the mission, but they have already laid out a plan for everything. What we lack right now are the main characters who will play the most important roles."

Shin thought for a moment before turning to Leonard. And when he saw the expression of the latter that seemed to be saying that he would follow whatever he decided to do, he sighed helplessly.

He looked at David before saying. "At least, let us hear the entire plan first before deciding."

Chapter 1096 Special Mission (Part 1)

.....

As Shin and Leonard walked back to the others, the former could not help but ask. "Are you sure about this? It will be much more difficult and more dangerous than our previous missions."

Leonard just shrugged his shoulders. "We already have done similar missions. For me, this is not different from the underground boxing arena that went through."

Shin clicked his tongue when he heard that. "Tsk! That time when you are dubbed as the Crimson Devil."

Leonard gave Shin a sidelong glance before saying. "You are talking as if you are not famous there. It just they can't give you a suitable title because of how unpredictable you fight."

He then paused as if he remembered something and then added. "Oh! Most of them are calling you Demon, though."

"Junior Demon," Shin corrected before diverting back to the main topic. "This is a confidential mission. Don't talk about it to others and just say that we have a special assignment asked by Uncle Nathan. Other than that, don't tell them anything."

Leonard nodded his head as his face suddenly turned serious.

...

In the meantime, David immediately headed straight to the place where the offices of the elite clubs were located.

He ignored everyone else and went straight to the building that was owned by the Student Council, which was situated at the center of the place alongside the headquarters of the Disciplinary Committee.

He seemed to be walking at a normal pace on the surface, but he was actually traversing tens of meters for the step he took. It did not take that long for him to arrive at the Student Council Building and entered it without being noticed by the students guarding the entrance.

He moved around the place for a couple of moments before finding what he was looking for. It was the conference room that the Student Council used during important meetings.

Clank!

He did not bother to knock on the door and immediately opened it. He entered in a lofty manner, not bothered by the gazes that were directed at him.

One was full of displeasure while some had an interested look. There was also another who had an indifferent expression as he took a seat on one of the chairs surrounding the oval table.

There were only a total of five people sitting around the table, excluding David. The one who sat on the head seat was an intelligent-looking guy, who wore rectangular glasses. He was also wearing a uniform unique to student council students with a fancy and elegant pin attached to his chest.

His name was Silver Livingstone and he was the student council president of the academy. And from the aura that he was emitting, it was clear that he was no ordinary individual despite his young appearance.

Seated on the next chair beside him was a little girl. At least, that was her current appearance. She was wearing a pair of round glasses with thin frames, giving her an innocent and pure appearance, especially with her bob cut hair.

If Shin was here, then he would immediately recognize this 'little girl' since she was the real boss of the Researcher Department. As well as the president of the club under it, which was the Sleeping Dragons.

She was Dayna Reinhart.

Across her was the president of the Disciplinary Committee. The big sister of Jillian and Molton, which also Shin and the others had met before, Mariel Potter.

She was sitting on her giving David a friendly smile as she greeted him. She seemed to be unbothered by how disrespectful the latter had entered the room. Since she was somewhat familiar with the guy, she knew that this guy was doing it on purpose.

On the seat beside her sat Elijah Knight, who was wearing an indifferent look when David entered. He might be a little friendly with the guy at times, but after their last exchange, he knew that the guy was still having some trust issues.

He had to act normally and treat the guy how he treated most people, especially when he was here in an official business and representing the Wings of Dawn.

And finally, the final member who was with them in the conference room was a girl with an appearance that would not lose to Mariel. She had light blue hair which was quite uncommon even in this country.

Her name was Catherine Jones and the club she represented was the Hand of Midas. Since Shiella was away, it was her responsibility to attend this kind of meeting, especially when she was the vice president of the club.

Inside the game, she was known as Delusive Smile, who was also Shiella's right-hand woman inside the virtual world.

After a long silence, Silver, the student council president, finally opened his mouth. "I see that two clubs did not send their presidents and just let their vice attend instead."

He was talking in a calm manner but there was a clear hint of displeasure from his tone. He was openly questioning the Wings of Dawn and Hand of Midas.

Elijah scoffed and said. "Our club president is currently guarding the main site. What do you expect from us when your people are not doing their job?"

