

Destiny 1211

Chapter 1211 Making Preparations

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Shin logged out of the game with his mind thinking about the mantle that he had received from completing the quest.

It was said to be a Racial- and Class-Specific Item, which meant that it was tailor-made Nephilim Race. And given the aura that it was released despite being a sealed item, its complete state was most likely a powerful item that was comparable to [Yamato], if not stronger.

But what intrigued him the most was the last notification that he had received from the system. It said that he could fuse the [Daydreamer's Mantle] with the [Nightwalker's Cloak] that he was already wearing at that time.

This meant that the two cloaks were most likely a part of a set. Or to be more precise, the [Nightwalker's Cloak] was one of the missing pieces of the complete version of the cloak, which was said to be the [Cloak of Divinity].

This made Shin think about the first time he had gotten the [Nightwalker's Cloak]. From what he could remember, the cloak was just a lower-grade item at that time. He had used quite a few enhancement stones to upgrade its rank before asking Harmony to further strengthen it and promoted its rank to Black Mithril straight away.

If the [Nightwalker's Cloak] was originally part of the [Cloak of Divinity], then he most likely had missed something when he first got it.

"I don't think that it is not that an important item though?" he thought. "Or maybe something happened during its evolution and somehow became a special item."

It was at that moment when he remembered something. "Did it become a 'Dissonant Wish' item?"

"I have read from the forums that when an item is accompanying its owner for a long time and goes through a lot of battles together, there is a certain chance that it can evolve into a special item."

"But I am sure that there is a special condition before it happens. The player needs to create a series of legends and build up a certain amount of fame before it can happen. And because it is too hard to accomplish, this theory has become a myth."

He then suddenly paused as he thought of another possibility. "Don't tell me it is because I am a Transcendent Race?"

He thought that it was highly possible since Transcendent Races themselves were nothing but a mere legend for ordinary folks.

On top of this, Shin had also faced and defeated quite a number of players with Transcendent Race or something with a similar strength.

All the missions and quests that he had done were also highly difficult and granted him a lot of reputation points and fame.

It would not be strange if he really became a legend to the NPCs of the game.

"Then, does this mean that the [Nightwalker's Cloak] had become a special vessel for the four broken pieces of the [Cloak of Divinity]?" he mumbled before shaking his head.

He would think about this again later when he got back online. He had postponed fusing the two items earlier to prove a few of his theories. He had to first ask the others about this before proceeding.

He then went for his morning training before taking a shower and getting ready to head to the academy.

But before that, he had to feed his 'children' first, who were waiting for him on the other room.

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When he came to the room across his, he immediately saw Arthur and Leonard lying lazily on the sofas, completely unmotivated. It looked like they had lost any motivation in life.

"What's with the two of you?" said Shin chucklingly as he walked past them.

"Urgh! Don't get me started, you bastard! Someone like you, who fools around instead of doing your promotion quest, will not understand our pain and suffering," replied Arthur as he lazily adjusted his position on the sofa.

"Fooling around? Do you know what I have gone through just to capture those guys?" he refuted before quickly adding. "Moreover, capturing them is also a part of my promotion quest. I have to capture them first before I can enter the trial grounds."

"Whatever, you still enjoy fighting such an opponent and honing your skills," snarled Arthur back.

On the other hand, Leonard suddenly chimed in. "By the way, I noticed something strange from Haowin during your battle. Is he also a user of Reality Manifestation? But I also notice something different during the battle though."

Shin pursed his lips a little and thought before answering. "I am not sure either. But it seems like he is using a different method compared to Reality Manifestation and Hyperactive Immersion."

"So, there is another secret mechanic out there, which is known to others, huh?" mumbled Arthur while scratching his chin. "It seems like these secret mechanics will continuously pop out starting now."

"The new age of virtual reality games is starting to take shape. Even your 'ex', Flouree, also has her own version of it," said Leonard teasingly.

Hearing that, Shin suddenly halted his steps and turned to Arthur. "Really? Is that girl really his ex-girlfriend?"

Swoosh!

Shin then saw a pillow flying toward him right after he said those words. He caught it almost at the same time before teasing Arthur. "D*mn! I did not see that coming. I thought that you have never experienced being in a romantic relationship since birth?"

"Argh! Stop that already! I never have that kind of relationship with her!" said Arthur frustratingly before adding. "We used to play together in one of the games that I have become addicted to. We are also on the same team, so we see each other almost every day."

"She has misinterpreted my kind gesture towards her whenever we are working together."

"She then becomes upset when I tell her that I only see her as a sister or something. That is when she becomes that violent whenever she sees me."

Hearing that, Leonard started laughing as he had already known about that history. On top of that, there were also quite a few incidents that he found very funny and hilarious that Arthur refused to say.

Whenever Leonard thought about it, he could not stop himself from laughing.

In the meantime, Shin gave Arthur a weird look, which quickly turned into 'disgust'. "What? Did you really manipulate a poor girl's heart before dumping her? Ah~! I have no idea that you are such a terrible person."

Arthur suddenly choked when he heard that and started coughing continuously.

Leonard, on the other hand, started laughing much harder. He was hugging his stomach with both of his hands as he could no longer stop himself from laughing anymore.

It took him a while before he was finally able to calm himself down. Shin was already done preparing for breakfast.

"I don't see Senior Brother and that pair of cousins," said Shin initiating the conversation when he failed to find the trio of David, Jerimiah, and Vincent.

"I heard that they are sent for a special mission from the academy, so they have left early," said Leonard as he took a bowl and filled it with rice.

"Mission? Again? They have just finished a big one recently along with the two of you, yet they are out to do something again?" commented Arthur with a frown.

"It is said that the Student Council has made a deal with them after following their arrangements from the previous mission," replied Leonard. "I also heard that Shin's seniors from the Sleeping Dragons have already been sent there when the previous mission is currently underway."

"The three of them are the reinforcements sent to assist them," added Leonard before devouring the food in front of him. He had become too hungry after that laughing session earlier.

Shin and Arthur gave him a weird and questioning look when they heard him. The two of them seemed to be asking how the hell Leonard knew about something like that.

Leonard understood what they were trying to say with those gazes and quickly answered. "I heard it from my master. I visited him yesterday since that Promotion Quest is driving me crazy. I have to learn a few new moves before I proceed."

Hearing something about the game made Shin forget what they were talking about earlier. He suddenly became interested in the Promotion Quests that the two were doing since he was also about to start his.

He wanted to get some ideas from them so that he could prepare for his own Promotion Quest.
"Speaking of it, how are your processes? Anything worth mentioning?"

The expression of the two immediately turned weird when he heard that. Their eating speed also slowed down significantly before Shin asked once again. "What's wrong? Is promoting to Tier 3 really that hard?"

The corner of Arthur's mouth suddenly twitched before replying. "It is not just hard. It is stupidly impossible to clear under normal situations."

"What do you mean?" pressed Shin further.

"It is not like an overcomplicated type of quest or anything. In fact, it is a pretty much straightforward quest if you ask me," said Arthur with a deep and heavy sigh.

This time, Leonard suddenly chimed in and explained. "The quest itself is not that hard to figure out. The problem is the conditions and types of opponents that you will face."

"From what I can tell, the Tier 3 Promotion Quests are meant to break the limits that everyone has inside the game. It is also meant to polish our fighting styles and reach its most perfect state."

"It is also tailored specially for each individual after considering their fighting style, martial arts, mentalism techniques, natures, and other factors."

"The more complicated your overall style is, the harder it can be."

He then paused and pointed to himself. "Take mine for example."

"The Trial Grounds that I have been assigned to is a dense and complicated jungle. It is the best terrain to hone my 'Bestial Instincts' and martial arts."

"I am assigned to endure the continuous assault of different kinds of monsters there for at least three days straight before I meet the minimum requirement for clearing the promotion quest."

"It is a pretty straightforward approach and even fits my needs and style perfectly. But the main problem was the number of monsters that I had to fight."

"They also vary from different kinds of monsters. From wolves, boars, bears, tigers, mammoths, lions, serpents, birds, insects, and many more. I even have to fight living plants from time to time."

"What made it very troublesome was their attacking pattern. They attack randomly, so I must keep my focus sharp all the time if I want to survive. There are also times when monsters launch a coordinated attack that can make me curse due to how disgusting it is."

He paused once again before saying. "It is hard. And I doubt that I will be able to clear it any time soon."

"I also have to keep my Reality Manifestation fully active most of the time since fighting those monsters is impossible if I only rely on my in-game skills and combat techniques. Martial Arts play an important role in clearing it. I am sure of it."

After thinking for a moment, he suddenly added. "But there are also some gains while I am enduring everything. I have noticed that my mentality is being honed greatly as I continue to train there. Even my martial arts are also taking shape very fast."

"I think that promotion quest is more helpful despite how much torture it is giving me."

Leonard thought a little more and remembered something. "Ah! Using an Elemental Possession inside is also forbidden, so you have to keep that in mind."

Shin nodded his head as he started noting down the important information that I had gotten. It also proved that the secret mechanics that they had discovered were one of the keys to clearing these Tier 3 Promotion Quests.

After that, he turned to Arthur and waited for the latter to share his own experience.

Arthur rolled his eyes when he sensed Shin's gaze while eating. He then replied in a nonchalant manner. "Mine is much simpler than his. I am put in a Dragon's Grave and tasked to kill an ancient dragon."

"It is too frustrating to fight because that stupid dragon is too overpowered, especially with its stupidly big body. I have failed in the quest for the 7th time already, so I am planning to take a rest for a while and unwind somewhere."

Arthur thought for a moment before nodding. "Yeah. It seems like training there is quite beneficial despite the tortures that it has. My understanding of my martial arts reached a new height even though all I have done there is being beaten up and getting killed all the time."

Shin stared at Arthur for a little more before asking. "Is that all? Is there no other important clue or idea to add?"

"Tsk! What do you want me to add then?" snarled Arthur in annoyance.

He then paused for a moment as he suddenly remembered something. He started sighing after than before looking at Shin with pity. "Since you also have a Secondary Combat Class, then I suggest you brace yourself since the difficulty of our quest is much higher than the rest."

"This is the first time I started to regret getting my Dragon Cavalier Class," he added with a sigh that was full of regret.

Chapter 1212 Making Preparations (Part 2)

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While eating, Shin suddenly remembered the other thing that he would like to ask. "Oh! There is actually another matter that I would like to ask."

