

Destiny 1111

Chapter 1111 Caught?

...

Shin continued running down the mountain while fighting the enemies that were trying to obstruct his path.

His speed was quite fast, but his pursuers were not that slow either. And given the fact that there were a lot of them swarming in every direction, he had to slow down a little to properly deal with them.

Boom!

Bang! Bang!

While he was running, he could hear the loud explosions from the distance, which gave him a rough idea of how intense the battle between Old Man Roger and Coffin Maker was.

As he ran, Shin suddenly thought of something and quickly removed the communication device from the lobe off his ear and attached it behind his ear instead. Even though such a small item could easily be overlooked, it would never hurt to be extra careful.

The device had a built-in tracking feature, so John could always keep track of their location. Even if they were to enter a place with an isolation barrier, recording the coordinates where the signal was last seen could help a lot in finding the general area of the base of the opposing side.

As he was about to reach the bottom of the mountain, Shin suddenly sensed an immense threat coming from the front.

He did not hesitate even for a moment and abruptly halted his steps and jumped to the side. And right after he did that, something flew past his previous location. When glanced at it, he saw a two-meter spear with a pitch-black color.

Bang!

An explosion erupted behind him, throwing dust and rock fragments to be thrown in the air.

He did not have the time to check how strong the impact was since there was a swooshing sound coming from ahead and charging straight at him with unstoppable momentum.

Shin grabbed the hilt of the black Kanata without any hesitation and quickly unsheathed it and swung forward.

Shing!

Bang!

In the next instant, another black spear arrived before colliding with the black katana, producing a strong shockwave upon impact.

Shin raised his brows as he was pushed skidding back. He put additional strength on his arm and forced the spear away from him. It flew in the air and flipped a couple of times before landing on the hand of a young man.

Shin already noticed the presence of this person since the first attack earlier and knew that his current strength was inferior to the latter.

"Middle phase of Ethereal Opening Stage at the very least, late phase at the very most," he muttered as he observed this newcomer.

It was a young man that seemed to be a few years older than him. From what he could guess, this guy should be at least the same age as David and Shiella.

The young man was wearing a pair of glasses which made him look like an intelligent person. Coupled with the laboratory gown that he was wearing, most people would think that it was most likely the case.

But contrary to his appearance, the aura dangerous aura that was coming from him clearly indicated that he was someone who was not new in combat. At the very least, he should be a veteran fighter based on his aura alone.

The young man stretched his left hand forward before a suction force came out from it. It did not generate a strong force that could pull everything toward him. Instead, it only affected the black spear that he had thrown earlier.

Swoosh!

After catching the spear, he rested it over his shoulder while the other one was pointed at the ground as he gently gripped it.

He then looked at Shin and muttered. "I don't know who you are, but since you are already here, you can forget about coming down the mountain."

It was at that moment when Shin noticed the bloodstains on the laboratory gown and on the face of the young man. He could also see the nameplate attached to it as the latter did not bother to hide anything.

"Shaun Livingstone," muttered Shin. He seemed to be talking to himself, but he was actually informing John about the name of the young man.

The latter quickly got into work and started tapping consciously on the keyboard, looking for relevant information about the young man from their database.

Not long after, the results immediately came out and John summarized and read it to Shin. "Shaun Livingstone – previously a second-year college student and studying in the Magic Ace Academy."

"He is from the Science Research Department under the World Research Center. Based on the data that we have, he seemed to be a genius student that is one of the promising figures that will potentially join the research center once he graduated."

"But he was immediately outshined by his younger brother, who was an accelerated student in the Magic Ace Academy and also the current president of the Student Council, Silver Livingstone."

"He suddenly disappeared after a certain incident during one of the field activities of the academy. He has been reported missing and could not be found for almost a year since that incident alongside a couple of students and researchers."

"Who would have thought that he is actually in here? Is he from the organization? Or did he become a part of it just recently?"

Shin hid his mouth behind his arm, pretending to wipe away the sweat under his nose, before whispering. "Report it to the others. I think he will be an important clue for this case."

After that, he suddenly disappeared from his current location and reappeared a few distance away. And quickly after his feet touched the ground, an explosion suddenly erupted in his previous location.

Bang!

"You are quite fast on your feet, huh?" commented Shaun as he walked forward in a casual manner before picking up the spear that he had just thrown.

He squinted his eyes and stared at Shin dangerously before asking. "Who are you? Where did you come from? Who sent you? What is your purpose in coming here?"

He asked those questions but did not expect any answer. He could roughly guess about it already. "Are you from the academy? Or did the military send you?"

"You don't actually have to answer since your purpose is obviously to look for us either way," he added before quickly kicking the ground and charging forward.

Shin drew a circle in the air with the tip of his sword as mental energy was released from it. And when he was done, he gently pushed with his other hand while channeling more energy into it.

Within an instant, a thick wall of mental energy appeared in front of him.

Bang!

Shaun raised his brows a little as he saw that the tip of his spear was being blocked by the wall of mental energy. He stared at Shin, who was standing on the other side, and muttered. "Such a dense mental energy. Just how much purity does it have to be able to solidify to such a degree?"

He was clear about the strength of his opponent. This unknown young man should be at least in the early to middle phase of the Grandmaster Realm, which was underneath him when it came to energy, strength, and power.

But after having a closer look at the Mental Energy that Shin was releasing, Shaun quickly noticed some of its peculiarities that it had. He instantly knew that the grade in Mental Energy was beyond the ones that he had encountered before.

He then stared smiling sinisterly as he realized that he caught a big fish this time. He then commanded the others. "Leave this one to me. Chase after the other guy and don't let him reach the bottom of the mountain."

The others did not hesitate and quickly disappeared as they ran toward the direction where Leonard was.

Shaun was thinking that since this guy in front of him had a peculiar mental energy, then the other person who was with him earlier would most likely be the same. He could not help but become overjoyed when thought about it.

"The professor will be overjoyed when he learns about this! This will surely accelerate the pace of our plan!" he muttered, not caring whether Shin had heard him or not.

In his eyes, there was no way for Shin to escape since he was already there. He did not believe that this person would be able to run away from him given the gap between their strengths.

Shin, on the other hand, could not help but knit his brows a little when he heard those words. It turned out that their suspicions were right. These guys were doing research here in the mountains and required them some talented individuals to experiment on or something similar.

When he thought about it, a dangerous idea suddenly crossed his mind. He was thinking about letting himself get captured and be dragged to their main base.

It will take quite some time for them to figure out the main location of this mysterious organization. And they did not know if these guys would still be in there when they arrive, especially now that the opposing side was already aware of their activities.

Compared to that, if he purposely let himself be taken away, he would be able to infiltrate their base while also giving John and the others the general direction to figure out the main location of the opposing side.

After a quick thought, Shin finally decided to take the risk. 'But before that, I first have to put up some resistance, so that this guy will not suspect my intention.'

Chapter 1112 Caught? (Part 2)

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Shin stared cautiously at Shaun while assuming his sword-drawing stance. His Spiritual Sense spread outwards as mental energy gathered in his eyes.

A moment later, his pupils suddenly contracted as he hurriedly duck to the side.

Swoosh!

Then a spear suddenly thrust forward as Shaun suddenly appeared in front of him. If he reacted even a second slower, then his chest would most likely be pierced through by that black spear.

Bang!

It was only that moment when he heard the explosive sound of Shaun's previous step when he launched himself forward followed by the delayed gust of wind that swept forward alongside him.

Shin was about to pull his katana from its sheath when he sensed another threat coming from below. He did not hesitate to put more strength on his legs and feet and swiftly hopped backward.

Swoosh!

Then the tip of another spear sliced through the air in front of his face.

Shaun quickly followed his previous attack by swinging his other spear upward, trying to catch Shin with it. Unfortunately, the latter was able to see through his move ahead of time.

Tap!

Shin's feet just touched the ground when he suddenly flicked his ankles and propelled himself forward.

At the same time, he was unsheathing the white katana during his flight and about to swing it horizontally.

Shaun instantly saw that and quickly reacted. He borrowed the momentum of his previous move to turn around and threw a back kick at Shin. His target was the arm that was pulling out the katana.

Bang!

Shin was taken aback when that kick connected. Its force was not that strong, but it was quick and accurate enough to land on his forearm. It pushed his arm back which resulted in him being unable to unsheathe the katana.

He did not have the time to dwell on it as his opponent quickly retracted the leg and used force generated by the impact.

Shaun's back was currently facing Shin. Then he saw the guy leaning back and bent while swiftly stabbing the pair of spears at him.

Shin quickly followed the motion of the incoming spear and bent his back. He also raised his sheathed katana and hit the spears during his action, letting them strike the air above him.

He quickly regained his balance after that and was planning to push forward when he saw the spears there thrown in the air.

He did not have the time to think when he heard the swooshing sound of a fist heading straight to him. If he suddenly raised his body up, then he would be hit by the incoming fist without a doubt.