Silver raised his brows and was about to say something when Mariel suddenly 'interpreted'. "What he wants to say is we can't leave the main site unmonitored right now, especially when most of our manpower is focused on this mission."

At the same time, Catherine turned to Silver and bowed, apologizing. "We are sorry, President Silver. But our club president is currently away for a special task assigned by the military. She is even not in the academy at the moment because of the urgency of that situation."

"Oh! I wonder what mission is it that it is more important than the lives of our fellow students," commented Silver in a sarcastic manner.

This time, it was David who opened his mouth. "That is none of your business. Just focus on your job, so that we can call it a day."

Silver directed his gaze at David before leaning toward the table, resting his elbows on it, and interlocking his fingers. "And as for you outsider, you better show some respect. If not for the request of the elders, we are not going to include you in this discussion."

"Hah! Says someone who is acting high and mighty just because he is the student council president," refuted David while giving Silver a provoking look.

Before the situation could escalate further, Dayna suddenly coughed and said. "Let's not fight among each other. We are here to form a special task force that will rescue the abducted students. The time is ticking, so we can't waste our time on these useless arguments."

She paused and turned to Silver and said. "I know that you are quite agitated because most of the elite clubs have been crippled due to that incident, but you must calm yourself down so that your decision-making will not be clouded."

Then she turned to David and continued. "As for you, we know you bring us a quite solid and foolproof plan, but we can't promise you that we will follow it blindly. Our priority is to save the students and not crush that organization."

"The academy elders have already agreed to follow your plan which is why we are here to organize the task force which will focus on rescuing the students while the academy main force will deal with the frontal assault," she added, laying out the purpose of this meeting in one go.

"Hoh!" David could not help but be somewhat impressed with this little girl. Despite her appearance, she carried a bearing that could only be seen from natural leaders.

He did not notice it immediately since she was acting innocent, which somewhat fooled him. But now that he saw this side of her, he must admit that his first impression was wrong.

Everyone paused for a moment, letting themselves adjust their minds before waiting for David to start discussing the plan.

After a few moments, he tossed a circular object on the table, which landed at their center before projecting a virtual map. "In this operation, we will be assigning each club a certain area that they have to cover."

"As the brat has said, this is going to be a rescue mission, so we will be focusing on saving the students rather than destroying the facilities. But that has to wait until we located the exact location of their base," he added.

Those words earned him a sharp glare from Dayna, especially when he addressed her as a brat. She hated it when people make fun of her height and age, but she suppressed the urge to beat David up and continued to listen.

This operation was of utmost importance since it concerned the lives of the students that had been captured. She could beat David later when the meeting was over.

Chapter 1097 Special Mission (Part 2)

.....

When the meeting was over, the student council president, the head of the disciplinary committee, the three representatives of the elite club, and David stood up to start making their preparations.

But before the others could even step out of the room, Silver suddenly asked. "About the people who will be the bait and infiltrate the enemy camp. Are we really not allowed to know who are they?"

"Don't get me wrong. I just want to make sure that we can trust those people. This operation is of utmost importance after all," he quickly added when he saw the others giving him unfriendly looks.

David stared at Silver for a couple of moments before replying. "I must apologize. I can't disclose that information."

"But rest assured. The people that are asked for this assignment are professionals. They are already used to these kinds of infiltration tasks," he added with a straight face, making the others accept his words unquestionably.

After that, they dispersed and went to their respective destinations. They had to organize their groups and prepare for their assigned roles.

...

David went to a certain training ground, where only a select few could enter.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Inside it, a pair of silhouettes were dashing through the entire field while clashing against each other.

Bang! Bang!

The silhouettes collided against each other for a couple of moments, producing a series of shockwaves.

A thick cloud of dust was created after the strong collision, shrouding the whole place. And when it receded, David saw two figures emerging at the center of the field.

Both were topless, showcasing their properly toned muscles. It clearly showed the training that they went through and the hardships that they had suffered, especially when there were visible scars in different parts of their body – some were from gunshots while the rest were from cuts and stabs caused by sharp objects.

Both figures had their fists against each other, pressing forward with all their strength.

These two were Jerimiah Smithson and Vincent Valentine, the pair of cousins from the notorious family of assassins.

David could not help but marvel after seeing the unimaginable speed that the two had. It was a speed that even he himself would be having a hard time achieving, much less controlling it to such a degree. Yet these two were using such speed with ease.