"I think my cloak has turned into a Dissonant Wish item. Is it really possible?" he asked while turning to the two.

To his surprise, the two seemed to be acting as if it was not a big deal. It was as if the thing that the players could only think of as a legend was nothing special to them.

Leonard continued to eat while Arthur nonchalantly replied. "So, it is finally your turn to have yours, huh? It takes longer than I expected."

Shin turned to him and threw an inquiring gaze. His eyes were telling the latter to elaborate on what he just said.

Arthur chuckled and replied. "What is there to ask? I am sure that you have already read the discussions and articles in the online forums. Those are written by me."

Hearing that, Shin suddenly came to a realization and commented. "No wonder the writing style is too poor. The information is too vague and hard to understand too."

Arthur continued to chuckle in response. "What do you expect from me? Will I really give out free information on such a sensitive topic? I make a sound like a superstition or sorts."

Shin rolled his eyes and refuted. "I bet Leo has written it down and you are the one who posted it in one of your alternative accounts."

After that, he suddenly asked. "So, how is it really possible? Is it related to our Transcendent Races and Classes?"

Arthur thought for a moment before replying. "Every legend has an item or two that represents themselves."

"Transcendent Races are legends themselves since they were either the envoys that represent the gods from the higher plane or figures that have reached the heights that no one else can achieve."

"Most of the heroes from the previous eras within the game were Transcendent Races or someone with special bloodlines flowing through their veins. This is the reason why we can consider as legendary figures."

"As long as we meet a certain number of conditions, we will be considered as a true legend within the game. And along with it, the items that represent us will be awakened and become a part of us."

"Just like the other Dissonant Wish items that are scattered all over the Atlas World, we will gain something similar."

"It is not entirely the same since Dissonant Wish Items are items that contain the unfulfilled wishes of fallen legends, whereas ours are items that represent our achievements."

"It is not called 'Dissonant Wish' but 'Sacred Relics'."

Arthur paused for a moment to eat before continuing. "Given that you are asking me this question means that your 'Sacred Relics' is still in the middle of awakening."

"I bet you have gotten your hands on a special item that is similar to your personal relic and the two are about to fuse with each other. Tell me what type of 'Sacred Relic' you have awaked."

Reaching this point, Arthur's face was immediately filled with pride and said. "By the way, mine is my spear. It accompanied me since my early days in the game. I have gotten it since I was level 15, so the history that it has witnessed is something you will not be able to imagine."

"I call it the Divine Dragon Spear," he added while waiting for Shin to answer.

The corner of Shin's mouth suddenly twitched when he saw the smug look that Arthur was having. He had gotten the urge to smack the face of the guy.

While Shin was suppressing the urge to punch Arthur's face, the latter suddenly added. "Oh! Leo's Sacred Relic is his Lion's Helm."

"Pretty lame, right?" added Arthur before laughing.

Leonard ignored Arthur as he was already used to it.

Then the two turned their heads back to Shin, waiting for him to tell them his Sacred Relic. They were quite curious about what it was.

Shin looked at the two for a moment before sighing. "It is my cloak."

The two did not reply immediately as they could not believe what they just heard. But after confirming that they did not hear it wrong, the two slowly turned to each other before bursting out with intense laughter.

"A cloak! He said it is a cloak!"

"I don't expect this from Shin Bro either!"

Shin shook his head and said. "What can I do? The [Nephilim's Gemini Mask] and the [Yamato] are signature items of the Nephilim Race. Even though they are the longest that accompany my adventures inside the game, they can't be my sacred relic since they are already 'Sacred Relics' themselves."

It took a while before the two managed to calm themselves down.

Then Arthur suddenly asked. "So, which of the two cloaks? Is it the fancy one filled with black feathers or the tattered one that looked like a beggar's clothing?"

The corner of Shin's mouth twitched once heard those words. He really wanted to punch this guy in the face right now. Even though those two cloaks were top-quality items, Arthur was teasing him about their appearance.

With a sigh, he said. "It is the [Nightwalker's Cloak]."

"Oh~!"

"I see."

The two replied before falling into deep thought.

Then Leonard suddenly asked. "Does it have become a vessel of another sacred relic or special item?"

Shin looked at him with a little confusion before nodding his head. "Yeah. I've gotten my hands on a class-specific item that seemed to be sealed. It is one of the parts of an item called [Cloak of Divinity]."

Leonard nodded his head and mumbled. "I see. So, yours is a Devouring Type Relic."

"Mine and Leo's are both evolutionary types," said Arthur, seemingly answering the question that Shin was about to say.

"What is the difference between the two? And is one better than the other?" asked Shin in response.

Arthur thought for a moment before shaking his head. "No, neither is better than the other. The way of their improvement is just a little different."

"Evolutionary Types like ours are something that evolves alongside their owners. As long as we meet certain conditions, we will unlock new abilities and special effects along the way."

"It is actually not that special."

"Devouring Types, on the other hand, is just like what you have been expecting. They devour items that can be beneficial in their growth and create abilities based on what the devoured item has."

"Evolutionary Types follow a steady route and grow stronger as time passes. The abilities that we gain also perfectly fit what we need."

"Meanwhile, Devouring Types grow at a much slower pace since they are picky 'eaters', but once they have devoured an item, they will become much stronger. The abilities that they gain every time they devour an item are somewhat random.

"But most of the time, they are also based on the abilities that the devoured item has, so you must make sure that you are picking the right items that perfectly fit your style."

"It is the best way to avoid your Sacred Relic from deviating from the path that supposedly complements your overall style."

Shin fell in silence before nodding his head. Arthur might be a fool most of the time, but when it came to gaming, he was a pretty reliable person.

It was something that you can expect from a gaming addict.

This time, Leonard suddenly injected. "You said that the item that you have gotten is a class-specific one, right? Then it will still be a pretty good one."

"It has sealed abilities, though," said Shin with a frown.

"Don't worry! It is an item that you have gotten from the Church of the Sun and Moon. It is even handed to you by an Archbishop Rank NPC. I am sure that it will be fine," said Arthur.

"Just treat it as a special gacha item that boosts your chances of winning the best stats that you can have," he added, trying to convince Shin.

Shin looked at Arthur with a suspicious gaze before falling into his own thoughts. No matter how reliable this guy was in this kind of information, he was still aware that this brother of his liked to fool around most of the time.

He still had to be careful.

In the meantime, on the other side of the globe, a beautiful young lady just came out from a luxurious building behind her.

Shiella, who wanted to personally take care of the business that the Springfield family had here in Sun-Moon Continent, just finished everything that needed to be done.

The negotiations with the government of the Sun-Moon Continent went much smoother than anyone had expected due to her appearance.

Not only she had presented them with a pretty good deal that was hard to refuse, but she had also 'proposed' something that even the representatives of the Sun-Moon Government had a hard time rejecting.

They were originally planning to make it hard for the representatives of the Springfield Family to negotiate. But every time they gave a sharp comment or showed some signs of disinterest, Shiella would always come up with a brilliant idea that shut their mouths.

And when it was their turn to present their proposal, Shiella found dozens of 'problems' that supposedly never had existed.

She had nitpicked at everything and shut the mouths of the representatives of the other party.

The Sun-Moon Government had invited some specialists just for this negotiation, but all of them were defeated by Shiella alone.

She used different strategies when negotiating, particularly intimidation. Despite her young age, she was able to release an aura that shut everyone up whenever she was negotiating.

As for the younger specialists, they could not suppress their inner desire as Shiella had enchanted them just by her looks. They could only nod their heads subconsciously whenever she asked for some demands.

The opposing side was utterly defeated.

She had closed the deal with a speed that even the people from the Springfield Family had not expected.

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After dealing with every necessary procedure, Shiella then visited the Lufus Weapon Arms Group.

This time, she would be asking for compensation that the other side would not be able to avoid. And given that the Sun-Moon Government had already signed a deal with the Springfield Family, they would not be able to interfere with this issue, afraid that they would provoke the young demoness.

Realizing that they were already at a disadvantage, the Lufus Family decided to comply with all the demands that the Springfield Family would ask.

But what surprised them was that Shiella was asking for the life of the young master of the Lufus Family, Justin Lufus.

The Lufus Family would naturally not hand over their young master no matter what. Forget about everything else, but it would be a great humiliation if they did.

Not only they would be a laughingstock in the whole continent, but they would also be a huge joke in the entire world.

The Sun-Moon Government wanted to mediate, but when Shiella presented them with a series of piles and evidence of what the Lufus Family had done, the government could no longer involve themselves in this matter.

If they insisted on helping the Lufus family, then it was no different from being their accomplice and they would have to deal with the consequences that came along with it.

With how solid the evidence that Shiella had presented, it was impossible for the Lufus Family to avoid this issue.

Their shady business could be somewhat ignored, but sending mercenaries to assassinate the young masters of the Springfield Family was a serious crime.

Not only the Lufus Family had failed, but they were caught red-handed too.

The only way to resolve everything was to hand over Justin to the Springfield Family, who was the 'main' perpetrator of the assassination.

"I will give you three days to consider. If you still have not decided by that time, then I will help you come up with a decision."

Those were the words that Shiella had left behind before she left.

Chapter 1213 Meeting

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Shiella walked through the corridor of the hotel, heading toward the VIP room where she was staying. The guards that were accompanying her walked a few steps away from her while constantly sweeping their gazes at the surroundings.

They were currently on the turf of the opposing side, so they had to make sure that everything was safe for her, especially since she was openly provoking the Lufus Family.

Even though the Sun-Moon Government was showing them a welcoming gesture on the outside, they still could not let their guards down since anything could happen in the dark.

Fortunately, the Cilvana Family was supporting them. This hotel was also owned by them, so the security was also very trustworthy.

With the combined forces of the Cilvana and Springfield Families, it would be hard for any underhanded tricks could happen.

While walking, Anna suddenly hastened her steps to catch up to Shiella. After that, she quickly whispered. "Young Miss, the person that Commander Nathan asked us to help is already here."

Shiella raised her brows in interest before asking. "Where is she now?"

Anna quickly replied. "She is currently disguised as one of the guards that we have brought. But to prevent anyone from recognizing her, we ask her to stay in her room during our stay here. At least until we finish everything that we have to accomplish before we leave."

Shiella nodded her head before saying. "Alright. Let's meet this girl first. I am quickly curious on how she is related to uncle."

Anna quickly responded. "It is said that someone requested the commander to help her."

