

Destiny 1151

Chapter 1151 The Ideal State For A Battle Genius

"It is such a pity. You have experienced such a rare moment, yet it is also what cost you your life."

Ezekiel, the young executioner of the Black Serpent Mafia, was currently standing behind Shin as he dug his sword into the back of the latter. He could see his sword pierced through the chest of the latter from behind which made him smile widely.

Unlike Steve, Chris, and Serra, who were young executioners that were in the middle of their final 'graduation' for their training, Ezekiel was a real executioner that had already finished all his training.

The trio were still in the middle of their final mission before they could even become a bona fide executioner of the Black Serpent Mafia. And after finishing it, they had to undergo another course of training, as well as a final test, before they could truly become a full-fledged executioner.

This was the reason why they still had to be in a group when taking missions.

Real executioners of an underworld organization had to be strong enough to work alone before they could call themselves real executioners. And their main tasks were the obvious assassination of specific targets, as well as tracking and taking down the traitors of their organizations.

They were the real killing tool of the underworld organizations.

And the specific executioners, who had graduated from their training courses at a young age and lower realm in the path of Martial Arts and Mentalism, were the most talented tools that the organizations possessed.

These young executioners were no weaker than the geniuses from big and aristocratic families, assassin families, military families, or even the martial art and mentalism families.

Ezekiel, who was in the early phase of the Ethereal Opening Stage, was such a talent. He was a young executioner who managed to graduate early from his training.

He was keeping a low profile within one of the prestigious academies in the Eastern Sea Region when the higher-ups contacted him for a special assignment. He was to take down the person who had inherited an ancient inheritance if the trio had failed their assignment.

He was also tasked to dispose of the three if ever they failed the mission. The organization did not have any use for such useless people after all.

But if those three were lucky enough to get the job done, then he was told to retreat and go back to his post.

He was leisurely following the trio when he noticed that there was something wrong. He then watched them survey the area when they arrived at their destination.

He immediately understood that this supposedly simple and easy mission took a sudden turn and became a little troublesome.

He knew that there was an expert hiding in the dark. Fortunately, that person was not out of his reach. Their strength was at most comparable to his if he did not use his trump cards.

Ezekiel continued to hide and watched the trio get toyed with by the expert. He was slightly surprised when he found out that the expert was as young as them. He thought it was an old veteran of the military or at least a special force soldier tasked to protect their target.

But from what he could see, it was someone who was neither of those.

Based on the movements and fighting style of that person, he could tell that they were neither from a military nor a prestigious dojo. They were at least a student from one of the academies within this region.

The first thing that came to his mind was the Magic Ace Academy. After all, that place was one of the best institutions within the continent alongside the Top Military School. And since the person was not showing any military arts or a signature move unique to the military soldiers, he suspected that this person was from the Magic Ace Academy.

But he became even more surprised when he thought about it.

As one of the young executioners of the Black Serpent Mafia, he had a list of talented people that came from different families and organizations. These talents were the ones that they had to keep their eyes on while doing their assignments, which was also a potential hitlist if the situation called for it.

But from what he could see, this person was none of those people. He was not on the list.

Thinking about that, Ezikiel had suspected that this person was most likely in disguise to hide their real identity from the others.

He tried to figure out the identity of this young expert mentalist, but he quickly threw it at the back of his head when he could not figure it out.

After all, his job was to take down this person before proceeding to assassinate his primary target, the possessor of the ancient inheritance.

After stalking the others and watching the battle for a while, he finally saw the perfect opportunity and struck without any hint of hesitation.

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Ezikiel was smiling widely as he waited for Shin to have a final struggle. Or at least to turn his head to the side to try looking at his assailant.

He was about to say something more when he suddenly sensed a threat coming from behind.

Swoosh!

Without any hesitation, he quickly pulled out his sword from the back of Shin and quickly spun while swinging the sword. I think you should take a look at

Clang!

Sparks flew in the air as his sword clashed against a dagger.

Ezekiel quickly hopped away after he had fended off the attack. He then cautiously looked ahead to try and see who his mysterious attack was.

And when he saw who it was, his pupils suddenly shrunk and his face was immediately filled with disbelief.

The person standing a few distance away from him was the same person who was supposedly stabbed earlier.

"How is that possible?" he muttered before quickly glancing at the corpse of the person that he just stabbed earlier. He then realized that it was actually Steve, the guy Shin had defeated earlier.

He then looked at Shin cautiously while trying to recall what had happened. He was trying to think how Steve suddenly ended up where Shin was supposed to stand.

Ezikiel clearly remembered that Shin stopped on that spot after he finished off Chris and Serra consecutively earlier after he defeated Steve. Then Shin was supposed to have undergone enlightenment quickly after that.

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"Tsk! You sure are quite fast to respond," Shin muttered as he looked at Ezikiel. He found it a pity that his sneak attack failed when he had the perfect opportunity to finish off the latter.

Earlier, when he dealt the final blow to Steve, he suddenly entered an epiphany about his ideal fighting style for Mentalism. He then rode on the momentum and proceeded on killing both Chris and Serra while engraving the feeling that he currently had.

He wanted to quickly enter the state of enlightenment at that time, but he knew that it would put him in danger if he proceeded with it. After all, there was still the real executioner hiding in the dark and waiting for the opportunity to strike.

So, right before he entered that state, he quickly cast an illusion technique and produce an image of himself continuing to move forward after finishing off Serra.

He might not have had high attainment when it came to illusion techniques, but it was more than enough to trick most of his opponents when he used them. After all, he could even trick David for an instant despite the guy having those special pair of eyes, the Enlightened Eyes.

It was all because of his perfect grasp of timing.

Shin had attached an invisible string attached to Steve's body earlier when he had dealt the final blow. He also sent the guy in the air purposely and let the corpse land in a specific location where the bushes were the densest.

After that, he cast another illusion technique on the corpse as he dragged it toward him while hiding his movements through the silencing technique and isolation barrier.

He had meticulously prepared everything and even hid everything when he dealt the finishing blow to Chris and Serra earlier. It was the flash of light that appeared within an instant, which also hid his tracks from Ezikiel, without the latter noticing it due to how fast everything was.

All Ezikiel saw was 'Shin' stopping on a particular spot before 'undergoing' a state of enlightenment.

It was only at that time that Ezikiel decided to make his move, which was completely within Shin's expectations.

But he was suppressing the urge to enter the state of enlightenment, Shin failed to deal with a proper sneak attack on Ezikiel when it was his time to make his move.

Regardless, Shin was still feeling confident in this. Even if he could tell that this new opponent was completely different and much stronger than the other three, he still felt that he could manage his own.

And due to his trying to suppress the urge to enter the state of enlightenment, a strange feeling suddenly washed over his body. It was as if he could do anything in his current state.

He was not sure what it was, but he felt that it was beneficial to him.

He then stared at Ezikiel while trying to control the excitement that he was feeling. He even hopped up and down while relaxing his muscles and loosening his joints at the same time.

Seeing that, Ezikiel could not help but wear a solemn look on his face. He was not sure how strong this person was, but he could at least tell that he would be in deep trouble if he underestimated this opponent.

He quickly took a stance and quickly summoned his Natural Force, enveloping his entire body with it.

Seeing that, Shin unknowingly curved his lips into an excited smile. His body was itching to battle since he knew that he would become even stronger once this was over.

He did not know how it would happen, but he was sure that he would definitely achieve it.

He would definitely get something he truly wanted after this battle!

Chapter 1152 The Ideal State For A Battle Genius (Part 2)

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As Shin hopped up and down from his spot while relaxing his muscles and loosening his joints, his hands played with his daggers, tossing them in the air with skillful dexterity.

But after a few moments, Shin knitted his brows before keeping the daggers and taking out his white katana.

He knew that he had to hide his identity, but he felt that his current state needed him to use his real mentalism techniques, both his Jade Kirin Scripture and the Four Symbol Scripture. He felt that it was a chance for him to combine these two mentalism methods.

What's more, his opponent would not be able to quickly identify him since the Black Serpent Mafia was more familiar with his Martial Arts since he rarely used his Mentalism on any occasion. He was keeping a low profile even when doing the assignments that the Springfield Family had given him. And even at those times, he was using his Martial Arts since he got his Mentalism quite late.

Even if the Black Serpent Mafia would learn about his Mentalism since he was now mostly using it now due to his current circumstances, they would not be able to easily find out about him, especially when he killed all the witnesses.

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Ezekiel looked at Shin with a solemn expression as he could feel an immense threat coming from the latter. He was observing Shin closely as the aura of the latter continued to spike up with immense pressure.

And when he saw Shin taking out his white katana, that pressure became much heavier, making the expression that he had become uglier.

Swoosh!

Shin's foot tapped the ground gently before his figure disappeared.

"It is coming!" muttered Ezekiel as he quickly responded. He swung his sword in front of him without showing any hesitation. He might not be able to see Shin, but he could at least feel the fluctuations in the air, giving him an idea of where the latter was.

Shing!

The sword slashed down, cutting through the air.

Shin, who suddenly appeared in front of Ezekiel, suddenly ducked to the side and avoided the attack. The light that was being reflected by the sword shone through Shin as he put his hand on the hilt of the sheathed katana in a gentle manner.

The instant Shin's hand touched the katana, Ezikiel felt an extreme danger that washed over his whole body. "Not good!"

Without any hesitation, he quickly retreated. He knew that it would be the end of him if he was even a millisecond too late.

Click!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quickly Draw – Flash Horizon'

Shing!