Vincent had the advantage when it came to mobility and flexibility. He also had a solid foundation it was about technique and skill.

But the explosive speed that Jerimiah had was also quite troublesome to deal with. It was similar to the one that Leonard had but with a much refined framework and control. Jerimiah's advantage also lay in raw strength, which was much expected given his large frame.

The two stayed still for a couple of moments before separating from each other. It was at that moment when David walked forward and clapped his hands. "Amazing! Always amazing!"

"But can the two of you tone it down a little? We have an important mission later. What are you going to do if you accidentally get injured?" he said, reprimanding the two.

Jerimiah laughed when he heard those words before picking up the towel laid over his bag and wiping off his sweat. "Don't worry. We know our limitations. This is not the first time we have had an intense sparring match before an important mission."

"We are only tuning up our engines to make sure that we are in tip-top condition," he laughed as he walked toward David and offered a fist bump.

David accepted the bump before saying. "I am just saying that you have to take it easy. We don't know when we are going to be summoned."

Vincent walked over and offered a fist bump while saying. "Are you sure that the other groups will not get offended about this? You are too open about the operation to us, but too secretive when it comes to them."

David fist-bumped and answered while shrugging his shoulders. "Well, they can't do anything if I don't trust them as I trust the two of you."

"That is exactly what I am talking about," said Vincent chucklingly.

"Then they have to prove themselves and earn my trust first," said David while still shrugging his shoulder.

"Hiding that many details from our allies can affect the overall result of this operation," said Vincent, trying to refute.

It was Jerimiah who replied to him this time, defending David. "That is exactly the point. To deceive your enemies, you must deceive your allies first."

He then turned to David and asked. "But are you sure that you are not going to send the two of us inside instead of those two? We are perfect for this kind of infiltration mission."

David shook his head. "There is no need for that. Those two are highly trusted by the military since they are already used to these kinds of assignments. Moreover, their chances of infiltrating the enemy ranks will be boosted by their respective disguising techniques."

"In fact, they are a much better choice for the job because of that reason," he added.

He then paused for a moment to look at the two before continuing. "What's more, I need the two of you to follow me around. I have to appear in public places, acting as if I am chasing someone or something to fool the opposing side."

"Due to the previous operation of the Hextech Laboratory that I just sabotaged; those guys will surely keep an eye on me. I am to create a misconception that I am following their trail on the other side of the region while the others are moving their location."

"Having the two famous Young Ghosts of the Lost Soul Continent on my side will only make the misdirection more believable, so your presence is of utmost importance," he added while pointing at the two.

"How are going to assist the others if we are moving toward the other side?" asked Jerimiah confusedly.

David chuckled when he heard that and answered. "That is not an issue. I will take care of it later. I have a way for us to travel between places instantaneously."

After that, he suddenly stopped as if he remembered something. He then swept his gaze on the surrounding as if he was looking for someone before turning back to the two. "Anyway, where is Wiseman? I remember that he is training with you guys when I left earlier."

The two shrugged their shoulders when they heard that before Vincent answered. "Laurent? He left earlier – a bit later when you left. He said that an emergency just come up in their family business."

Hearing that, David suddenly squinted his eyes and uttered. "Suspicious. Very suspicious."

He then turned to Jerimiah and asked. "What do you think? Is this a sign or sort?"

Jerimiah nodded his head repeatedly in agreement. "You are right. It sounds very fishy. It is definitely a sign when someone is dating someone behind his single friends."

"He is most definitely seeing a girl secretly. It looks like he is the first to betray us and start dating someone," he added before turning back to David with full seriousness before asking. "Should we follow him and spy on what he is doing?"

"Should we?" asked David while wearing a serious look on his face.

Vincent shook his head when saw the two start fooling around. He wore a helpless smile as he turned around and started walking away. He did not want to get involved with these fools for the time being.

After that, the three of them went for a few rounds of sparring matches, rotating with one another as opponents, before going calling it a day.

After showering and changing their clothes in the changing room, the three walked out of the training ground in a leisurely manner. They were pretty relaxed when they stepped out, but it immediately changed when they sensed the gazes locked on them.

They were silent for a brief moment before regaining their leisure appearance. They maintained wide smiles while whispering with each other.

"They come much earlier than expected. They also have people inside the academy. They are sure not that simple, huh," said Jerimiah while maintaining his smile, talking like a ventriloquist.