Shiella's curiosity reached its peak when she heard that as it was very rare for her uncle to accept this kind of request. This could only mean that the person that they were helping was an important figure or a talent that was worth scouting for.

"Give me the information that you have gathered about her. Let me check something," said Shiella.

But to her surprise, Anna did not hand her anything. "I am sorry young miss, but this person is very mysterious. She suddenly appears out of nowhere."

"But based on the assessment of our people, she seems to be a highly skilled mentalist who is comparable to the geniuses of the Mentalist Families. They said that she is as good as Miss Mariel of the Potter Clan."

This time, suspicion suddenly aroused within Shiella as she found that something was not right.

She paused her steps for a moment as her brain worked faster. She was using her Prudent Ace talent to think about any possible answers to her questions. However since she lacked crucial information, she could not come up with a conclusion.

Her curiosity was piqued, which made her smile. "Now, I am really curious about this person. Let's meet her."

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Knock! Knock!

After a couple of knocks on the door, Anna said. "Miss Allie, my young miss wants to meet you."

It did not take long for the person on the other side to answer. "Come in. I also want to meet her."

Click!

Opening the door for Shiella, Anna bowed and let her young miss to enter. She was instructed to not let anyone from entering other than her since the identity of this person she was meeting was quite special.

Click!

When the door closed, Shiella looked around the room and nodded her head in satisfaction. It was to her taste, so she did not feel uncomfortable.

Walking further inside the room, she saw a young lady, who seemed to be around her age, standing by the window.

Sheilla was quite a beauty herself, so she could recognize someone with the same level of appearance as hers. Even though she could only see an average look on the other party, her instincts were telling her that this person was a beautiful person hiding in disguise.

"It is nice to meet you, Miss Allie," said Shiella as a greeting.

The young lady turned to her and smiled. "The pleasure should be mine."

She paused and walked over to the nearby sofa while gesturing to Shiella. "Please have a seat. It seems like we will be having a long chat."

As a mentalist herself, Allyssa, or rather Allie right now, sensed that there were a lot of questions running inside Shiella's head.

Shiella smiled and took a seat before saying. "But isn't quite rude to hide your real appearance when you are asking for a favor, don't you think?"

Allie giggled a little as she could tell that Shiella was purposely trying to sound rude as a form to sound her out. But she did not back down. "I am sorry, Miss Shiella. But I have a situation that I can't help but hide under this disguise. Once I remove it, I will not be able to cast the illusion once again for quite a long time. I will be in deeper trouble when it happens."

"Is it because of the government official that you have assassinated? You can rest assured, that we can handle that much as long as you have enough evidence to back up your actions," said Shiella with a confident tone.

"That guy deserves to die. He forces his way into young women and treats them as his plaything. I am disgusted by him, so I have to dispose of him when I catch him red-handed," replied Allie with a casual tone.

She then paused for a moment before adding. "But that is not the main issue why I am hiding my real identity. You must forgive me for this, Miss Shiella, but it is an order from my master, so I can't disclose it."

Shiella did not take her eyes off Allie, trying to thoroughly read her. But after observing the latter for quite some time, she did not find anything suspicious. Everything that the latter said was true.

After a brief moment of silence, Shiella nodded her head and said. "I understand."

She then paused before changing the subject. "But can you at least tell me how you are related to my uncle?"

"Don't get me wrong, but it is quite unlike him to accept a request like this, especially when it comes to people that he is unfamiliar with. I am not sure if..."

Allie was able to quickly realize what Shiella was trying to say and waved her hands and shook her head. "Ah! It is not like that. I am not his secret child or anything."

"Actually, I am not even expecting that the Springfield Family will help me get out of this continent either."

She then paused and calmed herself down before continuing. "The one that I asked for help is my Martial Brother. I know that he has some connections since he is roaming around the world and even meeting the friends of our master. I don't expect him to ask the Springfields to help in this situation."

Shiella's eyebrows suddenly rose when she heard those words, especially when the words 'Martial Brother' were mentioned. The gears inside her head worked overdrive as they immediately made some connections.

The thinking ability of a Prudent Ace that was supposed to be used as a combat talent was working on a different scale just for this topic.

Shiella was showing a calm expression on the surface, but there was an unexplainable feeling wreaking havoc within her.

She smiled brightly and asked as casually as possible. "Martial Brother? May I know who this person is?"

Allie did not find anything wrong with Shiella and answered truthfully. After all, since her Martial Brother could trust these people for her safety, then she could at least also trust them. "Ah! He is someone who studies with me under the same tutelage."

"You should have heard of him since he seems to be quite famous around the world. I keep hearing them when it comes to Mentalism. His name is 'David Solomon'. He seems to be more commonly known as the 'Wanderer'."

At this point, Shiella's eyes seemed to be smiling too along with her lips. "Ah! The Wanderer David Solomon. Yeah, I know him."

"The truth is he is staying in our family when he arrives at the Soaring Continent, so I have a few interactions with him."

"He also seems to be quite familiar with my uncle. No wonder he can ask some favor such as this."

Allie's eyes suddenly brightened and said. "Is that so? That guy is a troublemaker, so I must apologize in advance if he did something troublesome."

"Don't have to be. He is behaving quite well if I must say. However, he is indeed a little annoying at times," said Shiella while maintaining her smiling expression.

"Is he? I know how painful that guy can be. He always creates trouble wherever he goes, which makes our master mad. So, she always beats him whenever he does," said Allie with a little excitement since she could at least discuss something in common with Shiella.

Sheilla leaned her back on the sofa and said. "Is that so? You two seem to be quite close."

Allie clicked her tongue when she heard that before responding. "It is not like we are close. We just happen to know each other since we are learning from the same master. However, the Mentalism Methods that we practice are quite different."

"He inherited all the techniques of our-... sect-... while I take on the mantle of our master. I have inherited all her techniques," she added.

Shiella listened with a calm smile before asking again. "Did you guys live in the same place?"

Allie found something odd with that question but did not mind it. She then nodded her head. "You can say that. Our master and her husband are the heads of our village, and we live in their place for at least 6 to 7 years."

"You can practically say that we have been living under the same roof," she said jokingly.

Shiella, on the other hand, further smiles before 'laughing' at that 'joke'. She really found it quite 'funny'.

"I see, I see," she muttered repeatedly with a laughing face while thinking internally. 'That guy is dead!'

On the outskirts of the Soaring Continent, David was currently resting under a tree when a sudden chill ran through his spine.

It jolted him awake as he felt that something was coming after his life.

He quickly stood up and turned around repeatedly, looking for the source of that killing intent. But despite his efforts to look for it, he could not find where it was coming from.

He tilted his head to the side and muttered to himself. "Did I just imagine it? Did I fall asleep without knowing? But why do I feel that is very real."

Suspicious, he tried looking around once again but it was to no avail. He found nothing no matter how hard he tried.

Nearby, Jerimiah, who was also resting, noticed David's odd behavior and asked. "What is it? Is there something wrong?"

David turned to him and went silent for a moment before shaking his head. "It is nothing. Maybe I just doze off without me knowing."

Jerimiah laughed when he heard that. "That is very unlike you. So, what is the dream about? Is it about girls fighting over you or something? Or maybe someone is trying to stab you from behind?"

"Maybe?" David shook his head at the joke before laughing it off. "Or maybe an evil spirit is haunting me in my dreams. I guess I have to make some offerings and do a cleansing ritual for myself."

Swoosh!

Not long after, Vincent suddenly appeared.

The playful and laughing expressions that the two had suddenly turned serious as they turned to him.

"How is it? Is everything ready?" asked David.

Vincent nodded his head and answered. "Everyone is already in their respective positions. We can act any time now."

David nodded repeatedly before gesturing to the two. "Let's go. It is also time for us to move. We can't let this mission fail no matter what."

Jerimiah jumped up from his seat and stood up while laughing. "There are no dull moments with you around. I am constantly in action whenever I am hanging out with you."

Vincent smiled and did not comment, but it was clear that he was agreeing with his cousin's words.

Chapter 1214 Death's Shadow

...

Shin went back to his room completely exhausted. He just came back from another intense training session with his Senior Benedict.

Despite how calm his senior was and had a seemingly approachable dispossession, the guy was a total freak during the entire training session. He did not give Shin any mercy and had beaten the latter without holding back.

Shin might have been repeatedly defeated in an ugly manner, but he could not hate Benedict since he could easily see the results of each training session.

Not only he was improving rapidly when it came to his Mentalism, but he could also sense that some of the hidden habits that he was not aware of were constantly being corrected without him knowing right away.

He only realized that he had such habits after reassessing his performance during the spar, and it had already been fixed before he even became aware of it.

Both the internal image training and watching recorded videos of their sparring gave Shin different insights, which made him admire Professor Henry more.

The training methods that the professor had given him were somewhat different from what the Orthodox Sects and Martial Arts and Mentalism Families, but all of them were effective.

He could say that this training method indeed fitted for the modern teaching methods of the schools. He really felt that he was really 'studying' in a school rather than 'training' like soldiers from military schools and academies or disciples of ancient sects.

Aside from suffering an almost one-sided beating from his senior, Shin also learned quite a few things that could help him.

He learned a few numbers of tricks from Benedict when it came to manipulating Space. He might not be able to use them right away since he did not have an innate attribute related to space or a Rulers Realm Mentalist, but he could at least try them inside the game when he used the Elemental Spirit Possession of Hanzo.

This could be very beneficial to him when he broke through the Rulers Realm or Void Manifestation Stage.

He was very eager to try some of the ideas inside his head and test the theories that he had, but he knew that it still had to wait for a while since he still had a lot of things on his plate. He could not add them for the time being.

For now, he could only take note of them. He even wrote them down to make sure that he would not forget any of them in the future.

As long as he had gotten free time, he would immediately proceed to learn them.

Aside from the sparring sessions that he had with Benedict, Shin had also attended some of the lectures that Professor Henry had recommended.

There were no regular classes during the weekend, but the academy had lectures for graduate students and the ones attending special courses.

Professor Henry recommended Shin to attend some of these classes not to learn their complex subjects but to observe everything during the class. Regardless of what they were doing during the class, Shin had to be always alert and had a sharp mind.

Shin was at first confused as to why the professor had asked him to attend those classes, but he later realized that each class focused on focus, willpower, and mind concentration.

He learned quite a few things about how willpower works and its other uses aside from having high tenacity or focused concentration.

He even learned some self-hypnotism that could help him improve his performance in whatever he was doing.