A flash of light was released right after the katana was unsheathed before a shining trail traced through the air.

Ezikiel was barely able to save himself due to his fast reaction. But regardless of it, the tip of the katana grazed his shirt, cutting a thin horizontal line in front of his chest.

Ta-ta!

The second his feet landed on the ground, he quickly channeled his Natural Force on his sword and swung it forward. A gust of wind was suddenly created which was immediately followed by a sword wave that flew straight to Shin.

'Black Serpent Arts: Serpent Trails'

Shin stared at the incoming sword wave for an instant before his feet suddenly shone with 'Haste' runes that increased his speed. And at the same time, he executed a movement technique to go around the sword wave and caught up to Ezikiel within an instant.

'Holy Azure Dragon Method: Stepping through the Clouds'

Swoosh!

A trail of pale blue lights followed Shin's movements, giving off the impression that a dragon was swimming through the air.

And when he arrived in front of his opponent once again, his already-sheathed sword was pulled out once again as he struck forward with a quick stab.

Clink!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quickly Draw – Flash Strike'

Shing!

Clang!

Ezekiel quickly retracted his sword and placed it in front of him in a horizontal manner, accurately blocking the tip of the katana, which was coming straight for his heart. His Natural Force was covering the blade of the sword, reinforcing its toughness.

"Grr! Don't you dare underestimate me!" Ezekiel felt humiliated as he was pushed back by the strong force behind the strike from Shin.

It was just a few exchanges, but he was immediately thrown to a disadvantage. As someone who was regarded highly by the organization for his talent, he felt that the person in front of him was telling him that he was not worthy of his executioner title.

"F*ck! I don't care who you are! I will show you that you can't mess with me!" he shouted with full rage before stepping forward. I think you should take a look at

His eyes turned bloodshot before all the white parts on them disappeared and were replaced by total darkness. His eyes turned dark, leaving only a thin vertical slit in red color.

Then a purple Natural Force with hints of black hue enveloped his entire body alongside his sword.

His step was noticeably becoming heavy as his foot sank to the ground, throwing gravel and small rock fragments in the air.

Bang!

'Black Serpent Arts: Nine Heads'

Hiss! Hiss! Hiss!

A series of slithering sounds reverberated in the whole place as Ezikiel swung his sword forward. And alongside his movements, the Natural Force enveloping him morphed as they merged with the blade aura covering his sword.

Following that, the sword turned into blurs as it was swung by Ezikiel multiple times, creating an illusion that Shin was being attacked by nine huge serpents made of Natural Force.

Shin fearlessly faced it and stomped on the ground as he took a step forward. He positioned his katana in front of him and held it in a horizontal manner while releasing his Divinity Grade Mental Energy.

A group of transparent hexagonal plates appeared in front of Shin before they came together. They formed a wall in front of him as glowing runes with the word toughness, strengthening, and fortitude appeared at the center of each plate.

'Heavenly Black Tortoise Method: Wall of the Great Sea'

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The wall made of Mental Energy in front of Shin was immediately bombarded by the serpent heads sent by Ezikiel, creating powerful explosions that reverberated throughout the entire place.

But despite how powerful they were, they were still unable to break the defense that Shin had put up. The Mental Energy Wall did not even shake despite how powerful their bombardment was.

Swoosh!

Ezikiel did not care about that. He circled around the barrier and appeared behind Shin like a ghost before swinging his sword with multiple slashes.

Shin quickly responded as he turned and faced Ezikiel before swinging his katana in a swift yet firm manner.

Cling!

Clang! Clang! Clang!

A series of collisions quickly followed as the sound of clashing metals enveloped the forest. Mental sparks flew in the air for each collision as the two continued with their exchanges.

Shin's eyes were glowing with a pale golden light as he activated the ocular skill that he had personally created, the 'True Sight' technique. With the help of his sharp eyes and powerful Spiritual Sense, he was able to read the movements of his opponent.

He was reading quite a few steps ahead as he continued to exchange blows with Ezikiel.

After a few more exchanges, Shin noticed something strange happening to him. His mind had always been sharp when battling, but at this very movement, he felt that his brain was much sharper than before, and his body was able to execute his desired moves much smoother.

He felt that this current state was the most perfect state that he could possibly hope for.

He was able to transition from one move to another in a much smoother way than he previously had. He could also shift between his signature mentalism method, which was the Four Symbol Scripture, and his newly acquired one, the Jade Kirin Scripture.

As the battle progressed, he was also feeling that he was constantly growing stronger. He was already like this before, after all, he was a Battle Genius. But at this point, he felt that he was growing much faster and in a more distinctive way.

He was not sure what was happening, and it was a little strange to be in this state, but he could not say that this was something bad. In fact, he felt it was comfortable – so comfortable that he felt that he could beat anyone in this state.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Clang! Clang!

Shing!

Shin's figure was gradually being enveloped by the golden mental energy as he continued to fight against Ezikiel, who was also constantly increasing the amount of Natural Force that he was releasing.

The two clashed multiple times as they appeared in different parts of the mountain forest during their fight. The surrounding landscape was gradually being reformed due to the two of them as the shockwaves that their clashes produced affected the mountain greatly.

And during all of it, Ezikiel found out something that he would never have imagined.

He stared at Shin with a mixture of fear and anger. He knew that he could not afford to leave this guy alive even if he had to sacrifice his life for it.

He understood that this young man could possibly be one of the biggest threats that their organization would face in the future.

"This guy had to be taken down!" he thought to himself as he asked. "Just who is this guy? And which part of the world produces such a monster?"

Chapter 1153 Achieving The Natural State

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"This is fun!" exclaimed Shin as he continued to exchange moves against Ezikiel. He was showing great excitement during the battle. He was completely enjoying the current state that he was in.

He was able to move his body in a more desirable way. Everything that he was imagining inside his head was able to be executed in the real world.

The only thing that he was feeling right was complete freedom! He felt that anything that he wanted to do would be achievable in this current state.

As Shin was executing a series of techniques while attacking and defending, Ezikiel was gradually losing his confidence in this battle. He was confident that he would be able to hold himself against any opponent, but the current person that he was fighting was crushing that confidence slowly but surely.

Seeing his opponent constantly growing during the battle was more than enough to put pressure on him but seeing that this opponent was also able to improve and polish their techniques and fighting styles was making him more discouraged.

He still felt that he could and would fight pretty well. The problem was that he was slowly getting pushed back despite the advantages that he had.

He could obviously feel that he was in a higher realm than his opponent, his fighting style was also more mature than the latter, and he even possessed the powerful Natural Force that he got from the organization. But despite all the tools that he could use to gain an advantageous position in this battle, he was still feeling that he was fighting a hopeless battle.

He was not sure why he was feeling that way, but he knew that it had to do with the pressure that Shin was currently emitting.

From his knowledge, this was something that came from the fighting spirit of an individual. Or to be more precise, it was something produced by the combination of a fighting spirit and the aura manifestation of an individual, the Battle Spirit.

A Battle Spirit was a sign that someone was reaching the maturity of the fighting style of a Martial Artist or a Mentalist. It was a sign that they were reaching the stage where they could build a systematic style that perfectly suited them. It was a sign that they were reaching the stage where their Natural Style was gradually being built.

Shin had already close to reaching that stage when he was using his Martial Arts. He was able to build a partial Battle Spirit before his Martial Arts was sealed.

Compared to his Martial Arts, which had two styles fused together, his Mentalism was a little more complicated. It did not only have multiple styles, but it even possessed different natures which made it harder for him to create a Battle Spirit, much less a Natural Style.

But with the help of his current state, Shin was able to gradually build a system that could temporarily act as his Natural Style. And with his combat talent, as a Battle Genius, Shin was able to polish this style during a battle.

Out of the three aspects of becoming an expert at the Peak of the Grandmaster Realm – the Spiritual Force (counterpart of Natural Force), the Natural Style, and Natural Body – Shin was slowly building the second aspect.

He might be able to perfectly build it, but he was sure that he was steadily building a solid foundation for one.

At the same time, Shin also discovered something during this battle. There was an additional aspect unique to individuals, who possessed top combative talents such as himself.

He did not know what it was, but he was sure that it was a unique aspect that only individuals like him could possess.

This state was called the 'Natural State'. It was a state where someone could fully showcase their talents and battle styles with absolute freedom.

Shin had heard it from Arthur before, but he almost forgot about it since the latter could not explain it to him very well.

Arthur had told him that during his training with his 'master', who he could not remember who it was or what he looked like, he was able to utilize his combative talent to its full potential.

As a Martial Art Prodigy, Arthur was able to immediately learn a martial skill or technique with a single glance. At first, that was how Arthur used that talent since that was all he knew about it.

But after meeting his master, Arthur learned that this combative talent was much more amazing than he believed it to be.

By relying on the eyes of a Martial Art Prodigy, he was not only able to learn a martial skill with a single glance, but he could also spot the flaws in the movements and techniques of his opponents. And with it, he was able to counter them by taking advantage of those flaws.

Other than that, he was also able to improve the skills he had already learned by fixing the flaws that he saw before turning them into another skill or making them reach a whole other level.

With this knowledge, Arthur could enter a unique state in battle, where he could constantly read the movements of his opponents and counter them by utilizing the unique eyes that the Martial Prodigies had.

This state was the ideal state for Martial Art Prodigies. It was a state where they were in a constant form fitted for learning – a state where they were in complete focus and constant comprehension.

It was the state where they could fight to the best of their abilities.

With all of these, Shin knew that he was currently in that state. He understood that his current state was that thing called the 'Natural State'.