He decisively let his body continue falling before suddenly slamming the bottom of the sheathed katana on the ground, supporting himself with it.

He then rebounded up before twisting his body in the air while also kicking the incoming fist during the process.

Bang!

Right after his foot and the opponent's fist came in contact with each other, he quickly used the force generated by the impact to distance himself.

When he landed on the ground once again, he did not quickly resume attacking and just stared at his opponent with a deep frown.

Shin knew what the latter was planning. Shaun wanted to prevent Shin from unsheathing his sword when by engaging in that hand-to-hand combat. If Shin could not unsheathe his sword, then his sword-drawing style was basically useless.

Shin had already learned it before. He encountered such situations multiple times within the game. This was one of the ways to counter sword-drawing art, after all. And Vincent Valentine, also known as Faker within the game, already thought him this lesson.

During those situations, all Shin had to do was maintain a suitable distance where he could freely advance and retreat while executing his sword-draw attacks.

He still did not have a suitable foot technique to perfectly complement this style, but Old Plum and Old Benn had already formulated a temporary one that he could use for the time being.

The current problem was he could not freely attack if he maintained his distance either. His opponent was using spears as the main weapon, which was dominant when it came to mid-range battles.

Moreover, his opponent was using an unconventional style of fighting. Using a pair of polearm weapons was not something that most people would do as it was not only hard but wielding such a pair of weapons could also hinder each other as well as the movements of the wielder.

But from what he could see, this guy, Shaun Livingstone, seemed to be able to do it pretty well. Not only that, but he also seemed to have mastered such a style as well.

'Is this what the professors are telling us about the Natural Style? One of the requirements that we must achieve before reaching the Ethereal Opening Stage and the peak of Grandmaster Realm,' thought Shin to himself as he was put in a somewhat difficult dilemma where he could neither maintain a distance nor approach his enemy.

At a time like this, he was starting to miss his Martial Arts, which was currently sealed. If he could use his Yin-Yang Swordsmanship right now, then he would not be having any trouble in this situation.

Thinking about that, Shin could only sigh helplessly before adjusting his posture. If it was before, then he would not have the hope of winning this battle. But right now, he already learned the basic sword technique from the Jade Kirin Scripture, or rather 'remembered' the movements that he had somewhat forgotten.

Understanding that he would not be able to freely use the quick-draw style unless there was a perfect opportunity. Shin decided to rely on the thirteen sword movements of the Jade Kirin Scripture even though he had only mastered six of them.

'I guess I will cover up the gap with my foundation in swordsmanship,' thought Shin as he pulled out the black katana from its sheath.

The white katana was light and meant for quick attacks, which was why he was usually using it when performing a quick draw. It was the perfect sword for such a style.

But at times, the heavy and sturdy black katana was perfect to use, depending on the situation. And since he decided to use the Thirteen Sword Movements, he thought that he had to use the black katana to at least bridge the gap in terms of strength.

Of course, he could also use the white katana to further increase the speed of his attack, which could also help him in the current situation, especially when he had to get near his opponent as much as he could and nullify the reach advantage of his opponent's spears.

But he wanted to save it for the latter since he could also use a quick draw attack when the opportunity presented itself.

He might be intending to let himself get captured and be dragged to their base, but that did not mean that he would willing to lose this battle.

No one would want to lose a battle.

Hu~!

Thinking about that, Shin focused his mind as he adjusted his posture once again. This time he strengthened his back and stood straight with one of his feet behind the other. He held the katana with both of his hands while pointing his sword toward his opponent.

The expression on Shaun's face immediately changed when he saw Shin's action. Not only that, but he could also feel that the air surrounding the latter somewhat changed, albeit a little.

He was surprised at first but quickly regained his composure. Though, he was starting to get upset because he could not even take care of a kid, who was not only younger than him but also weaker.

"Playtime is over. Let's wrap this up," he muttered before quickly disappearing.

He appeared a couple of meters away from Shin and was about to thrust his spear when he saw Shin swinging the black katana vertically.

From his perspective, a gigantic mountain seemed to be crashing down on him while a raging storm was blowing the wind in every direction and was trying to assault him.

This might be an illusion but the pressure that was coming from the attack was real.

The expression on Shaun's face suddenly turned grave as his body burst out with a much stronger pressure alongside an energy that covered his entire being.

Bang!

Shin was pushed back by the sudden outburst while his sword rebounded back before it could even touch his opponent.

At the same time, his face suddenly turned pale as a huge amount of strength in his body.

He had put quite a lot into that previous attack. He had poured as much mental energy into his sword as he could before performing that attack. It was the sixth sword movement that he had learned, and it seemed like he could still not showcase its full potential.

He took another deep breath as he recollected his strength once again before raising his head. He then saw Shaun being surrounded by a purple Qi, which had distinct features that indicated that it was no ordinary Internal Qi.

"That must be his Natural Force," muttered Shin as he took his stance once again.

This time, the fight would definitely be a tough one. But despite that being the case, he would never back, nor cower.

"Let's see, how my current mental energy stands against a higher form of Qi," he muttered as he summoned his mental energy once again.

At the same time, the golden mental energy was suddenly set ablaze by the fire attribute that he recently gained, enfolding his body while dancing along the wind.

Chapter 1113 Caught? (Part 3)

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Clang! Clang!

Bang!

Bang!

A pair of silhouettes continued to clash against each other in the mountain forest.

Shin and Shaun kept on disappearing and reappearing in different places as they fought, which caused loud explosions and left huge craters whenever they fought against each other. The landscape of the mountain forest completely changed.

At times, they were transforming into streaks of lights that collided multiple times, leaving an even more devastated place as they moved.

The two were currently in a deadlock which frustrated Shaun as he fought. He should be having an overwhelming advantage in this battle because he was supposedly the stronger one between them.

His realm was higher, he already awakened his innate attribute and transformed his Internal Qi into a Natural Force, he had mastered the three aspects of his martial arts and attained his Natural Style, and he even formed the perfect vessel to host all of it and achieved the Natural Body.

On the other hand, Shin only awakened his innate attribute, and he was still far from controlling it perfectly. There might be some peculiarities with the Mental Energy that Shin had. Taking aside his innate attribute, that 'peculiarity' might be the real reason why Shin was able to keep up when it came to the contest of energies.

As the battle progressed, Shaun also discovered something strange with Shin's Mentalism Techniques.

Not only Shin was capable of fighting a melee battle, but he was also proficient in utilizing strange Mentalism Techniques in a ranged battle.

Energy waves, barrier formation, illusion techniques, mentalism runes utilization, talisman usage, and other techniques that were uncommon for ordinary Combat Mentalists.

This gave Shaun the idea that Shin was both a Combat mentalist and a Psychic mentalist. Or in other words, a Kaleidoscope Mentalist, which was the combination of the two. And not an ordinary Kaleidoscope Mentalist at that since Shin could perfectly perform both fighting styles without a problem.

He was a perfect Mentalist that could only be heard from the rumors in the circle of Martial Arts and Mentalism.

This gave Shaun the idea that Shin should have the special physique called the 'Spiritual Embryo' – the perfect vessel for the Mentalists.

But that was all into it.

Shin could only bridge the gap in those two areas – the Energies and Physique, whereas Shaun had an overwhelming advantage in the other areas.

Shaun was quite excited to capture Shin after learning the secrets that the latter had. That peculiar mental energy and the possible possession of a Spiritual Embryo were already good material for research purposes.

He was sure that the head researcher overseeing everything in the base would be overjoyed if he brought this kid.

Unfortunately, Shin was too persistent and put up such a good fight. Even though he was fighting at an overwhelming disadvantage, he was still able to hold his ground up until now.

In fact, Shaun was even seeing some improvements from Shin as they fought.

At first, he thought that he was just imagining things. But after exchanging a few more blows, he discovered that Shin was indeed gradually becoming stronger as they fought, greatly improving during the battle.

This made Shaun wear a grave expression as he fought. Based on his estimate, if he was still not able to defeat his strange young man within a few dozen of exchanges, then he would most likely be the one to suffer defeat.

A great crisis suddenly rose within Shaun's heart as the battle progressed. He was starting to panic and even committed a couple of mistakes that almost cost him his life. If not for his higher realm, then he had already been killed earlier.

He was fighting comfortably and did not care about the commotions that they were creating since the organization had already activated the massive isolation barrier earlier before they made their moves.

This would make the people outside the mountain notice what was happening there. The sounds of the explosions would be suppressed by the barrier while an illusion projection was preventing the others from seeing what was happening behind it.

But that too, also became one of his worries since they were gradually reaching the edge of the mountain as they fought.

Shin had unknowingly pushed him to the foot of the mountain during their battle.

"B*st*rd!" shouted Shaun as his body released an overwhelming amount of Natural Force and channeled it on one of his spears.

Not long after, he suddenly charged forward and reached Shin within an instant. He thrust the spear forward as Natural spiraled around it and formed a sharp and pointed tip, drilling toward Shin.