Shin could tell that Professor Henry wanted him to learn how to use the powers of his Bloodline more effectively. Since he was someone with a monstrous willpower, such courses fitted him very well.

...

After arriving in his room, Shin took a quick shower before heading toward his bed. He wanted to have a proper rest, but it had to wait until Monday and Tuesday during the weekly maintenance of the game.

That would be the day after tomorrow.

He lay on his bed for a couple of minutes before heading to his Gaming Cabin. Sitting inside, he adjusted his position into a more comfortable one before finally closing his eyes and logging in to the game.

"Initiate Game Login, «Destiny's Fate» Online!"

Swoosh!

...

When Shin opened his eyes, he found himself inside the room of the inn that he had rented before logging out.

After stretching his body for a few minutes, he quickly opened his notification log to see if he had missed anything important.

To his surprise, Harmony seemed to have finished the modifications on [Dawn's Mantle]. She was also done with her research on it and even thanked him for everything.

From the tone of the message, he could tell that she had gotten a great breakthrough in her lifestyle profession.

"She sounds so happy. I guess she has benefited from it a lot," he muttered before continuing to browse through the logs. He then closed it after not seeing anything special.

He then thought for a moment before mumbling. "Cloe is still in the middle of her Class Promotion, so it is better not to disturb her. I give her the mantle once everything is over."

He then opened his inventory panel before looking at a certain item sitting on the corner. "For now, I have to take care of this."

After that, he took out the [Daydreamer's Mantle] from his inventory before observing it closely. Upon closer inspection, he could not see anything special about it other than the holy aura that it was emitting.

As for its details, nothing was worth mentioning other than the decent stats that it gave.

"I hope that some of its sealed abilities will be unlocked once it fused with my [Nightwalker's Cloak]," he said while also praying that it would not ruin his already perfect cloak.

He then opened his system log before pressing 'yes' on the last notification that he had gotten before he logged out.

Ding

System: Conditions are met! The [Nightwalker's Cloak] is now being converted into a 'Sacred Relic'.

System: Sacrificial Item has been found!

System: Initiating the devouring process.

Loading...

...

Shin watched as the cloak that he was wearing suddenly unequipped itself from him and floated in the air in front of him along with the mantle on his hands.

They then merged with each other while releasing a blinding light.

Shin looked at the loading bar with both anxiousness and excitement. He was anxious about the final product yet also excited about what the new item would be.

Ding

Then he finally heard the familiar sound of the system, making him straighten his back. He also saw that the loading bar was completely filled, which indicated that the merging process had been completed.

System: Your personal Sacred Relic has been created, please input a new name for it.

Shin had already it from Arthur and Leonard, so he was expecting as much. But despite that being the case, he still could not think of a good name for it.

"Nightwalker's Cloak, Daydreamer's Mantle, and Cloak of Divinity-... hmm... what name should be more fitting for it?"

"Should I go for Cloak of Divinity since it is supposedly the final product when its four broken parts merged together?"

"Or should I give it a new name since it is my Sacred Relic?"

Shin was contemplating what to do when he was reminded that this item was supposed to be a racial-specific item.

After that, he thought about the sword in his hands. It was the sword of the first Nephilim, Zheptus. It was the symbol of every Nephilim that followed his footsteps, which also represents the Envoy of the Church of the Sun and Moon.

Aside from the sword, there was also the [Nephilim's Gemini Mask]. It might not be as special and as powerful as the [Yamato], but it was also another symbol of his race and church.

Thinking along the line, Shin also thought about one of his current equipment sets, which was also his favorite, the [Apocalypse Set].

"My class and race... it will be lame if I name it after Nephilim, but it will not be too bad if I don't stray too far from it. Something along with Reaper then?"

"Apocalypse... World's End... an end..." Shin mumbled repeatedly as he tried thinking of more words related to 'end'. It then suddenly struck him. "End... Grim Reaper... Death."

When his thoughts reached his point, he suddenly started smiling. "That's right! Death! Something that everyone will face, something that most people are afraid of, something that is inevitable."

"The approaching death," he nodded repeatedly as if he was fully satisfied with the name that he came up with. "Let's call it, [Death's Shadow]."

"It sounds simple but has a nice ring on it. I very much like it," he said to himself before entering the name on the system window waiting for him.

Ding

System: A name worthy of its owner!

Ding

System: Sacred Relic [Death's Shadow] is created!

Ding

System: A new legend has been born!

System: As an emerging legend, your name will resound throughout the Atlas World. The Bards will sing your achievements and the storytellers will tell the tale of your adventures!

...

Shin read through the entire series of notifications before being slightly disappointed. He felt that being a legend within the game was not that important since he did not receive any kind of reward.

Not even a world announcement or something.

But when he put more thought into it, he realized that it might really be not a big thing. After all, Arthur and Leonard had long gotten their Sacred Relics, which meant that he was not the only person who had the same kind of achievement.

He was even thinking that most of the players with Transcendent Class was already a legend of their own.

Forgetting about it, he quickly turned his attention toward the new appearance of his cloak that was still floating in front of him.

Unlike its original appearance, it now had some changes on it. They might not be very noticeable since the cloak remained dark grey, but some black runes were drawn on its surface.

At the same time, he could also feel a sacred aura surrounding the cloak, which quickly made him realize that it was no longer an ordinary item.

The edges of the cloak were also highlighted by a black border filled with strange runes that he could not recognize.

These details could only be seen after careful observation, so the cloak itself still maintained an ordinary-looking appearance. On the surface, it seemed like an ordinary cloak that most players used to hide their identities.

After a few minutes of looking at it, Shin finally put the cloak on before opening the panel for his equipped items and looked at its details.

Item Name: Death's Shadow

Classification: Sacred Relic

Item Type: Cloak

Rank: Obsidian

Physical Defense: 2000 to 2000

Magic Resistance: 2000 to 2000

Stats:

+70% to all Major Stats

+50% to all Minor Stats

+20% to all Special Stats

+50% Movement Speed

+50% Flying Speed

+30% Elemental Resistance

+20% Magic Affinity and Mana Sensitivity

+15% Mana Control

+20% Concealment Enhancement

Additional Skills:

1. Conceal (Active): Hides your tracks and turn yourself invisible.

Note: You will be released from your stealth once you attack or get attacked.

Duration: 7 seconds

Cooldown: 10 seconds

2. Shadow Cloak (Passive): All your stealth skills will be improved by 30%

3. Shadow Travel (Active): Transform into a shadow and teleport on another shadow within a 30-meter range away from you.

Cooldown: 2 minutes.

4. Speed of Light (Active): Increase your Flying Speed by 50%

Duration: 3 minutes.

Cooldown: 5 minutes

5: Current of Mirage (Active): Creates a barrier that hides your tracks in the air when flying.

Duration: 5 minutes

Cooldown: 10 minutes

Historical Note: This cloak had accompanied a great 'Battle God' during his travels and adventures.

It had witnessed all his glorious battles and great achievements.

This item is bound to player 'Sickarius'

Shin smiled a little when he saw the information of the cloak. It seemed to have inherited both the traits of the [Nightwalker's Cloak] and [Daydreamer's Mantle].

Everything seemed to be very simple and straightforward, but he did not care. Everything seemed to have satisfied him. The skills were just a bonus at this stage of the game while the main stats that it provided him were a huge boon.

The rank of the item made his brows raise a little as it clearly upgraded from Black Mithril to Obsidian Rank. Based on this simple information, Shin suspected that this new cloak, the [Death's Shadow], would continue to improve its rank every time it consumed the other pieces of the [Cloak of Divinity].

He was pretty much looking forward to the final product that it would produce when that time came.

What made him laugh about this item was the simple sentences written in the 'historical note'. It was very short and simple too.

He suspected that it might be because it was just created. It could also mean that his achievements were still not worth recording in the annals of history.

It seemed like he still had to work hard to improve his image and become worthy enough to be recorded down by the great historians within the game.

Chapter 1215 Meeting Kentas once again

.....

Shin was very satisfied with the Sacred Relic that he had gotten. Even though it was not a main weapon like Arthur had and not as domineering and easy to recognize as Leonard's helm, this cloak pretty much suited his taste.

He could also keep a low profile with this, making him able to trick most of his opponents.

But now that he realized that something like this existed, he started to become more wary of his future rivals. Given that most of the players who could create their own legends within the game could possess such a powerful item, the competition in the future would be much more difficult.

Recollecting his thoughts and adjusting his mindset, Shin finally decided to check out of the inn. It was time to do his real business next.

He had to hurry if he did not want to be left behind by the rest of the leading pack. Arthur and Leonard had already given him an idea about how difficult the Tier 3 Class Promotion Quests could be, so he had to make haste to get used to it as soon as possible and look for a solution on how to clear it.

After walking out of the inn, he immediately headed out of the city and found a secluded place in a random region.

He then swept his gaze at the surroundings, making sure that there was no one around. After that, he took out a token from his inventory and held it tightly in his hands.

This token would lead him to the Trial Grounds where he was supposed to clear his class promotion quest.

Shin observed the token for a couple of moments as he was somewhat captivated by the radiating auras that it was emitting. The black and white auras were very familiar to him since they were the power of the Brilliant Sun and the Abyssal Moon.

A few moments later, he closed his eyes while injecting his mana into the token.

Swoosh!

The token shone brighter when he did that, illuminating the whole place with its blinding light.

Swoosh!

A moment later, the light suddenly shrunk with an imaginable speed along with an invisible sphere that swallowed Shin's figure before disappearing.

Whoosh!

Shin did not feel anything strange until a few more minutes had passed. This confused him a little, making him frown deeply.

He waited for a few more minutes before finally deciding to open his eyes. The moment he did that, he could not help but squint his eyes once again while protecting them with his right hand.

A brilliant light suddenly blinded Shin when he opened his eyes.

It took him quite some time before he was finally able to adjust himself. When his vision finally returned, he quickly swept his eyes on the surroundings as he discovered that he was already in a foreign place.

He was standing in the middle of an ancient ruins that he could not recognize. Just a little further away, he could see the tall trees surrounding the whole ruins, which gave him a rough idea of where he was.

But after a few more moments, he found that something strange. He could feel that this was not supposed to be his destination. He could feel that he was not in a trial ground, or any isolated dimension meant for a test or anything.

Trying to confirm his suspicion, he quickly opened his virtual map. That was when his suspicion came true. He was still in the Atlas World even though he did not know where exactly he was.