A Natural State which was perfect for Battle Genius.

Shin did not know how he awakened it, but he knew that he had to take this opportunity to comprehend this state and engraved the feeling that he was feeling to the best of his abilities.

Unlike the Martial Art Prodigy, who had to be in a constant state of comprehension, a Battle Genius needed to be in a constant state of enlightenment during a battle. I think you should take a look at

By combining the ability to be able to grow in battle and the constant state of enlightenment, a Battle Genius was almost unrivaled in battle!

...

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shing!

Ezikiel dodged a series of slashes from Shin before creating more space between them. Sweat was dripping from his forehead as he almost got caught by those slashes.

He was trying his best to read Shin, which was constantly failing up until now.

During their first few clashes, Ezikiel was still able to read the movements of Shin. He was able to predict the next moves and what kind of techniques Shin was planning to use.

But as the battle progressed, the movements and utilization of techniques that his opponent was using were becoming more and more unpredictable. Even a simple downward slash turned into a series of zigzag slashes that were coming from different angles.

What was even more upsetting about this was the fact that he could see the rapid improvements that his opponent was undergoing.

Shin's movements might be complex and hard to execute, but all of them were steadily becoming more refined as the battle progressed.

Ezikiel knew that if let this continue, then he would most likely be defeated at the end of the battle. Unfortunately, he could not do anything about it in his current state.

He originally wanted to retreat but the moment when he tried to do it, Shin quickly attacked him more aggressively and prevented him from escaping.

Left without a choice, he could only continue fighting Shin to the best of his abilities and 'assist' the latter in his growth. Even though he was unwilling to make this monster grow more stronger, he could not do anything to stop it.

In the middle of all of it, he could only think of one thing. No matter what, he had to kill Shin regardless of the price. Even if he had to sacrifice his life.

This guy in front of him was a huge ordeal that would affect the organization. In his perspective, this guy should be much more dangerous than the one that was accepting the ancient inheritance.

Ezekiel was not sure whether it was actually the case. After all, he hadn't seen the possessor of that ancient inheritance yet. But given his current situation, this was the only thing that he could think of.

He continued to exchange a few more moves against Shin before finally gritting his teeth and steeling his resolve.

He finally decided.

He would abandon the mission given to him and take this down with him.

Having that thought, he quickly forced Shin to move away from him before creating more space between them. He then took out a vial from his pocket.

He did not know if the higher-ups had planned this to happen, but he was sure that they must have somewhat expected his current predicament. He was somewhat suspicious that one of the higher-ups was using him as an experimental subject, but he could not refuse it after seeing the 'monster' he was fighting.

Gritting his teeth once again, he held the vial tightly before stabbing it on his neck and pressing its tip. The serum that was within the vial sank into his neck and entered his system.

In the meantime, Shin, who was too focused on remembering his current state, could not help but pause for a moment when he saw Ezikiel take something from his pocket.

At first, he thought that it was a hidden weapon or something, which made him halt in his tracks for a moment. But after seeing the vial in the hands of Ezikiel, his eyes suddenly turned wide as he found it somewhat familiar.

And when he realized it was the same thing that Shaun had used earlier, Shin could not help but cursed inside before charging ahead.

Unfortunately, he was already too late.

Ezikiel had already emptied the vial. He pulled it back from his neck before crushing it with his hands.

In the next instant, the transformation quickly followed.

"F*ck!" Shin could only curse himself as he was pushed back by the powerful pressure that was coming from Ezikiel.

Chapter 1154 Achieving The Natural State (Part 2)

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Shin watched Ezikiel undergo the same mutated transformation that Shaun had. He wanted to stop it from going further, but he could not break free from the pressure that was preventing him from advancing forward.

He wanted to blame it on the current state that he was in since he wanted to familiarize himself with it so that he could enter it again whenever he wanted.

He knew that this was the Natural State that was unique to Battle Genius, similar to the one that Arthur, who was a Martial Art Prodigy.

Regardless of his thoughts, he knew that understanding his current state was more beneficial to him than killing his opponent right away. After all, the latter was 'helping' him familiarized himself with this current state during their battle.

He could not complain about more.

He could only watch Ezikiel become a humanoid monster. The muscles of the latter continued to morph, swell, shrunk, or reshaped in a repeated process. It was too gruesome to watch that it even made Shin frown deeply.

But regardless of what he was feeling, he continued to steel his mind while keeping himself to be in the special state that he was in. Achieving the Natural State for Battle Genius and gaining an initial mastery over it was much more important than anything else.

Realizing that it would take some time before Ezikiel finished his transformation, alongside the pressure that was preventing Shin from moving forward, Shin decided to relax his body for a moment and get ready for the next round.

He sheathed his sword and stood straight before closing his eyes. He regulated his breathing while continuing to familiarize himself with his current state.

As he did that, his mind seemed to have been cleansed by something. His mind became empty while everything around him was starting to disappear one after another, leaving him standing at the center of darkness alone.

He remained to be on this state until it was finally time to make his move.

On the other hand, Ezikiel, who was undergoing a mutated transformation, miraculously retained some of his sanity during the entire process. Even he was shocked about it before his lips curved into an evil smile.

He used all his willpower to suppress the raging emotion that was trying to overwhelm him while also controlling the transformation of his body.

He suppressed everything until his body returned to its original size. But despite how hard he tried there were still some changes that occurred.

The color of his skin changed. His arm was painted with different shades of purple color, starting from his hands which had the darkest hue. A pale purple color overwhelmed his shoulders, moving up to his face and hair.

There were also visible veins in green color, completely bulged out from his tensed and tightened muscles.

Ezekiel could feel that he was still in the right mind, albeit not completely. He was losing his thoughts from time to time, but it was more than enough for him to keep himself under control.

'Is this because of those special training regimes that we have undergone before our graduation?' he was not sure about it, but he could at least guess that the training that was additionally added in their course of becoming an executioner had something to do with his current state, especially the special serums that they were taking regularly at that time.

'Even though the experiment is not yet complete, it seems like the organization had already reached a critical point within us knowing,' he thought briefly before remembering his current situation.

He then started laughing manically as he could feel the overwhelming power that he currently had. The source of his power seemed to have come from the mutated core situated at the center of his dantian, which was now hosting an evil and eerie qi.

Swoosh!

It was only at that moment that the pressure that was produced by his transformation was finally subdued.

He then turned to the direction where Shin was standing silently. "You are now dead!"

Bang!

Swoosh!

His feet sank to the ground as he took a step forward. Then a deep footprint was left on it as his figure suddenly disappeared and quickly reappeared right in front of Shin while swinging his sword down.

Slash!

The sword cut through the air as he descended toward Shin's head.

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Shin still refused to open his eyes during that time. He was still in the middle of his achieving his special state as the sword swiftly descended toward his head.

He stood in the middle of darkness, where nothing but him and his sword were present. And the instant that Ezikiel made his move, Shin 'heard' a sound of rippling water that quickly caught his attention.

The actions that Ezikiel had made sent a ripple in the surface of calm water, sending it toward the direction where Shin was standing.

And when that invisible ripple of water was almost upon him, the sword of his opponent was also about to split his head.

But before it could happen, Shin slowly opened his eyes and look straight at his opponent.

Swoosh!

Ezikiel suddenly felt a shiver that ran through his spine the moment when his eyes met Shin's gaze. Then he saw a vision of himself being cut down by the latter's katana before his sword could even reach the skull of his opponent.

Swoosh!

He quickly halted his action and swiftly retreated. When he created enough distance between himself and his opponent, he looked at Shin with eyes full of disbelief. "What was that?!"

And when he looked at Shin, he saw that the latter's eyes were glowing with a much more intense light than before. There was also an invisible pressure that was pressing on him that he could only feel from real experts of the organization.

"Did he break through?" mumbled Ezikiel as he looked at Shin.

But immediately after that, he denied the idea as he could feel that Shin was still far from completing his Spiritual Force and Natural Style. The body of the latter was even far from undergoing the special ritual to achieve his Natural Body.

"Then what was it?" he asked himself once again as he could feel himself being nervous due to some unknown reason.

Ezikiel felt that he was much more powerful than before, but he could also tell that there was still something missing in him compared to the artificial mutants that the organization had. He might have retained his sanity, but he had lost that thing those mutants had.

"It doesn't matter! All I have is to kill this guy!" he said to himself. He was urging himself to kill Shin as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, Shin had already achieved his goal. He had already achieved the ideal state for Battle Geniuses.

Moreover, he had even integrated it with his 'Immediate Response' Talent, which also lead him to incorporate them with his 'True Sight' ocular technique and Spiritual Sense.

The only drawback of it was it required a lot of concentration and burn an unimaginable amount of stamina. But with the monstrous willpower provide by his special bloodline, he would be able to persevere for an extended period of time. I think you should take a look at

Ezikiel could sense an overwhelming threat coming from Shin. And this one was much denser and more dangerous compared to the earlier one.

He was gritting his teeth and glaring at Shin while he was waiting for the latter to make his move. His guard was in full force while his senses were working twice as before.

Then, within a very brief moment, his eyes blinked as he could not suppress the burning sensation of his eyes.

Clink!

In the middle of it, he heard a subtle clicking sound that reverberated in his ears. And the moment his eyes reopened once again, he was immediately greeted by the sharp tip of a katana, which was rapidly magnifying right in front of his eyes.

Shing!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw – Flash Strike'

Swoosh!

Ezikiel quickly leaned his head and body back, trying to get away from the incoming tip of the katana. He was also swinging his sword upward to try deflecting the latter.