David could not suppress his laughter when he saw Jerimiah try so hard to act that way before saying. "You look hilarious, you know? Anyway, it is not surprising given the information that we have about them, so this is somewhat what we should expect."

His laughter masked the real intention that he had. If the others saw him from afar, then they would think that David and the other two were just casually talking and joking with each other.

Moreover, he also suppressed his voice with his mental energy, so only Jerimiah and Vincent could hear them. It was impossible for the other party to eavesdrop on them even with their special means.

Vincent maintained his indifferent expression, which was what he usually had.

On the other hand, Jerimiah started grumbling because of what David had said. He had a slumped back as he walked forward, showcasing his dejection.

But despite that being the case, their senses were sweeping the entire place around them, looking for the owner of the gazes spying at them.

And once they took note of everyone, the three continued walking while chatting about random things, acting as if nothing had happened. They let those guys spying on them from the dark follow them, acting according to the plan.

Chapter 1098 Invitation For A Commission

.....

After meeting with the group and having lunch with another famous restaurant within the academy, Shin and Leonard quickly headed to Old Man Lin and ask to excuse them for today's class since they would be accepting a special mission from the academy.

They did not know how long this mission would take, so they asked for a leave of absence that would last for at least a week.

Old Man Lin did not mind as he already heard about the situation from the rest of the elders of the academy. He was just not expecting that Shin and Leonard were chosen to take part in that mission.

He did not know what role these two would play. But given the abilities that he had seen from them, he knew that they would be able to protect themselves well.

He even gifted them a few talismans that they could use if the situation called for it. The old man was not included in the mission since he did no longer want to bother himself about such matters when he had retired from it.

He just told them to be careful.

The two were quite surprised that the old instructor just agreed that easily. But not long after, the expression on their face immediately turned weird when they heard that they had to undergo some 'remedial' classes when they got back from the mission. It was to make sure that they would not be left behind by the rest of the class.

Shin could already imagine what kind of hell would they suffer from those extra classes, especially when it would only have the two of them. The entire session would only focus on them.

After talking with the old instructor, they also headed to Professor Kyrie and told her their intentions.

Unlike Old Man Lin, who was an elder within the academy, Professor Kyrie did not know about the details of their mission. She only knew that they had accepted a mission from the academy and nothing else.

Even though she knew that it was still too early for them to accept a mission, she knew that it was their choice to do it. The academy might have some arrangements for them to follow, but if the students had their own plans and were confident that they could accomplish the mission, then she could only support them with it.

...

On the other hand, Arthur was grumbling because the two would be going for a special assignment while he was left behind. It was the same for Cloe and Lorraine, who clearly showed their disappointment.

They formed their club to do such assignments together, but here they were, learning that the two would be going by themselves and leaving the others.

Shin told them that they could not do anything about it since it was Nathan's decision. The assignment was also confidential, so they could not tell them about it aside from assuring them that they could handle themselves.

The others were still quite suspicious, but they could not do anything about it since the two refused to tell them anything. They could only wish them luck and asked them to be careful.

...

"Tsk! Tsk! Those two traitors. So much for being brothers," grumbled Arthur as he walked towards the training field with a bent back. He was complaining since earlier when he heard that Shin and Leonard were going on a mission.

He was itching to get in real action after his special training with Nathan. The recent events in the school such as the entrance exam, the duel that came alongside it, and the torture-like training given by their Devil Instructor were not engaging and exciting enough for him.

It was not enough to bring out his real capabilities.

It was the same for the recent event that he had gotten involved with Shin and Leonard. Heck, Shin was even the one who gained the most experience during that time since he was one of the main targets.

Arthur really wanted to get a special mission from either the academy or military to gain more 'real' experiences. The ones that could truly force him to use his real capabilities, which could only be when he was in a life-threatening situation.

Yet, it was Shin and Leonard who were chosen to get change instead.

Arthur was walking with a dark expression when he suddenly bumped into someone.

"Oh! Sorry, I am-..." Arthur was apologizing to the guy who bumped into him, snapping him out of his thoughts.

He could not help but pause for a moment when he saw the person standing in front of him. It was a guy who seemed to be a couple of years older than him. If he suspected it right, this guy was most likely a senior student.