From what he heard from Arthur and Leonard, he was supposed to be sent to an isolated word for the trial, so the virtual map could not be used in that place – or at least not the map meant for the Atlas World.

If he was going to get a map, then it was supposed to be the one meant for that trial ground.

Thud!

While he was lost in his thoughts, Shin suddenly sensed someone appearing behind him.

The step of that person was very silent and could not be sensed easily, but for Shin, who always kept his 'Sensing Circle' active along with other sensory techniques, sensing the unknown person was nothing.

Swoosh!

Turning around, Shin quickly grabbed the hilt of the [Yamato] and swiftly unsheathed it. He swung it as he spun around while also entering the state of Reality Manifestation.

Shing!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw – Flash Orbit'

Swoosh!

The sword cut through the air as he spun around.

His actions were a little too fast for an ordinary person to respond, but it was nothing in front of the person who sneaked behind him.

There was something standing behind Shin and he could clearly see it, but his sword only cut through an afterimage, making him to be on full alert.

But before he could take any other actions, he suddenly heard a familiar voice from a distance.

"Not bad. It seems like you have grown quite strong since our last meeting."

Recognizing the voice, Shin immediately realized what was going on. He heard from Arthur that if he had a secondary combat class, then he would most likely suffer in the Tier 3 Promotion Quest since he had to do the quests meant for the two classes together.

Worse, the quests could also be a combination between the two just like what Arthur currently had.

The owner of the voice that he heard was 'Kentas'. That strange guy with a weird habit of cosplaying other professions and disguising as other people.

Shin was already expecting that this guy was under another disguise right now. And when he turned around, his guess was instantly proven right.

What he was seeing was an average-looking man with an outfit of an explorer. From Shin's guess, Kentas was most probably impersonating an archeologist or something.

Given the current setting that they had, it was most likely the case. This ancient ruin alone was more than enough to prove that point.

Kentas did not know nor care about the thoughts running inside Shin's head as he quickly said. "Given that you are here right now, and you even used the token of the Primordial Eclipse to find me, it can only mean that you are already prepared for another trial for your next Awakening (Class Promotion)."

Kentas paused for a moment and put down the huge travel bag on his back before sitting on it. He then took off the explorer's hat that he was wearing and used it to fan himself.

He squinted his eyes a little while observing Shin before nodding his head. "Not bad. You are really incredible. To think you can grow this much from a short period of time – I am not sure if it is because you are an Otherworldly Individual with infinite potential and rapid growth rate or if it is because you are just too amazing."

"Regardless, you still live up to our expectations."

"Or should I say that I really have discerning eyes at looking for talent? I have chosen a very good successor of my art."

He then paused for a moment and continued. "But I must say, kiddo. You slightly disappointed me. I can sense that you have entered a realm that most of your kind can't accomplish, but you never have used my art properly."

"This is really a pity," he added as he shook his head.

He then stared at Shin with a pair of serious eyes before asking. "Kiddo, do you know what it means to be a Phantom Swordsman?"

Shin was slightly taken aback by the sudden question. He then contemplated about it for a few minutes, trying to find a good answer.

But after realizing that he could come up with a decent answer, he decided to be honest. "Please forgive me, Senior. But I am afraid that I don't know what it means to be a Phantom Swordsman."

Sigh~!

With a sigh mixed with disappointment and understanding, Kentas waved his hand. "There is no need to be too down about it, kiddo. I just have to blame myself for not spreading my teachings far enough for you to learn about it."

"You may not know about this since there are not many, who are aware of my past deeds and achievements. But I am comparable with those guys that you call heroes of the previous eras."

"I am not trying to flaunt or anything, but it is the truth."

"I used to be quite notorious in the battle and everyone became scared of me whenever they heard about my name, but I guess no one is aware of it now."

Kentas was having a nostalgic feeling as he tried to tell Shin about his achievements. But after seeing that the young man was not fully impressed with his tale, he started to become a little more dejected. "This is really making me sad."

With another sigh, he turned to Shin and said. "Let me tell you, kiddo, my Phantoms are not ordinary. What you know about my class is not even the tip of the iceberg."

"Do you think that I make this path just to be an 'average' one? No! It is meant to be comparable with the Transcendent Classes out there, and one of the top Ascended Classes that you can think of!"

He became a little more annoyed when he saw that Shin was still not that impressed and added. "What you are seeing right now is nothing but one of my Phantoms!"

"My Phantoms are not like any other. It is even more powerful and much better than the True Clones that you can find! They have a life of their own. Every one of them has a piece of my soul and carries one of my powers!"

"And if I combine all of them together and return into a whole being once again, not even that arrogant guy from the Supreme Temple can take me lightly!"

He had a long speech that made Shin's head spin a little. But despite that being the case, he was listening attentively as these were important pieces of information about this Second Combat Class.

And from the looks of it, it sounded like an overpowered one like Arthur's Dragon's Cavelier Class, if not better.

What made him more interested in this was when he heard about the 'Living Phantom', a phantom that could live on his own like a true being.

"D*mn! Isn't it a little overpowered? If it is really the case, then this means that I really have really struck gold this time around," muttered Shin to himself as listened.

It took Kentas quite a while before he was finally able to calm down. He was huffing pretty hard as he tried to catch his breath and calm himself down. His chest was moving up and down as he rested his hands on his knees while glaring at Shin.

"Now, kiddo! Tell me if my art is not that impressive. I dare you to make that expression again."

Kentas was like a kid who became upset due to not agreeing with him. He was glaring at Shin sharply while waiting for the reply.

Seeing that, Shin shook his head and sighed. "I think senior has misunderstood me. I am not looking down on your art or anything. I am just in the middle of an important conjecture of my path."

"I am quite confused and don't know how to proceed properly."

"My path has multiple intersections that I don't know which one is right and will lead me to what I really want to be."

"Since I can't decide properly, I am making myself familiar with each other and building up a solid foundation on each of them."

"I am not neglecting the other roads. I am just trying to look which among them suited my ideals completely."

Kentas was silent for a moment before shaking his head. "Kiddo, you are making things a little too complicated."

"This is the problem for smart ones. They think too much before making a 'rational' judgment in everything."

"Let me tell you. When it comes to this, what you have to do is follow your feelings. Following your heart is always the right thing to do since it will lead you to what you truly seek."

"Just like when all rivers run into the sea – all our paths will all merge into one and return to its origin."

"Do not dwell too much about it as you will eventually come across with the right answer."

After that, he raised his hand and continued. "I will help you with this one. Since you are here for your trial, I will give you the most suitable one for your current circumstances."

"You will eventually see what you seek when you look at it from outside the box," he added with a mystifying tone before snapping his fingers.

Snap!

And before Shin could even respond, he found himself being sucked into another dimension. His vision was blinded by an intense light for a moment before it turned completely black.

Bang!

He then landed flat on a hard surface after a few moments of being thrown into an endless void.

When he picked himself up and looked around, he found himself in the middle of a strange place filled with nothing but a white void.

It seemed like a vast world of emptiness.

"Where the heck am I?" he mumbled before he found something that shocked him.

He suddenly felt a little sense of *déjà vu* as he looked at the few familiar figures standing silently in the distance. "Why do I feel that I am in deep trouble right now?"

That was when the system notification arrived, answering his questions.

Chapter 1216 Promotion Quest (Part 1): Two Clones and Two Phantoms

...

Ding

System: You have initiated your Tier 3 Class Promotion Quest!

Ding

System: Transcendent Race and Class are detected! Adjusting the quest difficulty.

Ding

System: Secondary Combat Class is detected! Re-adjusting the quest difficulty.

Ding

System: Secondary Combat Class – Phantom Swordsman is labeled as the top Ascended Class! Re-adjusting the quest difficulty accordingly.

...

...

...

Ding

System: Quest Difficulty is set as the highest difficulty!

Ding

System: You have entered the Trial Ground – The White World.

System: Tier 3 Class Promotion Quest for Grim Reaper and Phantom Swordsman is now starting! Good Luck!

...

Shin read through the entire series of system notifications, making him frown quite deeply.

Then he turned his attention back to the figures standing in the distance. There were four figures standing in there and each of them was emitting an aura that even Shin could not overlook.

Upon a closer look, Shin instantly saw that those figures were much like himself. Or to be more precise, they seemed to be a clone of himself.

But each of their aura had some difference compared to one another. But at the very least, each of them had a power comparable to what he had.

Starting from the furthest left, the clone standing in that spot was holding a pair of katana pointed at each of its sides. One was a snow-white katana while the other was a pitch-black one, which released a black and white mana respectively.

Shin was very familiar with those flows of mana as they were one of his signature techniques. Those black and white flows of mana enfolding the two swords were the powers of the Abyssal Moon and Brilliant Sun, which he was using for his 'Eclipse Wielding' Combat Technique.

It was a technique that he was using to mimic the 'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship' that he had from the real world.

A single glance at this particular clone clearly indicated that the technique that it majored in was based on that swordsmanship and fighting style.

Standing next to it was a clone without a sword. Instead, it had a group of floating daggers hovering around it along with a few paralyzing needles that could not be easily seen by the naked eye.

This clone was emitting a shadow aura that was continuously flowing through its body. At the same time, its figure was continuously flickering as if its body was alternating between illusion and reality.

Its aura was also constantly disappearing and reappearing as if it were some sort of ghost.

Shin figured that this second clone most likely adapted his pure assassination style with the Phantom Swordsman as its base class – or at least similar to it.

The third clone was someone who was holding a sword on its right hand and a sheath on the other. It was releasing an aura that seemed to be composed of different elements.

Sometimes it was Fire Element, other times it was Void Element, a few times a Shadow and Darkness Elements, a couple of times it was Light Element, there were also times it was Earth Element, Blood Element was also coming out from time to time.

Along with the changes in the aura that the clone was emitting, the sheath that it was holding on its left hand was also alternating into different forms like an illusion.

A single glance at it was more than enough for Shin to realize what fighting style it had – it most likely possessed the 'Mondi's Style' and other legacy skills related to it.

He also suspected that Regan's Method was somehow mixed with it due to the flow of different mana that the clone had.

In the meantime, the fourth and final clone seemed to have the swordsmanship and fighting style that Shin was most familiar with other than the 'Ying-Yang Swordsmanship'.

It was holding a sheathed katana in its left hand while standing silently. It was emitting a dangerous feeling that could even pose an immense threat to Shin.

It was pretty obvious that it had the sword-drawing style that Shin had. He just did not know how advanced that swordsmanship was or if it would be using the other versions of that style with different elements.