Pu-chi!

Clank!

His sword as a little while as the sharp edge of the katana had already wounded the center of his brows, all the way to his forehead. It was able to draw a long wound before his sword could even deflect it.

Rapidly retreating, Ezikiel quickly tried to regain his foot while preparing for the next attack.

Shin quickly followed suit, swiftly stepping forward with a long stride while redirecting the course of his katana in the air. And when arrived in front of Ezikiel once again, he had already drawn a beautiful arc with the katana as he swung it with extreme precision while borrowing the momentum of his stride.

Swoosh!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: First Movement – Collapsing Wind'

Shing!

The transition of techniques was so smooth that it created an illusion that made them look like they were some basic sword techniques.

But the outcome begged me to disagree.

Much less Ezikiel, who was on the receiving end.

Clank!

He pushed his body and reflex to the limit and even borrowed the enhancements that he had received from the special serum, just to be able to respond to the attack.

Clang!

He managed to raise his sword in time and blocked the incoming katana, but he was immediately knocked to the side due to the powerful force behind that strike.

Shin quickly retracted his sword, swiftly took a step forward, and suddenly spun around. This series of actions made him catch up with Ezikiel, who was still in midair and in the middle of being knocked to the side.

He then used the momentum generated from his spin before throwing a kick on the exposed side of his opponent.

It was not a simple kick, but one which was imbued with a large Mental Energy on his leg.

'Holy Azure Dragon Method: Fleeting Cloud, Dragon Kick'

Bang!

Ezikiel's body arched as his waist was hit back by that kick. There was a brief pause upon contact before his body was sent in the opposite direction.

Swoosh!

But that was not the end as Shin quickly chased after him right after his foot touched the ground.

His speed was so fast that he caught up to the flying body of his opponent once again before overtaking the latter.

'Holy Azure Dragon Method: Stepping through the Clouds'

He stopped himself from moving further with a powerful stomp. His katana was already positioned on his side at that time.

He then twisted his waist, applying a strong tension on it before whipping toward the other direction while swinging the white katana to greet his incoming opponent.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Fourth Movement – Tempest Strike'

Shing!

A thin line was drawn in the air as his katana cut through the flesh of his opponent as they brushed past each other.

"Argh!" the pained groan of Ezikiel could be heard as he collided with the three blocking his path.

Bang!

He was still alive, and he had to thank the special serum that he had injected into himself for that. His body was regenerating at a visible rate while it was reattaching the lower and upper parts of his body that were almost separated from each other due to the previous technique of his opponent.

He tried his best to stand while glaring at Shin, who was coldly looking at him. Each step the latter took was like a beating drum on the ears of Ezikiel, which seemed to be calling out for his death.

He was slowly losing to his emotions, giving the special serum an opportunity to overwhelm and took over his mind.

He glared at Shin with bloodshot eyes before charging forward like a cornered beast, no longer thinking about its life.

Roar!

Chapter 1155 Achieving the Natural State (Part 3)

Bang!

Clang! Clang!

Clank!

A series of exchanges continued as Shin and Ezikiel clashed against each other over and over again, destroying the surroundings with the impact of each collision.

Shin, who just attained the Natural State for Battle Genius, was slowly becoming more familiar with it and gradually being skilled at using the state.

Each of his attacks was composed of a series of techniques that made it hard for Ezikiel to find an opportunity to counter. If not for his insane regenerative abilities that were provided by the serum enhancer that he took earlier.

In terms of technique, Shin had the upper hand. Even though he was on the weaker side when it came to other aspects, his utilization of sword and mentalism techniques were high-leveled.

He was able to bridge all the gaps with just technique alone.

Bang!

Ezekiel was sent flying after blocking a swing from Shin, making him collide with multiple trees behind him.

Bang!

He quickly stood up and charged once again with a much higher aggressiveness. His eyes were completely bloodshot right now. It was clear that he was already losing his senses and sanity after enduring the repeated beating from Shin.

The side effects of the serum enhancers were already starting to show. And Ezekiel was clearly not in his right mind right now.

Ironically, his relentless attacks were quite effective against Shin. But unfortunately, the latter was still able to hold his ground pretty well. He did not even lose the advantage that he had up until now and even found more opportunities where he could beat Ezekiel even more.

Swoosh!

Skid!

Shin skidded back as he dodged one of the crazy attacks of Ezekiel. He skillfully twirled his katana as he moved back before sheathing it with a single smooth motion.

"It is time to end this," he muttered to himself as he assumed a sword-drawing stance.

He had squeezed everything that he could have in this battle already, so there was no need to keep fighting right now.

Moreover, he could also sense the minuscule changes in his opponent. He could tell that the latter was slowly improving in battle despite Ezikiel gradually losing his mind. It might not be at an alarming rate, but it was still at the stage where he had to worry about it.

"AH!"

Ezikiel opened his mouth and released a monstrous roar, signifying that he had already lost his mind. He charged at Shin with an insane speed, reaching the latter within an instant.

He then swung his sword at Shin as it carried a thick Natural Force. His sword drew an arc in the air the trail of blazing qi was traced through its trajectory.

Swoosh!

Unfortunately, despite his fast attack, he still hit nothing but an afterimage of his opponent.

Shin already retreated and arrived a few distances away from him while focusing his mind on an ultimate skill.

Ezekiel quickly recovered and reacted. He immediately chased after Shin with an even faster speed.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

But Shin escaped once again as he gathered more Mental Energy on his sheathed katana.

Bang! Bang!

Whoosh!

The two continued to move in different parts of the mountain forest with one retreating and accumulating a large amount of Mental Energy while the other continued to chase while attacking with relentless assault.

Shin maneuvered through the terrain while using different movement techniques. He mixed the Holy Azure Dragon Method with the other movement techniques from his arsenal, which he could use with either mental energy or internal qi.

Ezekiel was able to catch up to Shin time and time again but the latter was always able to dodge all the attacks that were thrown at him with a very small margin.

It was as if he was waiting for the very last moment before he moved, purposely leaving only a hair's breadth whenever he was dodging.

And when his opponent saw that, Ezikiel started losing his mind more, falling deeper into the dark abyss of power. He was being consumed by the power of the serum enhancer.

"This should be enough," mumbled Shin before stopping in his tracks all of a sudden.

Ezikiel quickly jumped at him while expecting to hit an afterimage once again. He halfheartedly swung his sword while spreading his senses in every direction, getting ready to chase after Shin the moment he tried to run away.

But to his surprise, Shin just kicked the ground and sent himself skidding back.

And when Ezikiel noticed that something was wrong, it was already too late. When he turned back to Shin and was about give chase, he suddenly noticed that the presence of Shin suddenly disappeared.

Ezikiel tried to find Shin with his spread-out senses, but he was immediately thrown into confusion as he could feel the presence of the latter in every direction.

When he looked around, he discovered that he was currently surrounded by Shin in every direction. There were a lot of images of his opponent scattered around. He knew that most of them were nothing but illusionary images, but he could not find which of them was the real one.

And before he could even decide what to do, those images of Shin simultaneously gripped the hilt of their katana before charging forward.

During their flight, all 'Shin' unsheathed their katana all at the same time before swinging it forward.

Click!

There was a blinding that flashed for a brief moment when Shin unsheathed the white katana before multiple shining lines crisscrossing against each other filled the area around Ezikiel.

Those lines assaulted Ezikiel from every direction.

Swoosh!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw – World Splitter'

Shing!

This was a sword technique that Shin had made when he just realized the sword-drawing techniques of the Jade Kirin Scripture inside the game.

He still hadn't mastered it in the real world, but since he had a solid theory about the technique, he was able to execute it properly even though he needed quite a long time to prepare for the technique.

This technique managed to seriously injure Ezikiel. It might even be a fatal one at that.

But Shin was still not satisfied with it yet.

He knew how powerful the regenerative ability that Ezikiel current had, so he had to continue attacking until the latter could no longer heal himself – or at least until he was able to break the core of Ezikiel.

Turning around, Shin quickly charged at Ezikiel once again as he gathered a large amount of Mental Energy on the katana.

Bang!

Stomping on the ground, he stopped right behind Ezikiel before thrusting the katana forward.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Fifth Movement – Hurricane Force'

Swoosh!

The mental energy surrounding the katana spun rapidly and created a spiraling movement while moving forward.

The spiraling energy charged ahead while enlarging during the process, shredding everything on its path.

Ezekiel, who was standing on its path, was directly hit by it. He was unable to dodge, nor able to protect himself due to the damage that he had suffered from the previous technique of Shin.

The spiraling mental energy drilled into his back and shredded his flesh, revealing his spine and innards.

His body was split open, which gave Shin a clear view of the purple core that was forced by Ezekiel's Qi Center and the serum enhancer.

Shin twirled the katana and held it in front of him while coating it with his remaining mental energy. And when the katana shone with a golden glow, he swung it multiple times in front of him, releasing a series of thin sword waves during the process.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Sixth Movement – Sword Gale'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The sword waves flew forward and slashed through the air, cutting Ezikiel's already messed up body into much smaller pieces alongside the purple core that just revealed itself.

Swoosh!

Bang!

As the final strike, Shin swung the katana down with a force much stronger than the previous ones. And with that final strike, the air in front of him was split apart alongside the already shredded body of his opponent.

With his striking pose, everything was cleared up, which also signified the end of the battle.

"Hu~." "Ha~."

Shin tried to regulate his breathing, calming himself down. He wanted to take a proper rest now. He had already exhausted himself beyond what he was capable of. And when exited his Natural State, the piled-up fatigue quickly kicked in, making him collapse on the ground and almost fainted.