Shin was unable to quickly respond to it quickly as he was currently catching his breath. Fighting someone with a lot of advantages while using the fire element attribute that he had not fully mastered yet was too burdening to his mind and body.

Moreover, controlling the Divinity Grade Mental Energy was also a little too much for the current him.

Seeing the incoming attack from his opponent, he gritted his teeth and quickly set up a series of mental energy walls made of fire in front of him as he continuously retreated.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A series of explosions immediately followed as Shaun thrust his spear into the burning mental energy walls one after another. And instead of slowing down, he was increasing his speed as he aggressively advanced without any hesitation.

And when he broke through the final wall, he saw Shin waiting for him and currently in the middle of executing one of his sword movements.

"Die!" shouted Shaun when he saw Shin and threw the spear forward.

At the same time, he twirled the other spear in his other hand before infusing it with more Natural Force.

He had already experienced how hard and troublesome Shin was. He was not expecting his previous attack to finish off Shin, so he was preparing another.

That attack was only a distraction as he prepared his real finishing move.

At this point, his rage clouded his judgment, and he no longer want to capture Shin. As a martial artist in the middle phase of the Ethereal Opening Stage, he was unable to defeat someone who was a mentalist in the Grandmaster Realm and still unable to its peak.

It was too humiliating to think about.

As the previous spear was about to assault Shin, Shaun assumed a throwing motion as he channeled his Natural Force on the other spear. He stomped on the ground very strongly before throwing the spear in a straight line.

Bang!

Swoosh!

The spear imbued with a large amount of Natural Force flew forward and left a glowing trail of light right after it left his hand.

It did take a long to reach the previous spear and arrived at its target almost at the same time.

Swoosh!

Shaun was wearing a triumphant look on his face when he saw that. He was sure that this time, Shin would be killed in an instant since he poured everything he had into that attack.

But not long after, the expression on his face suddenly turned stiff as he saw his spears pierced through his opponent but neither an explosion nor the sound of something being pierced could be heard.

His attacks just went through their targets as the black katana flew in the air, flipping and spinning multiple times.

Swoosh!

Then, at the very next moment, a swooshing sound could be heard behind him.

When Shaun turned around and took a look, he saw Shin dashing out from dissipating fire made of mental energy.

His pupils contracted as he did not sense the presence of the latter at all. He might have lowered his guard a little while performing those previous attacks, but that did not mean that his sense became dull enough for him to not sense Shin as he passed through a blazing mental energy wall one after the other.

Shin did not care about what his opponent was thinking. He continued to charge ahead without any hesitation.

Earlier, when he was setting up the mental energy walls, he used one of the illusion techniques from the Heavenly Black Turtle Method and left an image of himself behind those walls.

He even left his black katana and used telekinesis on it to make it levitate in the air. He meticulously controlled it while also making the illusion move, making it look like performing one of his techniques.

At the same time, he masked his aura with another technique and hid himself in one of the walls while waiting for the opportunity to strike.

Now that everything had worked out according to plan, he would not let this opportunity slip away from his hands and went all-out.

He was already beyond exhausted after using the series of techniques, but he did not have to worry about that since victory was already within his reach.

He tightly held the hilt of the white katana and channeled as much mental energy into it. He could no longer produce his fire attribute at this point, but the remaining Divinity Grade Mental Energy should be more than enough for the final move since his opponent was currently left unprotected.

Click!

He then pulled out the katana from its sheath and stabbed it forward.

Shing!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw – Flash Final'

Swoosh!

A flash of light blinded Shaun as a glowing trail was left in the air behind Shin.

In the next moment, Shaun found himself being stabbed by the white katana on Shin's hands, piercing through his chest.

There was a clear shock and disbelief in his eyes as he stared on Shin, who was in front of him.

Fortunately for him, due to Shin's extremely exhausted state, that katana missed his heart, sparing his pitiful life in the end.

Regardless, he still lost this battle which was a great humiliation.

He was about to lose himself in rage when he heard a voice that snapped him back to his senses.

"Tsk! Tsk! You still lost to someone on this level despite all the resources that the organization has provided? What a disappointment."

Shaun's body suddenly turned stiff before turning his head toward the source of the voice.

Shin also forced himself to move and slightly turned in the same direction and saw a more than two-meter guy with a bulky body walking out from the woods.

He could not clearly see the appearance of that person because of his current state but he saw the person that the newcomer was holding between his arms. It was Leonard who was currently in a bloodied state and unconscious.

Shin could only smile bitterly as he could already guess what just happened. This person must be the guy called Butcher, one of the top combatants of the mysterious organization.

Sigh~!

'So, Leo has also failed to escape.'

His strength gradually left his body as the adrenaline within him finally calmed down. But before he lost his consciousness, he managed to get a glimpse of the other arm of the bulky guy and saw a huge tattoo of a black serpent on it.

His pupils suddenly contracted as he immediately came to a realization.

Unfortunately, he did not have the strength right now. He fell on the ground with a soft thud before finally fainting.

Chapter 1114 The Guardian Of The Mountain (Part 1)

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It was already too late Nathan arrived at the Mountain Range behind the city. Shin had already been abducted by Butcher and had been brought to their base.

He should have arrived earlier if not for the interference of the unknown guy that obstructed his path when he was rushing here. That guy's strength was still way too weak compared to him, but they had used a mysterious skill that prevented him from advancing forward.

Even though he was able to quickly break through it immediately after. But that short amount of time was more than enough to delay him and arrive at this place late.

He did not expect that the other party would be able to respond in time despite his rushing over here as soon as he received the news. He was aware of the people that were possibly monitoring his movements, but their response was still a little too fast for them to delay his arrival.

And when he arrived at this place, he discovered that there was a barrier isolating the mountain from the outside.

He did not destroy it since there was no meaning for that at this point. But he also did not conceal himself when forced his way in. He was not concerned that the other party would be able to notice him. He confidently walked his way in, completely unbothered.

Aside from his overwhelming confidence that there was nothing that could match him in this place, he was also doing this to protect Shin and the others.

He was building a façade where he was telling the opposing side that he did not care whether they do something to Shin and the others or not. It was to trick them into thinking that the people that had been captured were just like ordinary soldiers in his army.

He was known for being cold-hearted in the military. Even though he rarely lost his soldiers whenever he was in command, most people thought that he did not care about them if ever one of them got captured.

He was confident that none of them would talk even if they died during the interrogation.

...

He stood at the place where Shin and Shaun had their final showdown as well as where the battle ended. He looked around and observed the surroundings.

He used the traces left behind in the scene to understand what had happened. The entire place seemed to have moved back in time as everything was replayed in his eyes.

After a few moments, he could not help but smirk a little. "That kid still won in the end against a stronger opponent, huh? Not bad."

He stayed still for a few more seconds before asking in a low voice. "This is the final coordinates that have been recovered before the signal disappeared?"

There was an earpiece attached to his ear, signifying that he was talking to someone.

Not long after, John's voice quickly came from the other side of the line. "Yes, Commander. That is the exact place where Shin is last seen before the barrier cut off our signal."

Nathan slightly nodded his head before continuing. "If that is the case, then we are still not sure of their main base."

But quickly after that, he added. "But this no longer put us in a dead end. At least, we do not how to have a place where we can monitor."

"Organized our men and set up blockades that will cover all the exits of the city. Also, put some men in the possible exits behind or around the mountain, we can't afford to let them escape now, especially when we are aware of their general location."

He then started smirking. "Let's see where you guys are going to run now."

At the same time, John's hesitant voice finally sounded from the communicator. "But Sir... are you sure that we have to mobilize our forces? If we do that now, we are going to alert the camp here in the Eastern Sea Region."

"They-... they can also take this as a provocation. If that happens... then-... then-..." he added after a few moments of hesitation. He also could not help but stutter when he thought about what was going to happen if the two military divisions suddenly clashed against each other.

He could not help but shudder when he tried to imagine the outcome.

Nathan, on the other hand, smirked even further when he heard that and said. "There is nothing to worry about. There is no one in their camp that can deal with me."

"Moreover, there are the first to declare war on us, so if there is someone to blame, then it should be them," he added before walking ahead.

John was having a headache right now since he knew what Nathan was thinking. His commanding general was purposely proving the other division to make their move so that they would come after him.

He could only sigh helplessly and started to miss his father. At least with his old man around, Nathan would not act this way without making any preparations.

"This is the problem with overpowered people, they are too proud and too confident in their strengths, not caring about the consequences," he muttered as he powerlessly collapsed on his seat.

Unknown to him, he forgot to turn off the microphone, which made Nathan hear everything.

"Oh~! You are saying something? Are you missing being thrown in the 'grinder' that much? Don't worry, I will recommend to the academy to send you there once we are done with this operation," said Nathan with an amused look.

"F*ck!" cursed John after realizing his mistake. Unfortunately, he still forgot to turn the mic off.