The reason that Arthur paused was because of the aura that the person was giving. It was an aura of extreme tranquility. The person was giving him a sense of peace, which made him calm his mind down and forget about the problems that he had.

The student was a guy wearing a uniform worn by a familiar establishment. It was the same as the uniforms that the waiters and other personnel working in the Heavenly Taste Restaurant.

But instead of the ordinary uniform, the one that this student was wearing had noticeable differences that could easily tell that he had a different standing or position compared to the people working in that place.

It was at this moment that Arthur gave the senior student a serious look. The guy had white and smooth skin similar to women that treat their bodies with delicate care.

The student had narrow eyes that could easily make others that they were shut especially when he was smiling. His white hair was quite long, especially his bang that was reaching his eyebrows.

Then Arthur suddenly put up his guard as he realized something. He unconsciously took a step back before looking at this particular senior student with wary.

He might be thinking about something earlier, but he never had lowered his guard. His senses were properly perceiving the surroundings, constantly looking for possible threats. Yet, he never sensed this person standing in front of him, which was why he bumped into him.

That kind of aura that the senior student was emitting could make him look harmless, but that even fueled the wariness that Arthur had.

'Who is this guy?' thought Arthur.

Seemingly understanding the wariness that Arthur had, the senior student smiled further before apologizing. "I am sorry to catch you off-guard, Junior. It's just you are too focused on your thoughts that you did not see me earlier."

"I want to talk with you about something. Care to lend a few minutes for it?" he said, going straight to the point after seeing that Arthur was still looking at him with cautious eyes.

"I am Laurent Wiseman – my friends call me Lau, you can also call as such. As you can see, I am from the Heavenly Taste Restaurant," he added to make sure that Arthur would not misunderstand.

Arthur raised his brows when he heard that but did not let his guard down. He still did not know what this guy wanted, so it would be better to maintain his guard.

"Can I know what Senior wants from me?" asked Arthur, still cautious.

Laurent felt a little awkward when he saw that. Their current situation was really not what he was expecting. But he could only blame himself for that since his actions earlier could really create some misunderstanding.

He looked around before turning back to Arthur, scratching his cheeks. "I am sorry again, Junior. But this is not a good place for conversation, don't you think?"

He wanted to change location but after seeing that Arthur had no intention of following him, he could only sigh. "I guess I am to blame."

"Anyway, the promised information that we are proving you when you first arrive in our place will be slightly delayed. We are still checking if you can handle such information or not," he continued.

He paused, cleared his throat, then continued. "That is one of the reasons why I want to meet you. But my real purpose of coming to you is asking your club for a commission."

Arthur raised his brows even further when he heard that. "Commission?"

Laurent nodded his head. "Yeah. We are supposed to head to a certain venue for catering service but because of an accident, we can't just head over there it is."

"Some of our talents and contracted entertainers are unavailable at the moment, so we are looking for entertainment clubs to replace them," he added.

Arthur squinted his eyes and stared at Laurent with suspicion. He might not be the brightest, but he could still tell if there was something suspicious going on.

Their club was recently established, so there should be not many, who were aware of it. Aside from the clubs that were keeping an eye on Alice, an idol, not many clubs should be aware of the formation of their club.

Moreover, there were also quite a lot of entertainment clubs, which were fully established. There was no point to ask for a commission from a recently formed club.

Putting all of that into consideration, Arthur could not help but think that this guy, Laurent, had a hidden agenda by asking their club for a commission.

On the other hand, Laurent continued to wear his kind smile and patiently waited for Arthur to respond.

Chapter 1099 Heading For The Mission

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Shin and Leonard quickly headed back to the place they were currently staying to take a couple of things that they needed for the mission. The two possessed some spatial pouches that could hold at least three cubic meters worth of baggage.

It might not be much, but it was more than enough to hold the necessities for the special mission.

They could not complain about the spatial pouch being too small since such things were still quite rare. Making one would require an expert Mentalist Craftsman at Exalted Realm or at least someone in the Peak of Ruler's Realm who also specialized in spatial techniques.

The two then walked out of the resort and headed over to the place that the military had indicated.

It was a hotel at the center of the Ace City. Shin and Leonard entered the room indicated in the instruction before using their respective techniques to change their appearances.

Shin used the combination of the bone manipulation technique that he learned from Professor Plum and the illusion technique under his Heavenly Black Turtle Method. His body shrunk a little while his face turned into an average-looking man.