On the ground, he forced his body to flip over so that he could at least breathe properly while facing the sky.

He stared blankly at the dark sky for a couple of moments before a shadow of someone was suddenly cast over him.

Shin looked over and saw that it was actually David.

"You look like you in a mess," said David while looking down at Shin.

Shin chuckled and rebutted. "You are not in a better state either."

David shrugged his shoulder and sat down on the fallen trunk of a tree nearby. "Well, you can't blame me when my teammates prioritize their faces rather than mine."

He then paused and looked deeply at Shin before continuing. "It looks like you have gained something fruitful this time."

Shin did not immediately respond as he recalled his previous state. It took him quite some time before he was able to answer. "It is not bad. I also discovered something about my bloodline earlier."

He paused as he remembered something and asked. "What about the other three? How are they?"

The corner of David's mouth when he heard that. "They are perfectly fine. They are in good condition, so I leave some tasks for them. With their strength, they will be able to take care of it without problem."

"How's your friend? Did he receive the inheritance?" he asked quite after.

Shin nodded his head. "Yeah. He is already in the middle of digesting it and consolidating his foundation. I think he will be done in the morning at the very least."

David nodded his head before also raising his head to look at the sky, which was already clearing up and showing the starry sight behind it.

Chapter 1156 Grow Up Faster

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Shin sat on the ground before turning to David. "Are you sure that you will be fine here? Are there no problems with the other side?"

David shrugged his shoulders. "That is no longer my concern. I've already done my part. The rest is for the military to do their job."

He paused and continued. "The laboratory is in a terrible state, but it seems like you and the rest of the students from the Student Assistant Association have done a good job restoring quite a few data. That will be more than enough for the Military and the Magic Ace Academy."

"The forces from the Springfield Family will be overseeing the place. They will not let those guys from the Eastern Sea Region Camp interfere. Since those guys refuse to lend a hand and even suggest some terrible things, they have no right participating in this."

"The military forces under the Spring Family and the instructors from the Magic Ace Academy will be collaborating for this too, so those greedy foxes will not be able to get a slice of his pie."

He then remembered the artificial mutants before continuing. "As for those mutated humans that we have found here, they will be sent to the research facilities of the Springfield Family Forces and the World Research Center."

"The Artificial Mutants that we have fought earlier will be taken by the Springfield Family too. Sir Nathan will be overseeing the transport personally to prevent unnecessary troubles. He also captured a big one, so it is only right thing to leave such a job for him."

"There are a lot of forces eyeing those artificial mutants, so it will not be hard to imagine what they are thinking. But with the Dragon King personally taking action, no one will dare to make a move against him."

Shin nodded his head before falling in deep thought. He then turned to David once again before asking. "Do you know that the opposing people are from the Black Serpent Mafia?"

David was slightly taken aback before nodding his head. Though, he also asked. "How did you know? Those guys have hidden themselves quite well. Even those guys from the military have not noticed it if not for the artificial mutants that we have encountered."

Shin tilted his head to the side before sighing. "I've seen the tattoo that Butcher has. It is a unique symbol that the organization has. There is also that Professor guy, who I have personally seen before in the camp. It is at that point that I realized that they are from there."

David stared at Shin for a moment before saying. "It is a good thing that you are able to hold yourself."

He knew about the history between Shin and the Black Serpent Mafia, so he understood if the latter suddenly lost his mind during the mission.

Shin smiled and shook his head. "I almost went berserk too when I realized that it is them. But I somehow hold my rage and do not explode this time."

He paused before adding. "I guess I have to thank my bloodline for that."

David continued to stare at Shin meaningfully before heaving a sigh. 'I guess I still have to trust Master when it comes to his guy. She will never leave Junior Brother unprotected and let him always go berserk whenever the seed is triggered.'

He then nodded his head in understanding.

At this point, Shin suddenly said. "Ah! I've also achieved my Natural State. I still haven't fully grasped it yet, but I already have the initial mastery over it."

This time, David was utterly taken aback. He knew about the Natural States – it was a unique state for specific individuals, who possessed the top combative talents. For Shin to be able to achieve it without proper guidance from someone with similar talent was already surprising.

He then paused and remembered which talent Shin had. He chuckled to himself. 'I guess that is to be expected from a Battle Genius.'

"That is good. Now you will be able to fight against people with a higher realm than you with more edge," he commented, chuckling.

Shin then narrated how he entered the Natural State and his battle against Ezikiel earlier.

David continued to listen attentively as he was also quite interested in that state. He was not someone with a combative talent, but it would not hurt to know about those mysterious states since no one would know if he encountered an opponent, who could enter it.

Shin continued to chat with David for a few moments before he suddenly remembered something. "Oh! I've just remembered. Senior Brother, do you know about the Mentalism Gifts?"

David looked at Shin in complete surprise before nodding his head. "Of course, I know about them. It is only necessary for people like, who wield Divinity Grade Mental Energy, to know about them. Those gifts are unique to us."

"But why are you talking about it right now?" he asked with a confused look on his face.

Shin remained silent for a moment before continuing. "I think I have awakened mine."

David continued to look at Shin confusedly when he heard that. It took him quite some time before he realized what was Shin trying to say. I think you should take a look at

His eyes turned wide and looked at Shin in complete disbelief. "What!? You have what?"

Shin sighed before continuing. "I said, I have awakened my Mentalism Gift."

David first thought that he had heard it wrong, but after hearing it from Shin for the second time, he could not help but look at Shin in shock. "What do you mean you have awakened yours? Only when you have reached the Rulers Realm can you awaken it!"

"Even I, who is one in a million genius, am not exempted from that rule! How can you awaken your Mentalism Gift when you have not reached the peak of the Grandmaster Realm yet, much less the Rulers Realm!"

Shin pursed his lips before shrugging his shoulders. "I am not sure either. That is what the Head Priestess said to me earlier. She also mentions that it is most likely related to my Bloodline."

Hearing that, the corner of David's mouth twitched repeatedly. He knew how absurd his master's bloodline was, but he did not expect that it was to this extent.

'D*mn! Isn't Master a little too overpowered? She still hasn't attained that level when she was pregnant with junior brother, yet she had already passed her insane bloodline to him perfectly?' he said inwardly before suddenly remembering who the husband of his master was.

'Tsk! Tsk! I guess that is to be expected from such a scary couple,' he thought before shaking his head bitter.

After recollecting his thoughts and regaining his composure, he suddenly asked. "I guess that is good. So, what kind of gift do you receive? Is it a combat type or an auxiliary one? It will be better if it is the latter since you have already a lot of combative talent."

Shin thought for a moment before shaking his head. He did not know which category his Mentalism Gift was. He shrugged as he answered. "The Head Priestess said that it is called Devour – the gift of devouring."

"What?! You have what now?!" David gave Shin a doubletake before looking at the latter with a stunned expression. 'Just how absurd this junior brother can be?'

Shin waved his hand in front of David, trying to wake the latter from his stunned state.

It took David quite a long time before he was finally able to recover himself. He smiled bitterly as he looked at Shin. "You are such a monster. Do you know that?"

Shin looked at David with an odd look on his face when he heard that before chuckling and shrugging. "You know what – I am hearing that a lot."

The two then started laughing before continuing to chat about other things. They were waiting for Leonard to finish consolidating his foundation before they left this place.

After a few moments, David suddenly remembered something before saying it. "Ah! Before I forgot, you and your friends should get ready in the upcoming months."

"Get ready for what?" asked Shin confusedly.

"Get ready for the changes that will be coming in the game," answered David with a slightly solemn tone.

Shin raised his brows when he heard that before asking. "What about it? Is there another big update coming just like the current one?"

David smiled bitterly. "You can put it that way. But at the same time, it is also a little different."

Then they paused for a moment before his tone became even more serious. "In the upcoming months, changes will continuously come in the virtual world."

"At most, it will start after the Hegemon Cup," he added as he felt a little nostalgic about it.

He then snapped out of it after a couple of moments before continuing. "I know that you have already guessed some things about the game and the organizations in the real world."

"And now that the ancient inheritance is popping out one after another, those greedy foxes will surely demand the World Gaming Organization to lift some restrictions up."

"Martial Artists and Mentalists in the Void Manifestation Stage and Rulers Realm will be entering the game in the future."

He then paused and cleared his throat before continuing. "I know that it will still be quite a long time, but what I am trying to say is you have to grow stronger as soon as possible."

"Chaos will come and we, members of the younger generation, will be battling at the frontlines."

Chapter 1157 Mission Accomplished!

"Grow up faster and become stronger."

When Shin heard those words, they were a heavy thump within his heart that he felt. It was as if something was urging him to move faster as 'that time' was about to come.

It only lasted for a brief moment, but Shin could clearly feel it. And when it disappeared, he shook his head before muttering himself. 'Whatever it is, it doesn't contradict one of my goals. Becoming strong is still something that I dream to achieve.'

After that, he turned to David and asked. "Senior Brother, from what I know, you just joined the game recently. How come you already know a lot of things? And it even looks like you are more knowledgeable than Big Sister when she is playing that game for a much longer time."

David chuckled as he heard that. "Dumb brat! Of course, I will know more about it than you. After all, I am much stronger than you. It is only natural for me to be more knowledgeable when it this it."

He paused for a moment before continuing. "Moreover, my information network is much larger and more competent than you can imagine. Don't underestimate me that much."