There was nothing out of the ordinary from this particular clone, but it was the one that had the most terrifying threat at the moment given Shin's observation.

It was not because it was the strongest, but it was due to the threats that were hidden from its ordinary appearance. Shin could not clearly gauge the real strength that it had, unlike the other clones.

At the same time, he also noticed the names floating above the clones' heads. Starting from the left once again, the names were Eclipse Clone, Doppel Phantom, Elemental Clone, and Sword Phantom.

Those names were more than enough to tell him their respective abilities.

After observing them for a few more moments, Shin found another problem. He did not know if he had to fight these clones one after another or together.

If it was the former, then he would most likely be fine. But if it was the latter case, then he would be in deep trouble.

Based on the information that he got from the two, the fighting capabilities of these four clones were at least as strong as him even when he was using the Reality Manifestation. And given their experiences in their respective Promotion Trials, he would most likely be fighting these four simultaneously.

The trial had not started properly yet, but Shin could already tell why the players were treating the Tier 3 Class Promotion Quest were impossible to beat.

"The Secret Game Mechanics are not enough to clear these Promotion Quests. We must be missing another piece to clear it. And it seems like it is the most crucial one compared to what we already have," muttered Shin as stared at the four clones in the distance.

Even though Shin and his friends were already ahead of the others due to their early access to Reality Manifestation, he could still feel that it was not enough to further widen the gap between them and the rest of the players.

"What was it?" he asked himself while wearing a deep frown. But after a few moments of contemplating without finding any good answer, he threw it at the back of his mind for the time being.

For now, he wanted to experience what kind of hell this Promotion Trial was. He wanted to personally see how hard it was.

He wanted to see whether Arthur and Leonard were not exaggerating things.

Having that in mind, he took a step forward and started walking toward the four clones. Right after he took a few steps, he suddenly received another notification from the system.

Ding

System: The Promotion Quest has been initiated! The first Trial is now starting!

Shin could not help but come to a sudden halt when heard the notification. He was briefly stunned due to the latter part of the notification.

"What 'first part' you are talking about?" he cursed at the system as he was gotten somewhat off guard.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

He did not have the time to dwell on it as the four clones, which were standing silently earlier, simultaneously opened their eyes and suddenly came to life.

The Doppel Phantom first disappeared. It even erased its presence, making Shin cautiously scan his surroundings.

Swoosh!

Shin did not even hesitate as he quickly retreated. He had a rough idea of how strong these clones were, so he would not let himself get surrounded by them and beat them up one-sidedly.

During his stride, he held the sheathed [Yamato] a little higher, positioning it right beside his waist. He then placed his right hand on the hilt of the sword, waiting for the right time to take action.

Click!

He pushed the guard of the [Yamato] with his thumb, slightly revealing its blade, as he sensed some fluctuation of mana in his surroundings.

Based on the rules of the trials that he had gotten from Arthur and Leonard, he could not use his Elemental Spirit Possession, so he could not be in his strongest form at the moment.

But that did not mean that he would not be able to use his other techniques.

The Power of the Brilliant Sun was more than enough for him to have a higher form of mana that he could use in battle while the Solar Breathing Technique would help him gain better control over fire elemental mana.

That was more than enough to compensate for some of the strength that he would be missing when using the Celestial Vermillion Bird Method and Fire Form of his Quick Draw Style.

Whoosh!

As a blazing tongue of white flame stuck out from the gap between the sword and its sheath, a pair of shadows suddenly appeared on each side of Shin.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

One seemed to come out from the void while the other emerged from the shadows beneath Shin.

They were planning to pincher Shin from both sides.

The Elemental Clone was holding a pair of swords right now. A katana on its right hand while an illusionary longsword on its left hand – both swords were covered with the flow of elemental mana, but with different properties.

The katana was covered with blazing fire while the other was enfolded with freezing ice.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Right after using the 'Void Step' Elemental Skill and walking out from the spatial rift, the Elemental quickly swung its swords at Shin multiple times.

On the other side, the Eclipse Clone, which was wielding a pair of katanas, also completed its materialization.

The swords that it had had a similar case to the Elemental Clone, they were emitting a flow of mana on their blades with opposing properties; one with the power of the Brilliant Sun while the other had the power of the Abyssal Moon.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

It also swung its swords at Shin, throwing a series of slashes that quickly filled the air in front of it with multiple sword silhouettes.

Trapped between the two clones and their barrage of attacks, Shin calmly took his stance before pulling out the sheathed [Yamato] and throwing a series of slashes in his surroundings.

Shing!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The area around Shin was immediately filled with sword flashes that were intervening with one another and blazing trails of white flame crisscrossing with each other, forming a dome-like shape in the air.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw – Blazing Firmament'

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Cling! Cling!

The sounds of metal clashing against each other reverberated as a series of flashes and blazing sparks flew in the air.

When everything stopped, the two clones were slightly pushed back by Shin while maintaining the final postures of their earlier attacks.

Shin also had an ending posture where he was holding a scabbard on his left hand right beside his waist while having his right hand raised in the air with the blazing [Yamato] in it.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At that time, he sensed a series of flying daggers heading his way with an insane speed along with the paralyzing needles hidden in the tracks.

Without any hesitation, he raised the sheath that he was holding in front of him and twirled it with great strength, deflecting the incoming daggers and needles.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

A series of clanging sounds could be heard as Shin retreated while deflecting attacks.

Swoosh!

It was at that moment when another sneak attack arrived.

Coming from behind, the Sword Phantom suddenly dashed straight to him in the form of illusionary light.

Shin did not even have to look at he could already tell what kind of sword or technique the phantom was used just by reading the fluctuation of mana in the air.

It was the 'Moonlight Splitter'!

Even if Shin turned into a streak of light and retreated while using the 'Moonlight Steps' this phantom would still catch up to him and slash him with this attack.

Not even needing to think deeper into it, Shin used the 'Eclipse Pulse' Skill to form a barrier around him, intending to block the barrage of flying daggers and paralyzing needles as well as this incoming sneak attack.

Bang!

But to his surprise, another attack came and instantly shattered the barrier with a single strike.

Shin was completely caught off guard as he did not expect this to happen. He did not even sense where the attack was coming from.

Glancing in the direction where the barrier first collapsed, he saw the Elemental Clone holding an earthen greatsword and slamming it at the 'Eclipse Pulse' Barrier.

He could also see some hints of flame embers surrounding the huge sword as it shattered the barrier into pieces.

Shin did not exactly know what happened but the information seemed to have entered his mind, clearing his doubts.

The Eclipse Clone combined the 'Destructive Slash' Extra Skill and 'Solar Cut' Slayer Skill to form a new skill.

It then used the melting ability of the Fire Element to weaken the barrier before shattering it with the heaviness of the Earth Element.

To maximize the strength of that attack, the Elemental Clone also used the 'Judgement Form' of the 'Mondi's Style' Legacy Skill to have a perfect weapon to host everything.

All those factors and abilities came together, producing the result that Shin was currently seeing.

"D*mn! This clone is quite resourceful," he seemed to have gotten a sudden enlightenment as he watched everything.

All of this happened within an instant, making it impossible for him to respond.? Moreover, he was quite amazed at what the clone had done, so he chose not to retaliate as a form of compliment.

He really liked this clone, which also made him quite curious about the others. He decided to restart the fight and begin with a fresh mindset.

"This is going to be very interesting."

It was at that moment when the incoming attack from the Sword Phantom finally arrived and cut off his head.

Swoosh!

His head flew and rolled in the air, making his vision rapidly spin.

Thud!

And when it landed on the ground, it produced a soft sound. His final vision was the two clones and two phantoms that gathered together around him before everything turned dark.

He slightly chuckled to himself as he really found the situation quite funny.

"To think that I will die like this on the first try. If those two hear about this, they will laugh at me for sure."

But despite being dejected, he was rather excited for the next round. He did not even hesitate when he pressed the restart button right in front of him.

Chapter 1217 Promotion Quest (Part 2): The Difficulty of Achieving Tier 3

...

Shin appeared in the white world for another time, lying on the ground and starting at nothingness. He was breathing quite haggardly as he was quite mentally exhausted.

This was his fourth time from what he could remember. The fourth time that he had fought against those four terrifying clones of himself and got defeated.

Even though he had fought quite better compared to the first time he tried to tackle his Promotion Quest, he was still quite overwhelmed by the combined forces of the four, particularly their perfect synergy and resourceful fighting instincts.

Shin also fought much longer and put up a good fight for every try, and he was showing a great rate of improvement. His growth could be easily seen as his fighting style continuously evolved.

From everything that he had learned from those clones, he was always fusing them with the things that he already knew.

At the same time, he also learned how the four operates and how polished their respective battle style. He could tell that they were much better than himself when it came to certain areas and possessed a strength that was much stronger than what he had.

Take the skill combination and elemental control of the Elemental Clone for example. It was using his skills and fusing them together to produce a new one with the combined effects of the two.

Then it would also use the most appropriate elements that would perfectly match the effects of the newly created skill for better results.

After that, it would use the perfect swords for that skill to maximize the strength that it had while attacking Shin.

Everything that the Elemental Clone was throwing at him was coming in a very natural manner, making Shin quite speechless.

It did not have any systematic pattern or strict requirements when performing those attacks. Instead, it would throw everything at Shin in a smooth and flawless manner like a flow of water in the river.

Shin was quite intrigued with that fighting style and tried to mimic it. After all, he already had some experience when fighting with such a style, particularly during his first battle against Justin.

But compared to what he was doing during that time, the style that this Elemental Clone had was much more polished and greatly perfected.

As a result, Shin failed to copy that style miserably. Without the help of his Elemental Spirit Possession, it was impossible to produce a similar result even with all his efforts.

Without a proper breathing technique and energy control, he would not be able to use any of those tricks even if he was able to successfully combine the required skills.

He lacked the perfect element that could enhance the strength of the skill that he just created.

He could rely on 'Jade Kirin Scripture' to try converting the elemental mana in his surroundings into the required elements that he desired, but he would not have absolute control over them, which would always result in his failure.

He realized that he needed a perfect breathing technique to control those elements just like when he was controlling the Fire Elemental Mana with the 'Solar Breathing Technique'.

Shin tried to do some experiments and used the basic breathing techniques that he had practiced in the real world. It was one of the assignments that Old Man Lin had given the class, so he was somewhat familiar with them.