After that, he changed into the set of clothes that he had prepared. Before walking out of the bathroom.

When he stepped out, he quickly saw someone who he was unfamiliar with. It was a guy with an average height and stern-looking appearance.

That person was already fixing his clothes in front of the mirror when Shin walked over. He looked closely at the face of the guy before commenting. "Amazing! Even your pupils changed. And your hair color too!"

Leonard, who was currently in disguise rolled his eyes before pointing at Shin's head. "Even you can change the color of your hair as well as your eyes. What is so special about this?"

Shin waved his index finger in front of Leonard. "Ah-ah! There is a difference. Mine is just an illusion technique while yours is basically changing your genetics. They are way different!"

The corner of Leonard's mouth suddenly twitched as he said. "You don't know what kind of torture I suffered just to achieve this basic level of shapeshifting."

"That is just the basic level?" asked Shin, furrowing his brows.

"When you reached the highest mastery of this technique, you can basically change your gender to a certain degree as well as manipulate your age," said Leonard before adding. "My master is at that level, which makes me doubt whether the appearance that I know is his real appearance."

"Even your gender?" asked Shin in disbelief. Mentalism could also achieve such a thing, but that was only limited to outer appearance. Changing one's sexual orientation was a completely different matter.

Leonard knew what Shin was trying to say, so he fell into deep thought before saying. "I am not that sure, but that is what I know. I don't ask Master about it since I feel that it will be weird."

"Right?" muttered Shin before turning around and packing up his belongings and throwing them in the closet. He then proceeded at checking everywhere and made sure to lock the room thoroughly before heading to the balcony of the room.

He looked down before signaling to Leonard. "Let's move. We still have to head over to the main location before starting our investigation."

Leonard quickly followed and looked down before pursing his lips a little. After that, he quickly jumped down without any hesitation, jumping from a balcony one after another like an agile monkey. It did not take long for him to reach the bottom of the building.

Shin smiled bitterly and shook his head before jumping down and following Leonard, mimicking what the latter had done.

Ta-ta!

Right after he reached the group, he walked in a casual manner, treating it as if nothing had happened. He then raised the key in his hand before pressing it.

Tu-tut!

A car in the distance suddenly lighted up, signifying that it was the car that they were looking for. It was a car that was provided to them by the military for this particular mission. And since it was meant for them to be the bait to pull out the opposing side from their hiding place, the car was very lowkey.

It had a very ordinary design that most people could see on the road. Even though the model was very average while its color was black, which would help it blend with the others easily.

Shin and Leonard quickly entered and took the driver and passenger seats respectively. There was a pair of tablets stacked on one another on the passenger seat, which Leonard took before passing one to Shin.

The two turned on their respective tablets and saw the details of the mission on them. They read the information written on the tablets in complete seriousness. They read it at least twice and made sure that they had memorized everything.

Shin turned off the tablet and passed it back to Leonard before fastening his seat belt. Leonard put the tablets on his lap as he did the same.

"Are we heading there immediately? The military have already prepared everything, what we need to do right now is to show up there and act as if we are investigating the disappearance of our seniors," asked Leonard while leaning back on his seat.

Shin knitted his brows deeply before. "This is much more serious than we thought. If the seniors from the elite clubs indeed got abducted by that mysterious group, then our strengths are not supposedly that helpful in this case."

"If not for our special disguising techniques, we are most likely not be considered a choice for the mission," he added.

He paused and tilted his head before shrugging his shoulders. "But since Uncle Nathan is confident about this, I am sure that he has considered everything already."

After that, he started the car and started driving it toward their destination, a city on the outskirts of the Eastern Sea Region.

"Mountain Sea City?" muttered Shin as he looked at the destination indicated on the map.

Leonard, who stayed in the region during his special training, explained. "It is a traditional and primitive city within the Eastern Sea Region. Since it is positioned at the outskirts and pretty far from the rest of the cities, that city is not very advanced compared to the others."

"In fact, most of the people living there are not using any kind of advanced technologies aside from their means of transportation. But even those vehicles are also quite outdated," he added.

Shin raised his brows. "That explains another reason why the military gave us such an outdated car."

He then paused for a moment before continuing. "This also explains why that organization chose that place to be their main base of operation."

"Are there any more things that we have to take note of that place? The natives, in particular," asked Shin further.