The two continued to chat with each other while they were waiting. They got too engrossed in it that they almost forgot why they were there. They did not even notice that the night had already passed, and the dawn was approaching fast.

While they were engrossed in their conversation a spatial tear appeared in front of the hut followed by the appearance of a young man, who stepped out of it silently.

When his foot touched the ground, the aura that he failed to contain accidentally leaked out, making it spread in every direction.

Thump!

Shin and David, who were currently engaged in their conversation suddenly felt a heavy pressure.

Their eyes turned wide while their hearts beat hard as they sensed the immeasurable threat that suddenly appeared. It was as if a savage beast suddenly arrived and announced its appearance by spreading its threatening presence.

This deadly aura filled the air and loomed in the atmosphere.

The pair quickly turned their head toward the direction where the dangerous aura was coming from.

From their perspective, a huge primordial beast was standing in front of the simple-looking hut in the distance.

This beast had the appearance of a lion with crimson fur and a fiery mane. There was a blazing flame surrounding its feet while crimson lightning flickered around its body from time to time.

There was an aura full of savageness and ferociousness surrounding this beast. And when it raised its head and looked at the pair, its predatory eyes quickly locked at them as if they were being treated as its dinner.

The two instinctively released their respective auras and assumed a fighting position. At the same time, their eyes also glowed as they activated their respective ocular skill.

David was about to unleash his Limit Break while Shin was preparing to enter his Natural State. But before they could even do it, the dangerous aura filling the air quickly disappeared, retreating back to the body of the young man in front of the hut.

Not long after, Leonard's figure appeared in the vision of the duo.

"Oh! There you are. I thought you have left me here," said Leonard innocently as if he was unaware of what just happened.

Despite hearing him, Shin and David did not immediately respond as stared at Leonard with astounded gazes. They were in complete shock at what just transpired in front of them.

"Leo-... you-..." Shin tried to voice out his thoughts as stutteringly opened his mouth. But in the end, he could not properly voice out his thoughts.

Instead, he thought to himself confusedly. 'Is that the ancient inheritance? But why does it feel different from what Senior Brother has told me? Isn't it supposedly a lightning-related inheritance with golden light or something?'

On the other hand, David, who was more aware of the situation, could not help but look at Leonard with a weird gaze. It took him quite a while to return to his bearings before saying inwardly. 'That is definitely the unique Bloodline Suppression Technique of the Asad Tribe. And it is more potent than the one that I felt from Auntie! It is almost as if he was a real beast instead.'

'Did he just release it without knowing?' the expression on his face turned weirder the more he thought about it. 'And those crimson lighting. Don't tell me his inheritance has become a variant one due to his bloodline.'

He then paused his thoughts and turned to Shin before turning back to Leonard. 'D*mn! These guys are becoming more and more of a monster.'

'It looks like I can lower my guard, or else these guys will surpass me in no time. That will be embarrassing given the head-start that I have,' he thought before a resolute expression replaced the one that he had.

"Sigh, I guess I have to put more effort into training now. What a drag," he unconsciously blurted out, which made Shin turn to him.

"What do you say, Senior Brother?" asked Shin confusedly as he finally snapped out of his daze.

David sighed once again before waving his head, telling Shin that it was not important.

It was at that moment when Leonard executed his movement technique and arrived in front of the two in the span of a second.

Seeing Leonard standing in front of them, the two now had the time to get a closer look at him. And the more they observed him, the more shocked they become.

"You look so strong now, Leo," commented Shin before a spark of competitiveness burned inside his heart. "How about we spar with each other after we get back?"

The battle hungriness of his Battle Genius talent was fully aroused right now due to a strong opponent in front of him. In fact, he could still feel an immense threat coming from Leonard even if the guy was not actively emitting his aura.

Leonard, who just received the ancient inheritance and awakened his bloodline, was eager to see how much stronger he had become. He would naturally not refuse such an invitation. "Sure, but I feel like I will collapse on my bed once we get back. I am already feeling the accumulated fatigue right now."

Shin chuckled before nodding his head. He fully understood what Leonard was feeling. Even he was feeling the same, especially when the latter had reminded him about it.

"Alright, let's go back. I still have to make a report for this," said David, inviting the two to quickly follow him.

While they were walking, David suddenly remembered something and turned to Leonard. "Oh, right! What about the Head Priestess and the shrine maidens? What happened to them? I can no longer feel the spatial distortion in front of the hut."

Hearing that, Leonard immediately recalled something and answered. "Ah! She said they will be leaving this place now. She also said that she no longer needs to protect this place since the inheritance of the Thunder Lord has already found its host."

"As for where she is headed, I have no idea," he added before taking out a talisman from his pocket and handing it to Shin. "She also said to give this to you."

He thought for a moment before continuing. "She said that you will need it in the near future. But she also wants to warn you that you can't use it until that time arrives."

Shin took the talisman and observed it for a while before asking. "And how do I know when it will be the right time to use this?"

Leonard shrugged as he also did not know the answer. "She just said that you will know when it was."

Shin continued to frown deeply before keeping the talisman. "Since she said that it will naturally come, then let's leave it as that."

In the meantime, David, who was listening silently to them, curiously looked at the talisman and closely observe it. Even with his knowledge, he could not figure out what was the purpose of that talisman.

At the very least, it was not meant to harm Shin, so he quickly threw it at the back of his head. Though, he was still quite curious about the identity of the said Head Priestess.

They were only quite a limited number of peak experts on the Path of Mentalism. And from what he knew, he had never heard of someone like her. He could at least tell that she was not someone, who was under a disguise to hide her real identity. But that was also the reason why he felt a little suspicious of her.

He was thinking to himself when he suddenly remembered something. He turned to the simple-looking hut and squinted his eyes. 'A hut, huh? Why do I feel that I have seen it somewhere?'

'I guess I have to ask Master about this Head Priestess when I get the chance. I am sure she will be able to deduce the real identity of this mysterious person.'

Chapter 1158 Minor Breakthrough

When Shin and Leonard got back, they were immediately bombarded by Arthur with countless questions. He refused to release the two without them telling him what their mission was, what they have experienced, and how it went.

They spent an entire night just narrating everything. This made the two, who were already on the last straw of their strength finally collapse on their bed, sleeping. They could not hear the shout of Arthur, who was trying his best to wake them up.

The two almost spent an entire day sleeping, making them skip their lesson at the academy once again. But since they were still on leave due to their previous mission, they were still excused.

Moreover, their schedule for that day was to head over to their respective departments. But since the academy was currently busy with the recent events that took place and they were investigating the mission of the elite clubs, those departments could not deal with the other students.

The Combat Department was the one, who was responsible for the security of the academy. They were also assigned to anything related to battles that involved the academy. After learning that they were some spies that infiltrated their ranks, the department was currently on high alert and in the middle of serious investigations.

They were running background checks on every student. And due to that, they were currently short when it came to manpower, so they relieved some of their instructions from their classes and ask them to help with the investigations.

The Support and Auxiliary Department were also quite busy. They were tending the wounds of the elite students that took part in the mission. And at the same time, they were also removing the explosive device that the students put in their bodies to prevent the opposing organization from experimenting on them.

Some of the students, who had serious injury. Just like Lester, who lost an arm. With the current technology, it would not be hard to regrow a limb or two. But it would take a very long time before they could do it.

It was also quite costly, so most of the people could not afford such treatment.

Due to how much time it took and how expensive it was, it was more convenient to have an implant of mechanical limbs instead. Though, it was not the best solution, the mechanical limbs were not that much different from the original one. It could even be better.

But there were also some drawbacks to it. The mechanical limbs could not improve naturally like normal. If they wanted to have stronger arms or legs, they had to change the parts to tougher and stronger ones.

But since Lester was one of the geniuses of the academy, and he was even injured during one of their missions, the Magic Ace Academy would put everything they could to help him regrow his arm.

Moreover, the World Research Center was currently located within the academy, which was also filled with world-class scientists and researchers, so it wouldn't be a problem.

As for the cost, it would not be a problem. Such a sum was nothing to the academy, especially when it could help one of their geniuses.

At the same time, the Science and Technology Department and the True Researchers Department were also very busy. In fact, they were the busiest out of all the departments.

Some of the captured mutated subjects and one of the artificial mutants were sent to them. They immediately started researching them the moment they received those subjects.

They had to uncover the secrets of the mutants to spot the Black Serpent Mafia from whatever they were planning. They could also concoct some antidotes that could be used to counter the serum enhancers that the organization had created.

...

The academy was currently in a very busy state which was why most of the students in the college programs were left alone. They were tasked to self-study until everything calmed down.

Due to this, Shin and the others did not have much of an issue with attending their respective classes. Their respective departments were involved with the current activities of the academy, so they could do nothing about it.

Even the instructors assigned to their regular classes were busy dealing with those tasks. Professor Kyrie was tasked with some assignments, which Shin had suspected to be related to the spies, while Old Man Lin was nowhere to be found due to some unknown circumstances. Shin thought that the old man was most likely been dragged by the elders of the academy for an important meeting.

With all of that, Shin and the rest of the students that were taking the special curriculum were left with nothing to do.

Most of the class took that opportunity to accept some mission from the Mission Hall of the academy so that they could deal with their monthly quota.

They also heard that Shin and Leonard had something to do with the current state of the school. They heard that the two were involved in a huge mission, which was the reason why they were absent for a couple of days.

The class did not want to be left behind, so they quickly moved and started accepting missions while they had the chance.

With all this, Shin did not have anything to do.