"Oh~! Are you cursing on your superiors, now? I think a month in the 'grinder' is that that bad, right?" said Nathan.

John suddenly wanted to cry after hearing that. The 'grinder' was a place where the soldiers are in a constant war with the terrorist of the country or some cultist that were intending to massacre anything in their sight.

It was a battlefield where a lot of people died due to the constant fighting.

The students at the Top Military School were being thrown in that place most of the time as a form of training. That place was also one of the reasons why the mortality rate of the school was quite high compared to the other elite universities.

John did not say anything and quickly focused on work, not wanting to carelessly say a single word.

The others in his team were trying their hardest not to laugh, afraid that Nathan would implicate them along with John.

Unfortunately for them, an expert like Nathan had sharp senses. "What are all of you laughing about? He is the captain of your team, so you are naturally included in his punishment."

"If you did not perform well in this operation, then I will extend your vacation in the 'grinder' for another month," he added threateningly.

All of them quickly shut up when they heard those words, not wanting to prove Nathan anymore.

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Nathan ignored everyone after that and continued climbing the mountain, following the path that Shin took when he was trying to run away.

He could not find any traces leading him to where Shin had been dragged. He suspected that either Butcher or Coffin Maker had brought him, so they were able to erase their traces while retreating.

Given that, Nathan could only follow the path where the traces were impossible to erase within a short amount of time.

While walking, he was also observing the traces that were left behind and imagining how the fight went, understanding the situation.

Based on those traces, he understood that most of the people on the other side were at least in the early phase of the Ethereal Opening Stage. With such a force, he could tell that the opposing organization was quite big and powerful.

Not long after, he arrived at the place where Old Man Roger and Coffin Maker fought. And based on the traces of the battle, he could instantly tell that the two sides fought too intensely.

Nathan could not help but slightly frown when he saw the battlefield. He knew that Coffin Maker was not good when it came to a frontal confrontation. After all, that guy's fighting style fitted assassination the most.

But he did not expect that the opponent that he was facing would be able to put this much resistance. From what he knew, his opponent was supposedly an old man and a seriously injured one at that.

Moreover, the old should only be at the peak of the Void Manifestation Stage. And as Domain Realm Exert like himself, Nathan was aware of the huge gap between the two realms.

Even though the old man was only a step away from reaching the Domain Realm, the gap remained the same.

He was surprised that Old Man Roger was this strong. From his estimate, the old man should be a sliver away from the higher realm.

"This is surprising," muttered Nathan as he thought of something. He then resumed his steps while adding to his words. "If that cunning kid is aware of this, then I am sure that he will be able to create an opening after utilizing all of his cards."

After a few moments, he finally reached the summit of the mountain and saw a huge shrine. There was no actual temple there, but there was a simple altar situated at the center.

And when Nathan saw the statue standing on top of the altar platform, he could not help but wear a mystifying smile. "Now, this is getting more and more interesting."

Chapter 1115 The Guardian Of The Mountain (Part 2)

...

Nathan did not take another step forward when he saw the statue at the center of the platform before asking through the communication device. "Didn't you say that the Head Priestess of the Shrine is in this mountain peak before the incident happened?"

"And they are performing some sort of ritual during that time before they disappeared," he added with an amused tone.

John nervously gulped a mouthful of saliva when he heard that as he could tell that there was something wrong. He took a deep breath before carefully giving an answer. "Yes, Commander. We believe that they have been abducted by the organization when after slaughtering all of the guards."

"There seemed to be a resistance during that time. Based on the reports that we overheard from the police inspectors investigating the scene, a huge battle seemed to have broken out during that time."

Nathan could not help but chuckle when heard that before correcting. "It is indeed true that a huge battle broke out. But it is not because of the head priestess and the shrine maidens putting up a resistance. Instead, it is because of the other party protecting their lives."

John was slightly confused but Nathan did not explain any further. He just stood at the edge of the mountain peak while looking at the battle traces left behind in the battle.

From his observation, the person who step onto this shrine uninvited, who is most likely Butcher, encountered the guardian of the mountain when he was trying to abduct the head priestess and the shrine maiden.

And based on the traces left behind, that high-profile criminal was beaten black and blue during the entire process. It was a one-sided beat too, which was rather funny given the nickname given to him.

After that, Nathan focused his gaze on the statue situated at the center of the altar platform. It was a statue of a knight with armor that was covering its entire body. It was standing straight while holding a glaive in one hand, stabbing on the ground, while its other hand was raised in the air and was. It seemed to be calling out the lighting from the sky.

Its eyes seemed to be alive as they stare at Nathan, who was standing just behind the entrance at the edge of the mountain peak.

"The Thunder Lord," muttered Nathan as he stared at the statue.

After seeing this statue, he was now starting to understand the purpose of the opposing organization in picking this place as their main base of operation aside from its little isolation from the other cities.

Not only they could abduct the talented people here without being suspected that much because of the superstitious beliefs of the citizens, but they also discovered a huge secret.

This also explained why they were targeting the head priestess and the shrine maidens and planning to abduct them.

...

There was a legend before that during the ancient times, there were known 'Lords' in each land across the world.

They were the true monarch of the world. And under their reign, the war between the ancient cultivators and the prehistoric creatures continued for a very long time.

Based on the very few records that had been retrieved and deciphered by the best archaeologist and the great historians of the current era, these lords were from both sides.

In the prehistoric creatures, the Dragon Lord was one of the greatest monarchs followed by the Titan Lord and the Dark Lord. The three of them stood at the absolute peak to the point that no one dared to challenge them.

Aside from the great monarchs of the ancient cultivators.

On the side of these cultivators, a lot of monarchs were born, and they lead their respective forces to fight against those powerful creatures.

But despite their number, they were still way too weak compared to the monarchs of the other side given the innate abilities and attributes of those creatures.

Though, it did not mean that all the monarchs of the ancient cultivators were the same. There were a few that could stand toe-to-toe against those great monarchs of the prehistoric creatures such as the Thunder Lord, the Martial Lord, the Immortal Lord, and others.

There were temples, great halls, and cultivation caves that had been discovered throughout history which proved the existence of those lords.

Some of those places even had the inheritance of the ancient cultivators as well as the lords.

This information was not disclosed to the public because of the allure that they had for the people with ill intentions – like the current organization that was currently hiding in these mountains.

Of course, these inheritances could not be inherited through normal means. Based on the studies and the research conducted by the government and other institutions, people had to follow certain traditions and rituals to awaken the ancient powers within the inheritances.

At the same time, they had to be acknowledged by that power to fully inherit them.

It was similar to the inheritances that the Martial Arts and Mentalism Families as well as the old sects had with a much stricter requirement.

The Springfield Family had a similar inheritance process, so Nathan was familiar with these kinds of things.

The moment he set his eyes on the statue standing at the center of the altar platform, he instantly understood what kind of place this was. And given that the people of the city were treating this place as a sacred ground, where their guardian resided, he knew that this was most likely the reason why the organization was targeting this place.

He was just surprised that the government did not discover this place up until now and plundered it for themselves.

He also got a rough idea of why it was the case after seeing traces of battle left behind. He knew that the so-called guardian of these mountains was strong, but not strong enough to tempt those greedy people.

"It is an incomplete inheritance, but it is still an inheritance nevertheless," muttered Nathan as he stared at the statue.

When he took a closer look into it, he could see that this inheritance, albeit incomplete, was very hard to get. It seemed to be needing a specific person, or most likely a particular constitution, to receive the inheritance.

Nathan suddenly got the idea that the organization was most likely looking for someone with a perfect constitution to receive the inheritance aside from them doing experiments on the people that they captured.

Or worse, they must be constructing a body that could become the vessel that would contain that inheritance.

This further explained their need for the head priestess and the shrine maidens.

"Heh!"

If that was the case, then Nathan could just stand here and guard this place. He could wait here all day and see if the opposing side would dare to come.

But before that, he had to tame the berserk powers that were already on the verge of erupting right now.

"John, tell the others that we are going to make some minor adjustments."

"I will not be included in the main team that is going to assault their base. I will be staying here on the mountain peak and guarding this place. Arrange the formation without me," he said as he took a step forward.

John started sweating profusely when he heard that. Not only the main troublemakers were giving him extra work, but even his superior also joined that side and started becoming a troublemaker himself.

Moreover, he could not nag the other side nor refuse the order. He could only nod his head and proceed as ordered. "Yes, sir!"

Nathan did not hear that reply any longer as he was already focusing everything on the statue at the center of the altar platform and the raging power that was boiling inside it.

Rumble!

Right after his foot crossed the red arc in front of him, which was also serving as the main entrance of the altar, thunderous sounds could be heard from the sky.

Not only that, but dark clouds also started to gather. It seemed to be a storm suddenly arrived in the mountain out of nowhere.

It was only the start. It seemed to be a warning of sorts. Something seemed to be warning Nathan from advancing forward.