Leonard thought for a moment before answering. "There is nothing, really. But if you ask me, then just remember to not ask the people there about directions."

Shin could not help but give Leonard a quick glance before turning his eyes back to the road. "Ask about directions? What about it?"

"As I said that place is pretty primitive. Most of the people believe in superstitious beliefs," said Leonard before adding. "The city is very close to the mountain range behind it, which is where it has gotten its name."

"The people there believe that the mountain range is being protected by an ancient spirit or a god. And the spirit of the dead will climb to the peak of the mountains to ascend to heaven or something."

"The reason why you can't ask any direction from the natives there is that they don't want those spirits to lose their way and wander around the city or anywhere else."

Shin found it rather interesting and asked. "Then what if someone who is not aware of suddenly asked for directions unaware?"

"Well, there are only two outcomes for that," Leonard trailed his words a little before continuing. "It is either you are treated with a cold shoulder or asked to head over the mountain range."

"The former is the response that you will get from the people who are living there alone while the latter is what the people who lose their loved ones there – it is to make sure the spirits will head to the right direction," he added.

"Interesting! Is there anything else? We are going to stay there for a few days. It will be better if I know more about their customs and others," asked Shin. "Even though we're acting as bait, we still have to act as normal as possible so that we can look less suspicious."

"It will be better if we can act as if we are returning natives of that place," he added as plans started to formulate inside his head. "We can even use this to identify our opposing camp from the people there."

Chapter 1100 Mountain Sea City

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When Shin and Leonard arrived at their destination, the former slowed down the car while looking at the city.

"This place sure is a little unique compared to what I've seen in the past," muttered Shin as he looked at the houses and other establishments at the side of the road.

What he saw were houses made of wood and bamboo. The rooves were made of nipa or other dry leaves used for primitive ways of building houses. There were a couple of establishments that were made of bricks and cement but their rooves were practically the same.

Even the huge houses with more than one floor were made from a mixture of wood and bricks, which produced a unique design that Shin found interesting.

In the meantime, Shin could also see that they were very few people riding a vehicle. Most of the locals of the city were walking on the streets with a few who were riding a carriage. Some of the horses were pulling carts on the road, carrying some products that were being delivered to the marketplace.

There was a designated line for the horses and carriages, which the other vehicles could not take. Shin could see signs that he would not only be fined if he drove on those lanes, but he could also even get in custody if it had gotten serious.

Shin whistled a little when he saw those signs before continuing to casually look at the surroundings while driving.

The few cars and other forms of vehicles that he saw were not only outdated. He could even see some vintage ones, which could make the collectors in the big cities drool on them.

Shops could be rarely seen, but the streets had different stalls on the side of the road. Some vendors were selling on a street designated only for stalls.

After going for a quick trip around, Shin briefly turned to Leonard before asking. "Let's go to the place that the military had prepared for us to stay before heading over to the 'information hub'."

"Information hub?" Leonard was confused at first before realizing what Shin meant by that. "Ah! You mean the pubs and gambling houses?"

"Why? Are there no such things in this place?" asked Shin after seeing the reaction of his partner.

Leonard shook his head and clarified. "The pubs are common, but you will not see any gambling houses in this place."

"Is that even possible? Not even some illegal ones?" asked Shin with a frown.

From his experiences and the things that he had learned from the past operations, such places were the best way to gather information since rumors would continuously flow about that place because of the people gathering there.

Pubs were usually places where most of the people have some fun while drinking all night while gambling houses were meant for another form of entertainment.

Usually, young people were forbidden to go to such places. But since the two were currently in their disguises, which made them look a little older than their real age, entering such places would not be easy.

As for their identification, the advanced watches that the military had provided would do the trick, so there shouldn't be any problem.

Shin always chose to head over to such places to gather some information by listening to the rumors that the people were talking about.

Rumors would always be rumors, which made it a little unreliable most of the time. But they could also be true at times. After cross-checking the rumors with the information that they already had, identifying the truth from the false information would be a piece of cake.

"It is not that there are no gambling houses here totally, but the form of gambling that they had here is a little different from playing cards or rolling some dice," said Leonard while furrowing his brows.

"There are only two types of gambling here. One is for races while the other is for brawls," he added after making sure that he remembered it correctly.