He had produced a decent result, but it was not satisfying enough for the desired result that he wanted. There were lacking a few substances compared to the 'Solar Breathing Technique'.

Even though the experiment was quite successful in a sense, he was never satisfied with the results. After experiencing the great effectiveness of the 'Solar Breathing Technique', everything below it was a bunch of failures.

Shin felt that this was one of the keys that he needed to solve the puzzle of the Tier 3 Promotion Quest.

For the path that he was currently taking at the very least.

Compared to the Elemental Clone, the rest were quite troublesome in their own right. But what gave Shin quite a headache was ironically the Doppel Phantom.

The one that seemed to be fighting like a ghost. It had a fighting style that was very similar to an assassin or someone with the other thief-related class. It was appearing and disappearing as it pleased and always attacked at the most crucial moments.

The Doppel Phantom was always attacking whenever Shin found an opening to throw a perfect counterattack, saving the rest from suffering greatly.

Moreover, it was always outside Shin's detection range, so it was able to freely move and launch an ambush.

As if this was not enough, it was also using telekinesis to control the flying daggers and paralyzing needless when attacked. Not only they were mid- to long-ranged weapons, but the Doppel Phantom could also control their trajectory in the air, making it harder for Shin to block or dodge.

With such an unpredictable pattern, Shin was really having a hard time.

Shin did not have any problems when dealing with the Eclipse Clone and Sword Phantom since he was very familiar with their respective styles and techniques. The swordsmanship that they were using was pretty much the same as his 'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship', 'Jade Kirin Scripture – Quick Draw and Sword Movements', and 'Four Symbol Scripture – Sword Techniques'.

Every sword technique and bladework that they knew was the same as everything inside his head, so it was not that difficult to avoid or counter them.

The only problems that Shin had were the Doppel Phantom and Elemental Clone. As long as he found the answer on how to deal with them properly, then would be fine.

But the answer that he was looking for seemed to be still out of his reach.

Regardless of all of these, Shin was not that disappointed. Rather, he was quite excited and satisfied with the current situation.

He was fine being beaten up by those clones – as long as he was able to continuously grow in battle and constantly become stronger, then everything would be worth it in the end.

He could agree with Arthur and Leonard when they said that this Promotion Quest was pretty rewarding despite the torture that they were giving him.

Just like what Professor Henry had told him earlier in their classes, he could treat this game as a perfect training ground to hone his skills and make himself stronger.

Having that in mind, Shin rose from his lying position before picking himself up from the ground.
"Alright! That is enough for resting. It is time for the next round!"

He stood up with full spirit before walking toward the four clones in the distance once again.

...

Clang! Clang!

Bang!

Swoosh!

Shin was sent flying by the powerful strike of the Elemental Clone while using its great sword.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Chasing after him, the flying daggers sent by the Doppel Phantom arched through the air while aiming at the exposed vital spots that Shin had.

Adjusting his position in the air, Shin suddenly flipped and curled his body while facing the incoming daggers.

Then he suddenly kicked the air behind him, launching himself toward the direction where he came from.

'Legacy Skill: Mondi's Jump'

Swoosh!

At the same time, he raised the [Yamato] in front of him while twirling it in the air, making a rapid spinning motion.

He was also using his Solar Breathing Technique this time, so he was able to control the fire elemental mana more properly.

The blazing blade of his sword left a flaming trail in the air as he continuously twirled the [Yamato]. Its tip was also producing a similar trail in the air and formed a spiraling tail of flames that his figure.

Swoosh!

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

The flying daggers bounced back and got knocked out of the way as they collided with the spinning vortex in front of them.

And when Shin finally broke through them, he was already in front of the Elemental Clone once again.

Swoosh!

Then Shin suddenly grabbed the hilt of the [Yamato] tightly, making its twirling motion come to an abrupt halt and finally revealing his figure once again.

Behind him, the sheath of his sword was held in a forehand grip.

It then released a blinding light before turning into an illusionary longsword, which also released a similar white flame as the [Yamato].

'Legacy Skill: Mondi's Style – Meteor Form'

Swoosh!

He then swung the sword forward as he lunged straight at the Elemental Clone.

Shin combined a couple of his skills for this attack just like the 'Solar Cut' and modified version of 'Falling Lightblade' to produce a sword technique like he had in the real world.

Then applying the principle of the Celestial Vermillion Bird Method and Solar Breathing Technique together, he produced a result that far exceeded his expectations.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Celestial Vermillion Bird Method – Phoenix Slash'

Swoosh!

This was the best Shin could do when copying the techniques and tricks of the Elemental Clone. Since he could only command a single type of elemental mana in perfection at this moment, he could only use these fire-type techniques like usual.

But this time, with a dual-wielding style rather than his usual quick-draw and one-sword styles.

The Power of Abyssal Moon and Brilliant Sun were exemptions since he was experimenting with something. Those two higher-level forms of mana were more suited for Yin-Yang Swordsmanship, but he was using his Mentalism Sword Techniques at the moment.

Clang!

Sparks flew in the air along with the sound of blades colliding against each other.

The Elemental Clone used the surface of its greatsword as a shield to block the incoming attack. It also infused the Mental and Earth Elemental Mana under its command into the greatsword, enhancing its toughness and sturdiness.

Shin did not stop there as he suddenly spun in the air while swinging his blazing swords in the process.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

A series of metallic sounds could be heard as his attack repeatedly landed on the greatsword while drawing a spiral of blazing circles in the air.

Swoosh!

Shing!

It was at that moment when the Eclipse Clone and Sword Phantom appeared almost at the same time.

They had pincered Shin from both swords by throwing their respective attacks.

The former threw a series of sword slashes while the other went for a sword-drawing strike.

Clang! Clang!

Shin's spinning motion suddenly stopped as his swords clashed with the incoming attacks of the new opponents. The [Yamato] was pressing against the pair of swords of the Eclipse Clone while the transparent longsword forcefully halted the attack of the Sword Phantom.

In this position, he just borrowed the momentum from his previous spinning motion to counter their attacks. At the same time, his foot was currently stepping on the surface of the greatsword of the Elemental Clone as a platform to not fall from the air.

This was a picture-perfect scene, where he was clearly facing the three clones without a problem. But despite that being the chase, he was still quite unsatisfied.

This was his eighth attempt, and he was getting used to the fighting style of the four clones. He had already adapted to everything and was able to keep up with the irregular pace of the battle.

He was not able to last longer and even put up a very good fight against these four.

This scene was quite a normal occurrence right now.

But despite that being the case, Shin was still feeling rather frustrated since he discovered something just earlier.

As he continuously fought against these four, he noticed that they were also rapidly growing just like himself. Or to be more precise, every time he came back for the next round with a much stronger version of himself and a better mindset, the clones seemed to be adjusting themselves accordingly and matching his newly improved skills and techniques.

The difficulty of the quest seemed to be matching his growth and not giving him any clear advantage against them.

It was at this moment that he realized that if he wanted to win this battle, then he must have to do it in a single round.

The worst part was this was just the first part of the Promotion Quest. There was the second one after he cleared it.

And he seemed to be quite far from it.

Chapter 1218 Promotion Quest (Part 3): Unexpected Harvest

...

Clang! Clang!

Bang!

Swoosh!

After enduring yet another barrage of strikes from the combined forces of the Eclipse Clone and Elemental Clone, Shin was sent flying once again.

He flipped multiple times in the air before landing on the ground on his feet, skidding back while reducing the force that he just received from the impact.

Swoosh!

Shing!

On his left, the Sword Phantom suddenly appeared and threw yet another quick-draw attack, seemingly trying to cut him in halves.

Shin quickly responded and swung his sword to the side.

Bang!

His strike seemed to be a casual swing, but surprisingly, it was so strong and heavy that it forced the Sword Phantom to retreat right after the collision.

Swoosh!

That simple strike from Shin was not actually a simple one. Instead, it was a strike filled with the toughness and sharpness of Metal Element.

His sword was also glowing with a metallic radiance with glittering lights on its surface. It seemed to be metal particles that were floating in the air and surrounding the sword.

This was the Metal Elemental Mana that he currently controlled.

After fighting these clones and getting defeated repeatedly, Shin reached his tenth attempt for his Promotion Class.

He was pretty much exhausted both mentally and physically, but he was still rather excited. It was because he was finally able to gain a benefit that he would never expect.

After his repeated collisions with the Elemental Clone, he was able to adapt to its style and learned a couple of things. Through his 'True Sight' Skill and sharp mind, he was able to copy one of the tricks of the clone – the elemental shift and control.

Having such an inspiration, Shin tried testing some of the ideas that he just gained. With that, he started using the newly improved skills that he had gotten from Astaroth – the Metal Synergy and Pulse of Earth Elemental Skills.

These skills improved his control over Metal Elemental Mana and even gained a certain understanding of them.

He was constantly using these skills whenever their cooldowns ended. He was trying his best to familiarize himself with this element while constantly infusing it with the 'Judgement Form' of 'Mondi's Style'.

Pairing his greatsword with the 'Telekinesis' Skill that he had gotten from Grimrace, Shin was able to fully mimic the movements and sword techniques of the Elemental Clone when using the same form.

He still could not use the Earth Elemental Mana along with the other elements that were currently under his arsenal, but he was able to use both Fire and Metal Elemental Mana together.

He could either shift between the two or wield them together.

Naturally, his control over Fire Elemental Mana was still much better compared to the Metal Elemental Mana since he had the Solar Breathing Technique to control the former.

But with the help of Metal Synergy and Pulse of Earth, along with the basic Metal Breathing Technique that he had already learned from the real world, he was able to bridge the gap temporarily and create an equilibrium.

This resulted in the current form that he had right now.

What was surprising was he just found out that this element perfectly matched his Mentalism Methods. Or to be more precise, the 'Sacred White Tiger Method' of the 'Four Symbol Scripture' and even the sword-drawing style of his 'Jade Kirin Scripture'.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A hail of blades suddenly fell from above and started pouring toward Shin.

Shin did not even bother to look and calmly raised the sheath on his left hand before transforming it into a transparent greatsword.

'Legacy Skill: Mondi's Style – Judgement Form'

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Infusing the Metal Elemental Mana under his control, Shin used the surface of the greatsword to block the incoming hail of blades.

He was using it as some sort of umbrella.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Taking this opportunity provided by the Doppel Phantom, the three other clones made their moves simultaneously and surrounded Shin in three different directions.

They then launched a series of coordinated attacks, not giving Shin any time to catch his breath.