Unfortunately, the guy seemed to be ignoring it and continued to enter. And when his steps increased, the explosion of the thunderous sounds from the sky continued to reverberate, alerting the people of the city.

They raised their heads in the sky and discovered the dark clouds gathering above the mountain. They started to panic, thinking that the guardian of the mountain was enraged once again.

In a sense, they were right. Though, this time, it seemed to be a little more than that.

Someone was purposely provoking the guardian.

...

On the peak of the mountain, Nathan put his hands behind him and crossed them as he walked with steady steps. And with each step he took, the more intense the thunder raged in the sky.

"Stand down. I am not your enemy," said Nathan with a calm yet arrogant tone, seemingly ordering the spirit of the mountain guardian.

The guardian of the mountain became even more enraged when it heard his words and finally erupted.

Boom!

A golden lightning suddenly struck down from the sky, heading straight to Nathan like a falling blade.

Nathan smirked when he saw that and released his aura.

Bang!

Right after he did that, the descending lightning strike suddenly dissipated.

Then Nathan stared at the statue and said. "It looks like I need to remind you that your time is already over. You are nothing but a remnant of the past. Now, it is our turn to write the history."

"It is our era."

"Let me show you why I am called the Dragon King by the people."

BOOM!

Chapter 1116 The Thunder Lord And The Dragon King

...

Rumble!

The thunderous sounds exploding in the sky continued as Nathan continued to walk forward. And for the lightning strikes that were falling one after another for every step he took, none of them were able to touch his body.

Roar!

There seemed to be an enraged roar when Nathan finally reached the statue. He stood in front of it and stared with unfazed gaze.

The statue of the Thunder Lord trembled. And it became much more intense with every passing second. There was also an invisible pressure that descended from above, trying to crush Nathan.

But unfortunately, it did not affect him in the slightest.

He continued to stand on his spot with a relaxed posture and unbothered gaze. It was as if the pressure pressing on him was nothing but a relaxing bath under the fountain.

Rumble!

Not long after, a much more powerful thunderstorm raged in the sky as the golden lightning gathered on a single spot before exploding and striking down toward the mountain peak like a gigantic sword that was stabbing from heaven.

Boom!

It was at this moment that Nathan raised his head toward the sky. He squinted his eyes and stared at the falling lightning before a golden flame surfaced from his body with the same level of brilliance as that lightning.

And on the very next instant, the golden flame slowly raised before a blazing pillar shot up toward the sky, flying straight to the descending lightning strike.

Roar!

There was also a subdued sound of a dragon's roar coming from the pillar of flame before it took an image of a dragon's head that meet the sword-like lightning.

Boom!

A deafening explosion erupted right after the opposing side collided with each other. It also sent a series of shockwaves that flew in every direction.

The entire mountain range also trembled during the collision, creating a moderate earthquake that shook everything.

Fortunately, it did not lead to landslides that could bury the entire city below.

Nathan controlled his strength to make sure that it would not happen. Aside from preventing the city from being buried, he was also worried that Shin and the other abducted students hidden somewhere within the mountain range would be buried underneath.

He wanted to destroy the base of the opposing organization but that did not mean that he wanted Shin and the students to be caught in the aftermath.

Given that, he used some of his powers to protect the mountain range.

Roar!

Unfortunately, his intention was misunderstood by the powers residing within the statue of the Thunder God. In its eyes, Nathan was underestimating it for him to divide his thoughts while facing it.

Crackle!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

More and more lightning strikes fell from the sky and bombarded the mountain peak, trying to eliminate Nathan. Each strike was stronger than the other, making the entire mountain tremble even stronger for every strike that struck down.

Nathan smirked as he released an even stronger fire within his body and continued to repel the falling lightning strikes.

Not long after, cracks started to appear on the mountain, signifying that the clash between the two was slowly getting out of hand.

Nathan could not help but slightly knit his brow before tapping his index finger on his other hand behind him.

Roar!

The power within the statue became even more enraged when it sensed that the mountain was starting to get affected.

Then an even more powerful aura gathered.

When Nathan sensed that, he instantly noticed that there was something wrong. The inheritance within this statute should be an incomplete one, so it shouldn't have this much sentiment.

It was something that could only be seen from the complete ancient inheritances.

A sudden thought flashed through Nathan's mind. "Could it be?"

But before he could even put more thought into it, his suspicions were immediately proven by the next course of events.

Rumble!

The entire mountain range trembled.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then a series of golden pillars suddenly shot toward the sky, starting from the different mountain peaks.

They gathered in a single spot before another lightning strike fell down from the sky. But this time, it did not attack Nathan but struck the statue in front of him instead.

Bang!

The impact created a strong shockwave that pushed all the dust and rock fragments in every direction.

But despite how strong it was, Nathan remained standing still on his spot, completely unmoved and unaffected.

In the next instant, the expression on Nathan's face suddenly becomes serious. It was because he could see that the power that was sealed within the statue grew stronger by a significant margin, making it look like it became even more complete.

There was still something missing in it but the current pressure that it was releasing was much stronger and even more powerful than what it had before.

Not long after, a gigantic apparition manifested above the statue, growing stronger and taller with every passing second.

It did not take that long before the apparition turned into a humongous figure that almost reached the sky. After having a closer look into it, anyone could tell that his apparition was a larger version of the statue situated at the center of the altar platform.

It released a massive presence and overwhelming pressure that pressed on the entire mountain range.

It was as if the statue suddenly became alive!

It was as if the ancient cultivator, the Thunder Lord himself came back to life!

...

Nathan stared at the huge apparition of the Thunder Lord with a slightly serious look. Not only it was releasing an overwhelming power, but it was also releasing strong pressure that could possibly crush him if even he became a bit careless.

He then slightly glanced at the mountain peaks where the other pillar of lights came from earlier.

He now understood something.

It was not that the inheritance was incomplete. They were just divided and separated at every mountain peak.

If that was the case, then this matter was much more serious than he thought. This could also attract the attention of the government, especially those greedy foxes that were eyeing the ancient powers and inheritances.

Then turned his head toward the sky before looking behind him.

Fortunately, there was an invisible barrier that was covering the entire mountain range, sealing off the entire place and preventing the auras from leaking out.

It was different from the barrier that the organization had set up earlier. From what he could see, this particular barrier that was covering the entire mountain range was something that came from ancient times.

The people from the outside would also not be able to see what was happening here due to it.

If he was not wrong, it was set up by the Thunder Lord or his believers to prevent others from discovering it when the sealed powers were unleashed.

"This works for me," muttered Nathan before turning his attention back to the gigantic apparition in front of him. "Luckily, I am in the main peak."

He was indeed in the main peak, where the power of the seal inheritance was gathered was it was awakened.

If his suspicion was right, then most of the seal powers had already been gathered by this peak while the rest remained on their respective peak to maintain the seal as well as the barrier that was protecting the entire mountain range.

Nathan did not think much about it.

Now that the majority of the sealed powers had already been awakened and gathered in a single peak, then he could focus on what was in front of him and put another seal on it.

If he did indeed manage to achieve that, then they would have early access to this inheritance and gain control over it once it finally calmed down.

"We can even tame it completely once I beat it into submission," he muttered with a huge grin before stepping forward.

But this time, instead of advancing ahead, he stepped into the air and flew up.

Not long after, he stood in the air, standing across the chest of the gigantic apparition. He slightly raised his head and looked at the eyes of the apparition that pretty much looked alive before saying. "I'll entertain you a little and show you what the current era is capable of."

Right after he said those words, an overwhelming aura was released from his body, making his body feel like a giant despite his size remaining the same.

Not long after, another series of thunderous sounds could be heard from the sky. But instead of the golden lightning being released by the power of the Thunder Lord, golden flames swam through the dark clouds.

A few moments later, those flames merged and became a single body, turning into a huge serpent dragon that was swimming behind the clouds.

Roar!

When the huge head of the ground peeked from behind the clouds, it released a deafening roar before diving down and arriving beside Nathan.

It coiled its body and wrapped around Nathan before staring aggressively at the apparition of the Thunder Lord while maintaining its haughty and majestic appearance.

The two colossi stood across each other, having a face-off while releasing their respective pressures.

Rumbles!

Thunders rang through the sky once again as their pressure clashed against each other, creating a thunderstorm that shook heaven.

Chapter 1117 Captive

...

The apparition of the Thunder Lord stared at Nathan with its glowing eyes before extending its hand to the side.

Crackle!

Boom!

Then a bolt of golden lightning struck down before it was grabbed by the Thunder Lord as if it was a weapon. That golden lightning turned into a huge glaive. The Thunder Lord held it with both of its hands before swinging it to Nathan.

Swoosh!

Rumble!

The air was split apart by the lightning glaive as it left a golden electric trail behind. A sonic boom also followed after it, affecting the entire mountain range.

Nathan, on the other hand, remained calm despite the powerful attack that the guardian of the mountain. He stretched his hand forward and pointed at the incoming attack.