While the others were outside doing their own thing, Shin was meditating inside his room after a brief physical exercise. Even though he did not do it in the morning like his usual routine due to his fatigue, he still had to do regular exercise to avoid having a lazy habit of skipping his daily training.

Right now, he was meditating to consolidate all the harvest he gained from the previous mission.

He had already digested all the guidance that he received from the Head Priestess. Right now, he was only applying everything to make sure that he could further strengthen his foundation.

Once he was done with the meditation training, he immediately went to investigate his Bloodline.

According to the Head Priestess, his bloodline was hiding more secrets than he could imagine. Though, it was not as flashy as the other Mentalism Bloodlines from families with a long history, it was at least more perfect for Mentalism.

He might not have those flashy abilities, but the ones that he had were more beneficial for him.

His special physique, the Spiritual Embryo, was granted to him by his bloodline according to the Head Priestess. She said that his Spiritual Embryo was more mature compared to the others since he had awakened it when he was very young.

Aside from granting him the ability to properly wield both the Psychic and Combat Techniques of Mentalists, which made him a perfect Kaleidoscope Mentalist, it could also give him the ability to fuse his Mentalism and Martial much smoother and faster.

This made him the Perfect Dual-Practitioner.

But since he could not explore this area right now, due to his currently sealed Martial Arts, he could only explore the other abilities of his bloodline.

One of them was the ability that made it possible for him to wield a Divinity Grade Mental Energy despite his lower realm.

Given that, he could not try exploring the powers and other applications of Divinity Grade Mental Energy. He did not have the time for it before due to his circumstances, but it looked like he could do it now.

During the mission, the only thing that he knew about this mental energy was it was easier to control. It was also more flexible than his previous mental energy and much more domineering.

Those were the initial properties that he knew about it. Aside from that, he also found that it could fight against the Natural Force of a Martial Artist in the Ethereal Opening Stage.

He wanted to test how strong it was against those with higher levels of Natural Force which were formed with denser energies just like the one he saw from David.

Unfortunately, he could not do it right now, so it would be better to do it later. For now, he had to observe it a little more in closer inspection.

With that, he summoned his Divinity Grade Mental Energy.

Swoosh!

The visible yet transparent golden energy appeared on his hands, dancing like blazing flames. He squinted his eyes and observed them up close before controlling them with delicate movements of his hands.

From irregular shapes, he created some solid-looking figures like cubes, prism, pyramids, and stars. He continued to do it for a few minutes while increasing his speed.

From the point of view of the spectators, what he was doing seemed to be simple and meaningless actions. But from the experienced eyes of an expert, what he was doing was an amazing feat.

These simple-looking actions were how someone tests the flexibility of their mental energy as well as how high their control over those energies was. Having created these life-like figures signified that Shin had very high control over his mental energy.

At the same time, Shin also found that this energy was more 'solid' and much thicker than most of the Mental Energy that he had seen, so bending and molding them into these figures was much harder than the others would think.

Aside from testing those two aspects, this exercise also tested another thing. It was testing whether the Mentalist was close to creating 'something', which would signify that they could manifest a weapon made of Mental Energy.

That stage was only meant for expert mentalists in Rulers Realm, which was the counterpart of the currently doing right now.

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But given the speed on how fast he was switching between the shapes with his Mental Energy, it was Void Manifestation Stage of martial artists.

Though, they were some geniuses that could achieve this feat during the lower stages. At least at the peak of the Grandmaster Realm and the peak of the Ethereal Opening Stage.

Shin was still far from that stage, and he could only create simple forms and shapes like he was currently doing right now.

But given the speed on how fast he was switching between the shapes with his Mental Energy, it was clear that his control over already reached a level that was much higher than he was supposed to be. At least, not in current attainment.

Shin was aware of this. Realizing that he was already at this level, he knew that it was finally time to reach the late phase of the Grandmaster Realm.

"My realm regressed due to the previous incident when I awakened a portion of my bloodline, but it gives me a much more powerful mental energy and larger energy reserve."

"My Niwan Palace is already a variant one due to the unique practice of Four Symbol Scripture, yet it become much larger and studier than before."

"The Old Fatty have called it the 'Spirit Pagoda'."

Shin thought for a moment before muttering. "I have already regained my previous attainment and reached the middle phase once again. I've been stuck on this phase for quite a long time already, and I have already accumulated enough momentum, so I think it is time for a minor breakthrough."

"Once I've reached the late phase and consolidated my foundation, I will only be a step away from the peak of the Grandmaster Realm."

"I have already an idea of what my Natural Style will be because of the Natural State that I have just recently attained. This only leaves me with finding the other innate attributes of my other three methods and forming a unique Spirit Force."

"As for my Natural Body, the Head Priestess has told me that it will naturally be formed once I discover the other innate attributes. It is because of my special physique, the Spiritual Embryo – it is already a perfect vessel for me, so what I needed to do is strengthen it when that time comes."

Shin collected his thoughts before a resolute expression appeared on his face. He was already confident with this breakthrough, so he would immediately proceed with it.

And once he consolidated his minor realm, he would continue observing his Divinity Grade Mental Energy and uncover more of its abilities.

With all that, he sat cross-legged and straightened his back before closing his eyes, entering a deep meditation state.

Chapter 1159 Minor Breakthrough (Part 2)

Shin was sitting at the center of his room in a cross-legged position. He was still in a deep meditation state.

There was a strong gust of wind circling around him as his body seemed to be devouring the surrounding Force of Nature greedily and converting it into energy that he needed. It was as if quenching his thirst due to his current state.

There was also a transparent Mental Energy revolving around Shin, forming a vortex. But surprisingly, despite how strong the gust of wind and the vortex of mental energy around him, none of the objects inside the room were affected. It was as if everything was nothing but an illusion.

Inside Shin's consciousness, the pagoda that he was building was greedily devouring all the mental energy pouring into it.

Originally, there were only four floors present on it, signifying that he was at the peak of the initial phase of the Grandmaster Realm.

But right now, there were three additional floors on it, which was clearly telling that he did not only return to the middle phase but also surpassed it and stepped on the late phase of the realm already.

But compared to the first four floors, the next three floors were a little translucent and hazy. This clearly signified that their foundation was much weaker compared to the preceding ones. They were not as solid as those four floors.

This signified that he was still not completely at the late phase yet. In a sense, he could be considered a 'fake' late-phase Mentalist of the Grandmaster Realm.

But since his Spiritual Pagoda was more complex than normal Niwan Palace, and since it was built with his Divinity Grade Mental Energy, this power was still more powerful compared to most of the Mentalists around the world, especially the average ones.

After a couple of minutes, Shin slowly opened his eyes, which were releasing a pale transparent golden glow.

He slowly exhaled before looking at his hands. He opened and closed them, seemingly testing his strength before summoning his mental energy.

He observed it for a few moments before doing the same mental energy exercise.

He nodded his head after quite some time, but still wear a little frown in the end. He indeed broke through, but he could still find that something was missing. He felt that his strength was still not complete.

"The Head Priestess is right. I really could take advantage of the strength of my bloodline to forcefully have a minor breakthrough and rely on my Divinity Grade Mental Energy to build decent floors for my Spirit Pagoda," he muttered as he continued to observe the changes that he had.

"I've returned to the middle phase by relying on it, now I used the same method to break through. This bloodline of mine sure is mysterious," he added as he recalled the guidance that he received from the Head Priestess.

The more he learned about his Bloodline, the more satisfied he became.

"Now, all I have to do is explore the other innate attributes that I have and integrate them into my system later. After that, I can finally focus on combining the systems of the Four Symbol Scripture and the Jade Kirin Scripture."

Just like what David had said to him before, having multiple disciplines would give him a lot of advantages, but it would also give him a couple of disadvantages, especially when it came to time management.

But by cutting down all the tasks that he had to focus on, he could save more time and put more attention to specific things without neglecting the others.

Now that he had temporarily dealt with his realm, he could solely focus on exploring his innate attributes.

"This would do for now," he muttered before thinking about his next course of action. "I should consolidate my realm first before asking Arthur and Leonard for a few sparring matches to make me get used to my current state."

"After that, I will proceed with the assignments that Old Man Lin had given us," he muttered before looking at the pile of books beside him.

Those were the breathing techniques that Old Man Lin had tasked him to learn before he went out on the mission.

He did not have time before, but if he still hadn't finished learning these breathing skills before the resume of their special classes, then he would surely be in trouble when Old Man Lin learned about it.

The first week of the group in the Magic Ace Academy went by just like that. And alongside it, the re-opening of the servers of the most famous game, «Destiny's Fate» Online, was also fast approaching.

But since Monday and Tuesday were considered as 'weekends' for the game, the servers would only be up until Wednesday.

The players would have to wait until then.

This was also a bonus for the employees and game developers of the World Gaming Organization. They were given at least two days of vacation to enjoy themselves and relax – or rest.

But this did not change the schedule. The World Gaming Organization still released additional information about the update of the game.

...

Shin, Arthur, and Leonard were currently lying on the floor of a training room within the branch of the Flying Dragon Corporation. Since their houses were still in the middle of construction, they still did not have a proper and private place to train.

The training grounds of the academy were a good choice since they were equipped with the most advanced tools and equipment that they could use.

Unfortunately, they needed to spend their merit points to use them, and the three were too stingy enough for those. The regular training ground was too crowded, so they would not be able to hide their cards from the others, particularly the spying ones that were keeping an eye on them.

To protect their secrets, the three choose to head to the Flying Dragon Corporation. Arthur was still a young master of the corporation, so even if he was not interested in taking over it, he was still free to use their influence and properties if necessary, and only if he was using it reasonably.