He paused for a moment as he tried to recall what he knew about the Mountain Sea Cit before continuing. "Races are big events, and they can only be held once a month. The brawls, on the other hand, are regular. It is always being held every night."

Shin ignored the races and focused on the so-called brawls. "Like underground boxing? Or something?"

Leonard nodded his head. "Yeah. But it is pretty much legal here. If I am not mistaken, it even becomes a sport or something."

He then looked outside the window and turned up to the sky. "It is already getting dark. If my memory serves me right, then the brawls will start at eight in the evening."

"Should we head over there and take a look?" he asked as he turned to Shin.

Shin thought for a moment before shaking his head. "Nah. Let's save it for tomorrow or on the other day."

"It will become too suspicious if we head straight to that place after just arriving here. We still don't know if there are people observing everyone that entered the city."

"Such places are the most ideal location where the organization is looking for talent. If we head over straight to there right after our arrival and someone is watching us, then our cover will be blown."

"It is not that we don't want it to happen. Pulling them out from the dark is still our main goal, much better if they also abduct us just like our seniors. But there is no harm in finding their main base ourselves if possible. Lowering the risk of this mission is still a better scenario."

"Let's take it slow and go with the flow. We will head over to where we are staying first, then head over to one of the pubs before calling it a day."

"We will be doing that for a day or two before checking on this brawl that you are talking about as we investigate."

Shin drove the car toward the place that was indicated on the map while keeping an eye on the places that were best to spy on them as well as the vehicles behind them, making sure that no one was tailing their car.

Not long after, they arrived in front of a simple house that was no different from the rest of the city.

Shin parked the car in the garage with great familiarity before stepping out.

The two acted as if they were returning locals of the place as they walked toward the house. Leonard walked to the door and opened it with the keys, acting as if he had already done it countless times, before entering and turning on a couple of lights.

Shin followed behind not bothering to look at their surroundings. It was as if he did not care about anything else at all.

At least that was what was on the surface. But in truth, his Spiritual Sense was actually spread out, checking the surrounding of the house. He was looking if there were people spying on them.

After entering, Shin also did the same, trying to see if there were other people inside. And after making sure that everything was fine, he went to different rooms of the house, putting a talisman on the walls one after another. If someone tried to break in, he would immediately know since these talismans would be able to sense it.

Some of the talismans were meant to set up isolation and sound barriers that would prevent anyone from eavesdropping.

After setting up everything, Shin went to turn off the lights before heading toward a shelf inside a study. He pulled one of the books and the shelf slowly turned, revealing a passage toward a basement.

He entered and the shelf closed on itself. After going down the passage, Shin saw Leonard already setting up a couple of devices.

On one of the walls, there were multiple screens that were showing the surroundings of the house. Meanwhile, on the wall adjacent to it were scenes that were showing everything on the streets of the city.

"Tsk! This is a lot. If they prepared these things for the operation, then why they can't send some professionals to operate them? And we can't monitor everything by ourselves, can't they be more considerate?" complained Leonard as he sat on a chair while looking at everything.

Shin walked over and looked at the screens while saying. "There are a few scouts monitoring everyone that was entering or exiting the city. The military doesn't know if there are moles in the ranks of police stationed here, so they can't send just anyone."

"But don't worry, they are going to send some support for this. They just have to finish their preparations," he added before sweeping his gaze at everything.

After a few moments, he furrowed his brows as he realized that it would be hard to monitor everything if they need to go outside to investigate. In the end, he had to ask some help from someone he knew, and they could trust.

He dialed a number from the secured line of his advance watch and called someone. After a few rings, the person on the other side of the call finally answered.

"Yo! Big Brother John. How is it going?" greeted Shin once the call was connected.

John Evans, the guy who suffered a lot due to Shin when they were trying to save Leonard before, rolled his eyes when he heard Shin's greeting before saying. "Cut the crap! I know that you are on a special mission. Commander Nathan already informed me."

"Oh! Is that so? Then I don't have to explain anything," said Shin before asking. "So, what are we going to do?"

John sighed before replying. "Yeah, yeah. I will send you a file – download and install it to the main computer there and I will handle the rest."

"We have a team here to do the job, so you don't have to worry about monitoring and just focus on your job."

"Don't put down the call yet so that I can make sure that you are doing everything right," he added with a tired voice.

Shin quickly nodded and started to work.