Responding to him, the huge golden dragon coiled around him suddenly opened its mouth, gathering a huge amount of energy in it. Not long after, a spherical energy was formed before shooting out and turning into a pillar of light.

Roar!

Boom!

The pillar of light flew straight to the incoming glaive before colliding with each other.

Boom!

A huge explosion quickly erupted right after the two opposing powers collided. And the impact that it had produced a series of shockwaves that spread in every direction, sending violent ripples in the air and shaking the entire mountain range.

But that was just the start.

Quickly after that, the apparition of the Thunder Lord and the Golden Dragon around Nathan started engaging in an intense battle, creating more series of explosions for every collision.

In this battle, Nathan put more effort as he had to spend a significant amount of his powers to protect the mountain range from being flattened to the ground.

He did not want Shin and the other abducted students to be buried under the ground due to the aftermath of the clash between him and the apparition.

In the meantime, underneath one of the mountains where the secret laboratory of the organization was located, Shin was currently locked in one of the containment rooms.

Rumble!

Clank! Clank!

His body was currently suspended at the center of the room while his arms were tied on metal chains with special materials.

They were similar to the restriction handcuffs that they used during the time Old Man Lin asked them to run through the strange obstacle course. But in comparison, these chains had more functions and possessed stronger restrictions, which sealed his Mentalism completely.

Shin was still unconscious as his body repeatedly shook due to the rumbling of the walls. The special walls of the laboratory could not totally absorb the shock coming from the fight outside.

Due to the repeated shaking and the loud sounds of the clanking chains, Shin slowly regained consciousness.

There was a stinging headache that made him groan in pain. After enduring it for a few moments, he was finally able to adjust and made himself accustomed to the pain before gradually opening his eyes.

What greeted him after that was still darkness. It was so dark that made him think that he was still not fully conscious and had his eyes closed. He even thought that he was blind for a moment.

It took him quite some time to adjust to the darkness.

Then he spent a few more minutes assessing his current situation while also trying to recall what had happened. And when he finally remembered his last memory before he fainted, particularly the serpent tattoo that Butcher had, the expression on his face suddenly turned cold.

"Black Serpent Mafia," he muttered as he realized which organization currently held him captive.

After calming himself down, he quickly tried to move his body and control his mental energy. But when he realized that the chains tied on his arms had some restriction properties, he quickly realized that escaping here would not be easy.

"Wait! My Mental Energy is currently sealed, then does that mean my disguise was blown?" muttered Shin as looked at his body. Even though it was dark, his eye had a bit of night vision after training in the 'True Sight' technique that he had created.

Then he discovered that he was right. The illusion technique that he had cast on his body was currently lifted. But fortunately, the body and bones adjustment method that he had learned from Professor Plum was still in effect. This meant the opposing side was still not aware of his real identity yet.

He then thought about Leonard before quickly shaking his head. Given that the latter had the initial mastery of the advanced technique, the shapeshifting ability, he was confident that his cover would not be easily blown.

"For now, I have to gather more information about this base while formulating an escape plan," he muttered.

Rumble!

Clank! Clank!

While he was thinking, the rumbling of the walls occurred once again, catching his attention. He raised his head and felt his surroundings more. "Is there a fight going on outside?"

"Given the intense vibration of the wall, it seems like a huge battle. Did Uncle Nathan finally able to find our location and already attack the base?" he muttered, trying to figure out the current situation.

While he was in his thoughts, he suddenly heard the approaching steps coming from the outside of the room.

At the same time, he was also able to hear the people talking from the other side of the door.

"That is an intense battle. Say, who do you think is fighting outside? Are we under attack?"

"That is impossible. Even though most of our equipment is currently affected by the shaking of the mountain, most of the relevant features are still active."

"You are right. The stealth features and isolation barriers are still perfectly fine. But the soundproofing is slightly malfunctioning. There are also problems with the security systems of most of the rooms have also been broken."

"Sigh, we have extra work due to this. We have to make sure that the captives will not be able to escape during this time. Or else, the professor will punish us severely."

"But say, are you sure that we are not being attacked?"

"Tsk! What are you talking about? Haven't you heard earlier that it is just a fight between experts? The higher-ups said that there are experts passing by and decided to spar a little. They are not attacking us."

"But these vibrations are really-..."

"Geez! Just focus on your work. You are just repeatedly asking the same question."

Shin slightly knitted his brows as he continued to listen before having a rough idea of the situation. At the same time, he became surer that Nathan was currently outside and fighting someone.

Though, he had to admit that whoever fighting the Dragon King was a very strong individual.

"So, we are in the right place. And given the current situation, this will be a perfect time to create chaos," muttered Shin as he stared at the door in front of him.

He could see the shadows of the two guards chatting earlier stopped in front of that door. And after listening a little more, he learned that they were here for him.

He adjusted his breathing and closed his eyes, waiting for the two guards to enter.

Clank!

Not long after, the metal door was opened and the two guards looked inside. Their voices also became clearer as entered.

"What is the deal with this kid?" asked one of the guards.

"I am not sure. All I know is he is brought here by Sir Butcher and Sir Shaun along with someone else," answered the other before continuing. "They repeatedly warn me about this kid and asked me to keep an eye on him. He seems to be a special subject for the project that they are doing."

"So, where are we doing here?" asked the previous guard.

The other paused for a moment and checked the room further before answering. "Because of the commotion outside, some of the security features of the isolation and containment rooms are affected."

"We have to make sure that everything is fine to prevent accidents from happening," he added as he walked inside and started tapping a few spots on the wall.

A few moments later, he continued. "It seems like almost everything is fine here. Aside from the soundproofing, everything else is running perfectly."

"Let's go," he said as he walked out.

"Are we not checking on the kid?" asked the first guard once again.

"What for?" asked the other back before continuing. "He is currently restrained by the restriction chains, so he can't use his energies. Unless those chains are broken somehow, he will not be able to escape."

After that, the two guards closed the mental door before proceeding to the next room.

It was at that moment when Shin opened his eyes and waited for his eyes to adjust to darkness once again. He then swept his gaze around and stared at the spots that the guard had previously touched.

His Mental Energy might be restrained by chains, but that did not mean that his senses were not working.

He was lost for a moment before turning his head toward the chains tied in his arms and paying attention to the continuous shaking of the walls.

After that, he closed his eyes once again and relaxed his body. He was going to wait for the right opportunity to arrive before making his move.

Chapter 1118 Finding A Vessel

...

In the inner part of the underground laboratory, the old scientist that was responsible for this place, who also had the highest authority within it, was currently conducting a series of tests on a particular person while ignoring the shaking of the walls and ceiling of the place.

"This will not do! This is a defective product again!" he said in frustration before turning to the assistant beside him. "Get rid of this one and get me another subject!"

"We are running out of time, so make sure to move as fast as possible," he added before heading to the computer nearby and started entering the series of data that he just gathered.

The assistant hesitated for a moment before carefully opening their mouth. "But Sir, this is the last subject that we have gotten from our operations. We no longer have subjects anymore. Even the fighters that we have abducted from the Brawl Tournament have already been exhausted."

The old scientist wore a deep frown when he heard that. He thought for a moment before saying. "Then proceed to use the captive students from before. We are going to start using them now."

The assistant hesitated once again before saying. "But Sir, you said that we can't touch them yet before of the special device that they injected into their bodies. If we carelessly use them as our experimental subject, then it can trigger that device and make them explode."

"We are about to find a way to disable that device and take them out from their bodies. How about we wait for our team to remove those devices before we proceed?" added the assistant with a careful tone.

The old scientist was already in a foul mood before the pressure that his boss was giving him. And when he heard those words, he could not help but explode. "Why the hell are you working so slow!?"

"We have captured them for a few days already, yet you still can't take out that stupid device!? Are all of you can be more useless!? Why can't you do your job properly!?"

"Forget it! Bring the strongest one here. I will take care of the device myself!" he shouted.

"But Sir, you said-..." The assistant was trying to say something when the old scientist shut him up.

"I know what I said! But can't you see what is happening right now? Can't you understand our situation? If you don't move right now, then you can forget getting out of this place alive!" said the old scientist while pointing at the shaking walls and ceiling.

The assistant could only nod their head repeatedly before running toward the exit. But before they could even leave, Butcher suddenly entered.

"Looks like you are having some trouble finding another subject," he said with a smirking tone.

The old scientist glared at Butcher before saying. "What are you doing here? Didn't you have your own job? Don't bother me and find that Head Priestess. We must take her if we want to open the seal."

Butcher shook his head a little before saying. "I know, I know. I am about to capture her when the inheritance was suddenly awakened and prevented me from doing anything to her."

"Its power is no joke. Even I am having a hard time dealing with it," he added.

The old scientist looked at Butcher suspiciously before saying. "Just get out and don't bother me. I did not question you when you slaughtered those temple guards. They can be a good subject yet because of your temper, you have wasted them."