Using their facilities such as training grounds was not a big deal.

They just finished their three-way battle, which was why the three of them were currently in their current state.

While resting, Arthur suddenly remembered something and said. "The servers are going to be available for two days. What is the plan?"

Shin rolled his eyes. "We have already talked about this before, haven't we? We agree to do our own things when the server is up and regroup again when we are going to move to the Awakened Continent."

Arthur clicked his tongue and refuted. "I know that! What I am talking about is the upcoming cup!"

Shin knitted his brows as he tried to remember the schedule of the tournaments that the World Gaming Organization had organized. But no matter how hard he thought about it, he still could not remember that there was anything that was coming up around this time.

Arthur quickly sat up and turned to Shin. And when he saw that the latter did not have any idea of what he was talking about, he could not help but reprimand his brother. "Hey! I know that you are not interested in any fame or whatnot, but at least pay attention to the big events that the virtual world has."

"You are already a Godlike Player for f*ck's sake!" he added as he glared at Shin.

Shin knitted his brow and looked at Arthur confusedly. "What are you talking about? Didn't the next big tournament the Hegemon Cup? There are still two months before it."

Arthur rolled his eyes at Shin and continued. "Hey! You are no longer a solo player, so you can't just focus on individual events! There are still group events! We are already a team; can't you also pay attention to events related to that?"

Shin tilted his head to the side and asked innocently. "Isn't it the job of Commander of our Adventurer Team? Why do I have to think about that?"

"Argh!" Arthur pulled his hair out of frustration when he heard that.

Leonard, who was still exhausted, could not help but laugh at the two for their exchanges. At the same time, he was also quite surprised that they were still full of energy after their three-way battle.

Seeing that Arthur was on the verge of losing his mind, Leonard chimed in. "He is talking about the United Cup. It is a competition that concerns different organizations of the game."

"It is one of the major factors that is needed for the rankings of the organizations aside from the Festival War at the end of the year," he added.

Arthur nodded his head and quickly added a few more information. "This time, the Hegemon Cup is further delayed for at least another month or two because of the huge update. The 'WGO' is thinking to give the players more time to adjust themselves with the new mechanic of the game."

"They also want us to explore more about it and give us enough time to familiarize ourselves with the new fighting styles and combat techniques added in the game."

He paused for a moment to catch his breath a little before continuing. "But in exchange, the United Cup is moving forward. It is also an opportunity that the players can use to further familiarized themselves with the new game mechanic, particularly those special states."

"At the same time, it is also another chance to look for more invitees that can participate in Hegemon Cup."

"Since the game was advancing to another level, and with the addition of the new mechanic that it has, there are some hidden talents that are bound to appear. The game company will surely take this chance to scout them and be invited to the Hegemon Cup."

Shin nodded in understanding after hearing their explanation. But still, he turned at the two with a clueless expression. "What about it?"

Hearing that, the other two could not help but look at Shin with a weird look before simultaneously cursing. "F*ck!"

Chapter 1160 Plans

Shin felt that his ear would be torn off after Arthur and Leonard scolded him for his ignorance. He had been playing the game for quite a while now, yet he was still oblivious to what a Godlike Player represented.

After listening to their sermon for seemingly more than an hour, Shin felt more exhausted. It was as if he was more tired this time compared to fighting the two earlier.

"Okay, okay! I hear you two. We will participate in that United Cup or something. Just tell Cloe to inform the others," said Shin, completely exhausted.

"What participate? We are going to win it! That is what we have to achieve at the very least, lower than that is never been an option!" said Arthur, seemingly not yet satisfied with reprimanding Shin.

Leonard chuckled before chiming in. "We still have more than a month to prepare for it, so there is really no need to hurry."

"Though, preparing ahead of time is really needed when it comes to this kind of event," he added.

Shin thought for a moment before saying. "We have to give our team more time to deal with our respective businesses first. It is best if we have cleared all the quests and missions that we have before proceeding with it."

"It is even better if we are able to pass the tests for the qualification to enter the Awakened Continent. Though, I doubt that it will be easy, given the timeframe that the World Gaming Organization had given the players," he added as he recalled the additional information about the current patch.

He thought for a moment before saying. "Get me some information on the groups that you think will be joining the United Cup. And give me some notes on who I have to be wary of. Let me study them."

Arthur and Leonard stared at Shin for a moment with their brows raising. It was rare for this guy to put some effort when it came to these things, but when he did, the target of his interest would always suffer.

'What is this guy planning now?' thought the two before nodding their heads.

...

After the three took a bath and were currently changing their clothes, Shin suddenly remembered something and asked. "Ah, Arthur! About that job that Senior Laurent that you are talking about-..."

Shin still hadn't completed what he wanted to say when Arthur quickly understood what he wanted to ask. "Ah, that one? It is to take place one of the performers that he has for the event that they are supposed to cater."

He paused for a moment and tilted his head to the side. "But there is something strange about it. When the rest of the club agreed to accept it, and when we are about to head over to the venue, Senior Laurent suddenly takes back the task and tells us that the event is canceled altogether."

"What is strange about that? Maybe they are understaffed for that particular event, or some emergency was going on?" said Shin before adding. "And I even saw Senior Laurent in our missions, so he canceled it because of it?"

Arthur inclined his head toward the other side while putting his hand under his chin. "Well, that can also be the reason. But the thing is the Potter Twins say something strange."

Shin and Leonard looked at him with inquiring looks, seeming telling him to continue. Arthur knitted his brow and pursed his lips as he complied. "They said that the venue that we are supposed to be is quite near to a place where a strange phenomenon is happening."

"That place seems to be full of miasma that is affecting the surrounding. The trees and plants in the place seem to be in complete draught. The deeper area seems to be in a corrupted state or something – that is what those two have said," he added.

Shin thought for a moment before asking. "But how do those two know about it?"

Arthur shrugged his shoulders. "I am not sure either. But it seems like their family tasks those two with a special assignment before and it is somewhat related to that place."

Shin also found it suspicious, but with their lack of information, he could not come up with the proper conclusion. He could only suspect that it might be related to another inheritance.

After all, the Heavenly Taste Restaurant giving them that inheritance marble, Shin could only think that those people might be looking for someone that could help them. Or at least people that could possibly host an inheritance or something.

Unfortunately, he did not have enough evidence to support his claim. He could only throw at the back of his head for the time being.

But before he could totally throw those thoughts away, Arthur suddenly injected. "How about we investigate it? It sounds fun and exciting!"

Shin shook his head and said. "Even if it is, we don't have enough time for it. We still have our classes, and the game servers are about to re-open. Do you think we can still afford to concern ourselves about it?"

"Having classes in the morning until the afternoon and logging back in the game at night – that sure is a hectic schedule," muttered Arthur with a knitted brow before quickly recovering. "Well, that is no different from my schedule during elementary and middle school days."

The corner of Shin's mouth twitched when he heard that. He then shook his head and smile bitterly. "You are really hopeless."

Arthur shrugged his shoulders in response. "Well, you can't blame me. That is how I live my life."

Leonard could not help but laugh when he heard Arthur talking like an old man. He then quickly added. "That will not be a problem since playing the game while using the gaming cabins will make it possible."

"Moreover, the 3:1 time ratio of game vs reality is also a big help. Adding the experience and drop boost that the new game is offering on the next patch whenever the players log out inside their quarters or an inn, we don't have to worry about being left too much behind," he added.

Shin nodded but quickly added. "The problem is how much time will take us until we completed our respective missions. If we finish it early, then we will have a slight advantage since we can prepare early. But if some of us are late, then it will be a little trickier."

"I still have to make preparations for the establishment of our city and the relocation of Calderock Town after promoting it. But since big sister is not around, I guess I can only set it aside once again."

He paused for a moment before nodding his head. "But given her personality, I am sure that she has already made her own preparations, so there is no point to worry too much about it."

"The main problem is still how are we going to divide the shares of the city," he muttered while hugging his head due to the upcoming headache when the negotiations started.

"I just hope that Ribbit was able to collect all the necessary cards that we need for it," he added before turning to the two. "What are your plans anyway? What kind of quests are going to take?"

Arthur shrugged as he answered. "There is nothing much to do on my side aside from submitting the complication of my Empire Quest. I may as well try taking my Class Promotion Quest while I am at it."

"After that, I will try investigating the thing that the Alliance Leader of the Wings Alliance has requested us."

Shin knitted his head before saying. "Before that, you have to give me the information about the place where I can find a Meteorite like you promised!"

"Ah! I almost forget about that! I will send you the coordinates and the information about the place later," answered Arthur as he remembered his promise.

"What about you?" asked Shin, turning to Leonard.

Leonard shrugged his shoulders and simply answered. "I guess I will go back to the God of War Temple and submit a couple of my complete quests. Then I guess train there until everyone is ready for the Awakened Continent."

"I may also try tackling my Class Promotion Quest, if possible," he added, saying that he only had similar plans with Arthur.

"Why are you talking about our plans?" asked Arthur suspiciously as he could feel that Shin was hiding something.

Unfortunately, Shin shook his head and denied the suspicion of his brother. "Nothing, I am just thinking how long you guys will take when dealing with your businesses so that I can time mine as well."

'I hope I will be the first person to possess an Obsidian Rank item once I am able to promote the rank of the [Yamato],' he thought inside while imagining the reaction of the two once he successfully completed the quest for it.

The two looked suspiciously at Shin, knowing that he was hiding something. But since they could not dig any information about him, they chose not to press any longer.

Though, they felt that they might have forgotten something.