Butcher shrugged his shoulders and refuted. "I am just protecting myself. Those guards received a huge boost from the inheritance left by the Thunder Lord, I can't do anything but take them down before they gang up on me."

The old scientist glared. "That is why I am saying that you have wasted their bodies. If they can receive the blessings from the inheritance, then they can be the perfect vessel!"

"Especially that Templar! With that guy, we can build the perfect product that we are looking for. Because of your temper, we have lost it! If not, then we are already packing up and leaving this place already!"

"Look! Look! Because of your incompetence, the Dragon King catches up to us and already knocking on our doors!" he added while pointing at the ceiling.

Butcher seemed to be completely unbothered and chuckled. "Oh! You are talking about that guy? I apologize. I was just carried away by my emotions. He is quite fun to play with, especially when he received the blessings, so I accidentally killed him in the process."

After that, he quickly added before the old scientist could even explode. "As compensation, we have brought back three possible subjects that you can use."

"You can do anything you want to them. And you also don't have to worry since they are much more suitable than the guys that we have abducted recently," he added, reassuring the old scientist.

The old scientist squinted his eyes and looked suspiciously at Butcher. And when the latter saw that, he quickly added. "You can confirm it to Coffin Maker. He is the one who has brought the older one."

The old scientist went silent for a moment before turning to his assistant. "You heard him, right? Bring those three to the testing lab and check on their parameters. Gather all the necessary data and bring them to me as soon as possible!"

"Yes, Sir!" said the assistant before bowing. He then gave Butcher a respectful and thankful bow before quickly exiting the main laboratory.

When the two were finally alone, the old scientist quickly asked. "How is the situation outside?"

Butcher chuckled and looked for a seat while replying. "It is not that bad. The Dragon King has helped us fully awaken the inheritance of the Thunder Lord. And due to that, he is now being held back by it and unable to look for us."

"This is perfect. He can help us break the seal even faster while the inheritance is exhausting him. We play our cards right, then we can use this situation to hit two birds with one stone," he added as he finally found a seat.

The old scientist slightly leaned his back on the experimentation table behind him before saying. "It will not be going to be that easy. We still have to be at the main peak if we want to steal the inheritance – that is where those two are currently fighting right now."

"Even if we have the vessel and open the seal, we still must be at that place to snatch it. And to do that, we are still going to face the two of them outside. The Dragon King has already been a problem, what more adding the awakened guardian of the mountain, it will be very troublesome if we get caught in the crossfire."

"Don't worry we are still going to go according to our plan," Butcher chuckled. "You will be bringing the vessel alongside all of the data that you have and snatch the inheritance. On the other hand, we are going to deal with the Dragon King and buy you enough time."

"And if we are lucky, then we can also try taking care of that arrogant guy for good. If we are successful, then we can further weaken the forces within this continent."

"Losing such an expert will be a huge blow to their forces. It can also create more rifts between the military forces and make them drift further apart from each other."

"The strength of the Souring Continent is their powerful military forces. Because of this, the organization is having second thoughts about taking them on. But if their main weapon turned back to them, then their strength will also become their weakness."

"After that, the 'Head' can proceed to the next part of the plan."

The old scientist was silent for a moment before asking. "What about the other preparations? Have you finished that up?"

Butcher chuckled and answered. "Don't worry. We have already planted him within their ranks. We will be able to infiltrate their ranks once all of this is over."

"Good!" said the old scientist before turning around and started preparing the necessary tools for the experiment later.

Butcher, on the other hand, stood up and was about to leave. But before he could even step, his eyes suddenly caught something. He squinted his eyes before asking. "Anyway, how about that kid Shaun? What are you going to do to him after all of this?"

The old scientist frowned deeply as he did not expect Butcher to talk about Shaun. And when he turned around, he saw the latter directing his eyes toward a certain spot within the laboratory.

Then he noticed a certain device that his assistant had previously left earlier before squinting his eyes. He then understood what Butcher really wanted to ask before answering. "The 'Head' has given the orders. Dispose of everything and only bring the things they ask us to bring."

Hearing that, Butcher smiled wickedly and nodded. "I see. Then let's do that."

Chapter 1119 Formulating Plans

...

Shin, who was still suspended inside the containment room, was currently observing the energy circulation within his body.

He had experienced being restricted already, so he was much calmer at dealing with the current situation right than the first time he had experienced it. The restrictions of the chains wrapped around his arms were strong and the disruption that it could give to his energy circulation was very unsettling.

No matter how much Shin tried to gather his energy, all of them were immediately scattered due to the power disruption.

But despite that being the case, Shin remained calm and continued to circulate his energy patiently. Despite having his energy repeatedly blocked and messed up by the restriction chains, he was still looking for an alternative pathway that he could use.

The strength of the restrictions might be on a different level compared to the restriction cuffs that they used during their training, but the rules and purpose remained similar to each other, giving him an idea of how to deal with his current predicament.

After doing a trial-and-error repeatedly, Shin realized something. He found out that he could use basic breathing techniques to find the right pathway for his energy to circulate properly.

He now understood that the assignment that Old Man Lin had given them was not only meant for them to explore their respective energies and figured out their innate attributes and natures, but it was also for them to have better control over those energies. It also gave them more flexibility when facing certain situations like the one that he currently had.

Unfortunately, he did not have the time to properly train those breathing techniques that were given to him because of this unexpected mission.

"That old man sure is something. Thinking too many steps ahead of time? D*mn! I can't help myself but become more impressed the more I learn about him," he muttered as he continued to find suitable pathways to circulate his energy to a functional degree.

He was not a stranger to this thing since he had learned quite a couple of things from his two masters.

Professor Plum had created an energy circulation technique that could make him wield two opposing Qi at the same time and even produced a Martial Art that could perfectly complement it. He even produced something that could make someone host two types of cores within his dantian.

It was incomplete at first, but during their special training, Shin discovered that the old man had finally found a way to perfect it.

With his knowledge of circulating two types of Qi within his body, Shin had a better understanding of his meridian and Qi pathways.

On the other hand, Grandmaster Benn had revolutionized the art of Mentalism. He combined multiple methods into one while also incorporating the Mentalism Rune in every form of combat and auxiliary techniques.

After studying under Old Benn for quite some time, Shin became more familiar with his Mental Energy, especially when he had to learn how to utilize different techniques for every situation.

By combining his knowledge of those two disciplines, Shin was able to finally find a way to circulate his Mental Energy and make it somewhat usable after a few experiments. Even though it was still so weak and could not be used in combat, it was more than enough to strengthen himself.

It was also enough for him to accumulate enough Mental Energy when the situation called for it. And when that time finally arrived, then he would make sure that it would be worth it.

Moreover, he was also confident that the people here would take him out of the confinement room sooner or later. And in order for them to do that, they had to free him from these restriction chains and put a handcuff with similar properties in exchange.

But once they did that, the restriction that was cast upon him would significantly weaken, which would give him more leeway when that opportunity came.

Having that thought in mind, he took a deep breath and relaxed a little while continuously gathering his Mental Energy.

Not long after, he could hear the footsteps coming from the corridor outside the room. He could also have some soft conversation going on. And the more those steps got nearer, the clearer the voices became.

"Are we to test those three new captives now?"

"We don't have a choice. This seems to be an urgent matter."

"Is it an order from the higher-ups?"

"The Professor has given the orders himself."

"I see. So, who we are going to prepare first?"

"We don't have the time to go back and forth. Let's just bring them all along while putting the most advanced restriction cuffs."

"Isn't it a little dangerous? I heard those three killed most of our agents. We are short in personnel right now because of them."

"It will be fine. I heard that Sir Coffin Maker have seriously injured the strongest among them, that old man. One of the two younger ones has also been quite injured, though it is not as serious as the older one. Our only problem is the last guy, even though he was also quite injured during his battle against Sir Shaun, his recovery process is much faster than the other one."

"If you ask me. Those two young ones are both monsters. To think that they have that kind of recovery speed. They are no different from the young trolls."

Clank! Clank!

Then Shin heard them stop in front of the door of the room where he was currently being held before opening it.

He quickly closed his eyes and relaxed his body, putting himself in a fake-unconscious state.

When the two laboratory personnel entered the room, they carefully looked inside before walking toward Shin. They observed him for a few moments before finally lowering him from the air and laying him down on the ground.

The two quickly got to work and put the special restraining handcuffs on his wrists. And after making sure that everything was fine, the two finally removed the black chains wrapped around Shin's arms.

Shin could make his move any time now, but he remained silent and let the two personnel do whatever they needed to do. Instead, he focused on the restrictions that the cuffs were giving him and study them.

He was quite lucky since the restriction and energy disruption that they had were no different from the black chains. Because of that, he did not have to find new pathways to control and accumulate his Mental Energy.

After familiarizing himself, he continued to act unconscious and let the two personnel put him on a patient bed the two drove out of the room.

While in his 'unconscious' state, Shin controlled his mental energy and spread out his Spiritual Sense to observe the surroundings.

Since these two would be 'touring' him in their laboratory, he did not mind 'looking' around. He could also memorize the corridors and the directions where they were leading at the same time.

This way, he would be able to rough draw an outline inside his head, understanding the interior of the secret laboratory, albeit only a small portion of it.

During the 'tour', Shin was able to sense some of the rooms and whatever they were doing there due to the people leaving the doors open.

He took note of the experimenting and testing sites while also keeping an eye on the rooms where they could possibly hide their equipment as well as where the elite students were being held.

He had roughly guessed that the students were being held in the same direction where he was being held earlier, so he just focused on finding their weapons.

He had put a special imprint on his pair of katana, so he would be able to sense where they were when he got near to their location close enough.

Though, he was not that positive about it. After all, he did not believe that these guys would put the weapons that they had confiscated near the area where they held their captives.

It would be a stupid move if it was really the case. After all, the students could quickly have access to their weapons once chaos broke out. Shin was sure that the people overseeing such a secretive and advanced laboratory would not be that careless.

Not long after, the personnel leading Shin finally stopped, signifying that they finally arrived at their destination.

And when he realized that Shin stopped paying attention to the useless things and focused his senses on the people behind the patient's bed behind his.

There were two more wheeled beds behind, which he suspected to be Leonard and Shin. From what he could guess and based on the information that he had overheard from the two chatty personnel, the guy addressed as 'Professor' wanted to conduct some test on them, trying to see if they could be the 'vessel'.

Shin was not sure about it, but he was guessing that these guys wanted to use their bodies as a container to host a certain inheritance.

When he thought about that, he started to have a rough idea of what these guys were planning to do.

And in order to take advantage of the situation, Shin started formulating a plan inside his head using the information that he gathered.

Chapter 1120 Escape (Part 1)

...

Shin was set aside by the group alongside Leonard as Old Man Roger was brought by those guards toward the innermost part of the room.

It was at that moment that Shin dared to open his eyes and looked around. The guards that were left behind to keep watch on them noticed that he finally 'regained' consciousness, but they just ignored him since he was already being restricted by restriction cuffs.

Shin raised his brows when he saw their reactions before turning to Leonard, who happened to be doing the same. They exchanged glances before giving each other some secret signals with their eyes.

Rumble!

The shaking of the walls of the mountains still hadn't stopped, which indicated that Nathan was still fighting against the powerful opponent outside.

Based on Shin's observations, the walls and ceiling of the laboratory were being reinforced by a powerful barrier that absorbed most of the aftershocks from the shaking of the mountain. But given that the battle outside was still affecting the laboratory, it could only mean that there were some issues with the defensive formation of the place.

Shin only had to punch a hole through it for the signal to go through out of it. He could still feel that the communication device behind his ears was still active, though its signal was being disrupted by something.

If he managed to create a hole in that barrier, then John and his team could possibly pinpoint their location after receiving the signal.

Though, he was still unaware of the ancient formation covering the entire mountain range.

Moreover, the explosions created by the collisions of powers between Nathan and the Thunder Lord's inheritance were also disrupting the signal, so there were some problems with his plans.

It was unless Nathan was able to calm the power of the seal inheritance down and break the ancient formation before Shin and the others managed to find a way to send out a signal.

...

While waiting for an opportunity, Shin and Leonard continued to observe the surroundings as well as the guards keeping an eye on them.

This time, Shin could not get much information from the guards since they were not chatting right now. It seemed like they were not that stupid to continuously give out free information when their captives were fully awake.

Shin had already expected that, so he did not much care. Instead, he closed his eyes and continued to polish the plans that he was formulating.

He had already seen the current state of Old Man Roger, and it seemed to be pretty serious. Even if Shin was able to free himself and regain his full control over his Mental Energy, he would not be able to heal the old man with his Mentalism Techniques despite the enhanced healing properties that he now possessed.

It would be fine if they had enough time, but they would not be that with their current situation, especially when they were trying to escape the place.

Shin's only hope right now was to find the location of the captive students and work with them later.

Not long after, the glass sliding door suddenly opened and was followed by the entrance of an old scientist.

Shin opened his eyes at that time and quickly frowned his brows. When he looked at the old scientist, he could see a fog seemingly shrouding the old man's body. It was as if there was an illusion technique hiding the scientist, preventing the others from clearly seeing his true appearance.

The old scientist quickly noticed the gaze directed at him and glanced in the direction of the gaze. Then he saw a young man lying on a patient's bed while looking at him.

When their gazes met, the two of them felt an inexplicable feeling at the same time. The old scientist could not help but halt in his tracks and stared at Shin for a few more moments. And not long after, his pupils suddenly contracted as an image of a person suddenly overlapped with Shin's figure.

"Could it be...!?" a thought suddenly flashed through the old scientist's mind before quickly shaking his head and thinking to himself. 'No. It is impossible. How can that person can be here.'

He then stared at Shin for a few moments before finally shaking his head. 'Their auras are the same, but their appearances are completely different. Moreover, their demeanors are also far apart from each other.'

At first glance, he thought that Shin was the open that he had met before. The one who he had experimented on before and planted an artificial 'seed of hatred' according to the orders of 'Snake Head'.

He had also conducted a couple of tests on that person when they were trying to figure out if that kid was related to the legendary person that even the organization was afraid of.

"It is impossible," muttered the old scientist repeatedly as he turned around.

He gave Shin one last glance before turning to the assistant walking beside him. "Have you prepared everything? Is the subject inside ready?"

"Yes, Sir. We have already set up all of the apparatuses that are needed for the tests that we are conducting," replied the assistant almost instantly.

"Good! Guard the door and don't let anyone disturb me," said the old scientist as he entered the other room.

His foot just crossed the other glass door before he suddenly paused. He turned to his assistant and quickly added, "See that kid over there. Keep an eye on him. He will be the next one to be tested," while pointing to Shin.

The assistant turned to Shin for a moment before quickly nodding his head. "Yes, Sir!"

Shin, on the other hand, stared confusedly at the old scientist's back. He was getting a familiar feeling from that scientist, but he could not remember where and when he had seen that old man.

But he was sure that he had somehow seen that old scientist somewhere.

Boom!

While he was lost in his thoughts, a huge explosion suddenly erupted outside and shook the entire mountain much stronger than before.

Rumble!

The shaking of the walls and ceiling of the secret laboratory became much more intense. Some of the outer parts of the walls were even showing some cracks that were slowly spreading.

[This is the command! Units that are currently free from their dues please head to Sector B and assist in the reconstruction of the walls.]

[I repeat, this is the command! Free Units head to Sector B as soon as possible!]

The repeated notice sounded from the radio attached to the corner of the ceiling. This was heard by the guards and the assistant, but none of them moved.

The guards continued to watch over Shin and the room while the assistant was busy pressing a couple of buttons on the wall, setting up the security of the room.

Shin squinted his eyes and focused his Spiritual Sense on the assistant, memorizing everything. Beside him, Leonard kept his eyes close and was currently focusing on recovering his injuries despite the restriction cast upon him.

Not long after, the assistant finally stopped and turned around. He then walked toward Shin and said in a cold voice. "It seems like the Professor is quite interested in you. I wonder what kind of secret you have."

The eyes of the assistant were glowing with a mysterious light as he stared at Shin. It seemed like he was using a special ocular skill to assess the constitution that Shin had.

Not long after, the assistant suddenly muttered. "Body Reformation and Bone Adjustment techniques, huh?"

The assistant was about to say something more when he suddenly noticed small movements of energy within Shin's body. "Huh?"

At first, he thought that he saw it wrong. But when he squinted his eyes and looked much closer at it, he confirmed that there was indeed a minuscule flow of mental energy within Shin's body.

"You-...!!!"

Shin quickly realized that he had been found out and quickly made his move. He quickly activated the Mental Energy that he had accumulated since earlier and swiftly broke free from the restraint of the restriction cuffs. He then raised his upper body and headbutted the assistant before the guy could even complete his words.

Bang!

Right after raising his upper body, Shin quickly turned and kicked the bed where Leonard was currently being restrained.

Bang!

Leonard suddenly opened his eyes at that time and took advantage of the brief moment when the chains wrapped around his body loosened to circulate the Internal Qi within his body.

He then exploded in strength and broke the restriction cuffs as well as the chains wrapped around the patient's bed.

The guards within the room quickly responded and swiftly distanced themselves away from the two while also raising their guns at the same time.

They were about to lock their aim at the two when another shaking of the mountain affected the laboratory. The balance of the guards messed up a little, making them unable to lock their aims.

Shin and Leonard took advantage of that chance to quickly gathered their respective energies within their bodies while quickly taking cover behind the table and fallen bed near them.

Their timing was impeccable, making the guards completely speechless. And before they could even regain their footing, the two quickly jumped at them, creating a chaotic battle within the small room.