Looking at them, Shin remained calm and collected. He had been fighting these four for quite some time now, so there was no panic as he was already used to their respective styles.

Using the 'Telekinesis' skill, Shin let go of the greatsword and left it hovering above his head. Then used one of the blessings of the [Yamato] and made it split into two, turning it into a pair of katanas.

Holding the twin swords in each of his hands, Shin tightened his grip over them before regulating his breathing. He simultaneously used the 'Solar Breathing Technique' and the ordinary 'Metal Breathing Technique'.

At the same time, he used the 'Metal Synergy' and 'Pulse of Earth' Elemental Skills once again.

Psh! Psh! Psh!

Silent sounds of metal sparks could be heard as he did this. It was as if the Mental Elemental Mana was currently being melted by the Fire Elemental Mana.

It was because the equilibrium between the two elements was broken. Shin was now using the Power of Brilliant Sun instead of the ordinary Fire Elemental Mana.

He did not have a choice since he did not have any control over any kind of higher form of Metal Elemental Mana.

The balance was broken. The fire was now stronger than the mental and started melting it.

But Shin did not panic as this was his initial intention. This was one of the destruction cycles of the elements – fire melts metal.

In weakness, there was also strength.

With the melted Metal Element that fused with the Power of the Brilliant Sun, Shin swung his pair of swords and blocked the combined assaults of the three clones surrounding him.

And instead of using the original version of this sword technique, he used the in-game version since it perfectly matched his current form.

'Legendary Combat Technique: Infinity Edge'

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

With a series of swings, he deflected the incoming strikes in a steady manner while also borrowing the force behind each of the attacks of his enemies and returning it to them twofold.

There seemed to be a splatter of melted metal mixed in the blazing trail of his sword left in the air. This created an illusion where Shin was currently surrounded by a blazing net while he was swinging his swords.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

The exchange continued for a few more moments before the three clones started using a more advanced technique. They increased their paces and strengths, putting more pressure on Shin.

Shin did not panic and started controlling the greatsword hovering over his head.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Clang! Clang!

On top of his pair of swords, he now had another one that he would swing through his will. His movements were quite crude at first since it was hard to perfectly synergize his attacks with the addition of the greatsword. But he was able to adjust after a few more exchanges, getting used to the rhythm.

Splitting his mind and doing multiple jobs at once was one of his strong points since he had monstrous willpower.

Even though he was just randomly swinging the greatsword through his will and without a proper technique, it did not affect the 'Infinity Edge' since he kept this floating sword right outside the range of attacks.

It was for not affecting each of his attacks.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

The intense changes continued until Shin was finally able to force the three of them to retreat. He then broke free from their encirclement to make sure that he would not be trapped again.

At that point, the duration of his two elemental skills finally ended, which also made him sigh in disappointment.

"I guess I have to find a way to control a higher form of Metal Elemental Mana," muttered Shin to himself before adjusting his breathing once again.

Now that he had learned another element that was suited for him, he could start awakening his second innate attribute later.

This was quite a surprise for him, which also made him respect Professor Henry more. Everything that this old professor had told him was happening one after another, making him want to learn more from the professor.

Once he awakened his second innate attribute, he would next train some of the advanced techniques under the Sacred White Tiger Method both in the real world and inside the game.

He would not have any problem in the real world since everything there would be under the supervision of his seniors. As long as he awakened the innate attribute properly and trained his control over it under strict training, then he would be fine.

He could also find a suitable breathing technique for it, which could be comparable to his Solar Breathing Technique, as long as he asked Professor Henry for some help. The Springfield Family was also there, which would definitely look for such breathing techniques if he mentioned it.

But his in-game progress would definitely have some problems. He would never be able to achieve the absolute balance between the two elements if he did not find a higher form of Mental Elemental Mana that was comparable with the Power of the Brilliant Sun.

Knowing that he was starting to lose in his thoughts, Shin decided to end this current attempt for now.

He waved his hand and surrendered before directly exiting the trial ground.

Once he did, he found himself back in the place where he met Kentas earlier. But this time, the NPC was nowhere to be found. It seemed like he had left Shin in this place without waiting for his result.

Looking around, Shin found that it was already dark. It looked like he had spent quite a lot of time inside the trial ground already.

He instinctively turned his head to gaze at the digital clock in the corner of his eyes and noticed that it was only a day inside the game.

He thought that he had lost track of time when he was inside the trial ground and missed his wake-up time. But it seemed like he still had plenty of time before it happened.

But despite having that much time, Shin did not have the mood to continue exploring the game. He just learned his second innate attribute just now, so he had to study it further if he wanted to awaken it.

Having that thought in mind, Shin decided to make plans for his next progression. He needed to further study the Mental Elemental Mana, so he had to be in a place that was rich with it.

He did not have to think much about it since he already had a perfect place for it. He then quickly summoned Hanzo and Vladimir when such a thought crossed his mind.

When the two materialized in their humanoid forms in front of him, Shin quickly voiced out his thoughts. "I need to enter the independent dimension where your Rebirthing Place is located. Is it possible?"

Vladimir quickly flashed a lazy expression before saying. "It is troublesome. Don't ever think about it."

On the other hand, Hanzo gave him a detailed answer. "It is possible, but you have to prepare quite a few things before you can enter."

"Before, that powerful being helped you enter it, so you are able to enter that place without a problem. But it is impossible for our current selves since we currently command a limited amount of power."

"Our real strengths are currently being restricted due to the restraints of the world."

The old spirit paused for a moment before continuing. "The truth, entering is just one of your problems. Exiting it will also be a little troublesome."

"We are only able to exit that independent dimension due to me borrowing the powers of the seal of that world. But now that it had become free from the corruption, that seal no longer existed."

"Aside from us, elemental spirits who have made that place into our rebirthing place, it is pretty much impossible to enter and exit it at will."

Shin suddenly felt a little dejected when he heard that.

But before he lost his hope, Hanzo quickly added. "But that does not mean it is completely impossible. You just have to create a dimensional token connected to that world, similar to the one that you currently have."

Hearing that, Shin could not help but turn his gaze at his status window. There, he could see a certain icon that represented the 'Key to the Chamber of Secrets'. It was an item that would let him enter the trial grounds where he previously fought his four clones.

It seemed like it had already fused with him after Kentas sent him to the trial grounds.

Understanding what Hanzo had meant, Shin turned to the old spirit and asked. "So, what do I need to create such a token?"

Hanzo closed his eyes, shook his head, and smiled bitterly. He then turned his gaze back to Shin and said. "You are asking the wrong person. If you want to craft such an item, then you have to ask that Saint Blacksmith friend of yours."

"Ah!" remembering Berlin, Shin slightly nodded his head in understanding.

At that moment, Hanzo added. "Once you are done, you can ask two again-... no, I mean three since Astaroth has transferred his rebirthing place in that dimension."

"If add Goddess Solus and the tiger siblings, then I guess we have six of us, who are using that dimension as our rebirthing place."

Hearing that, Shin nodded his head and thanked Hanzo before again unsummoning the two elemental spirits.

After that, Shin fell into deep thought before mumbling. "I guess I have to take a rest from my Promotion Quest for today and continue again tomorrow."

"Let's study my innate attribute for now," he added before looking for a place to rest.

He first thought of returning to the city for a better environment. But after thinking about it for a few moments, he decided to stay in this place. Since Kentas was staying here earlier, Shin felt that there must be some secrets here, so it would be better to explore them later when he had time.

In the darkness in the distance, Kentas was hiding while observing Shin. He then nodded his head and praised the latter. "This kid sure is observant. Not bad. Not Bad at all."

Chapter 1219 An Unexpected Discovery

...

Shin sat up from his lying position when the door of his gaming cabin opened its door. He was in a deep thought as his mind was pretty much occupied with the things that happened inside the game.

He might not have cleared his Promotion Quest, but his progress was not that bad compared to what he was originally expecting. Moreover, he had benefited a lot from it. Just the discovery of his second innate attribute was already huge enough.

He was already quite excited about this and wanted to inform Professor Henry. He even opened his contacts on his advanced watch and dialed the professor's number. But even after a few rings, no one had answered yet.

He knitted his brows and looked at the clock. It was already 5 in the morning, and it was the usual time for the professor to wake up, so he was rather confused about it.

"Did the professor pull another all-nighter again – or did he just get in his bed to sleep? Tsk! Tsk! The old man sure is working really hard," he mumbled.

He did not dwell much on it and chose to send a message instead, informing the old professor about his situation.

Regardless of what the old professor was doing, he was sure that Professor Henry would at least send him a reply when the message was read. From his understanding of the professor, this old man always checked his message logs due to a lot of important messages that he was getting.

Given that, Shin got up and went to do his usual daily routine.

...

It was Sunday and the academy was supposed to be devoid of students. But unlike the other schools, this one still had its gate bursting out with liveliness.

There were a lot of students coming in and out of the school. A couple of cars were also entering and exiting its gate, signifying that the academy was still busy even at a time like this. He could even spot some instructors, who were staying outside of the school, and a couple of old people joining the flow of the crowd.

"This place sure is different," Shin mumbled as he entered the entrance gate with his car.

The Magic Ace Academy was not an ordinary school as even the World Research Center Headquarters was situated in it. These people were either researchers from that place or students and instructors of the school, who were attending for their respective special programs.

Shin navigated his way through the school road and parked near the personal accommodation of Professor Henry. Despite only being here for a couple of days, he had already become familiar with it due to his senior, Benedict.

When he got out of his Black Panther, he suddenly recalled what happened earlier. He could not find Arthur or Leonard when he went to Arthur's Room. And from the look of it, the two seemed to leave in dawn, when the sun was yet to rise.

It was quite unlike them, so he felt that there was something going on. When he tried contacting them, he was answered by a recorded message that the two had something important to do.

He was not sure, but he suspected that it might have something to do with their department.

He tilted his head and started walking toward Professor Henry's house after locking the car doors. When he was about to enter, the door suddenly opened, and Benedict came out from inside.

"Oh! Senior Benedict! You stayed here at night?" asked Shin when he noticed that his senior wore the same clothes as yesterday.

Benedict was not surprised at Shin's sudden appearance and replied casually. "Yeah. The professor wants me to find something from his study and also organize the books while I am at it."

"I have lost track of time when I am organizing everything and don't notice that it is already morning," he added before yawning. He then patted Shin and said with sleepy eyes. "I will be going back home for now and get some sleep until tomorrow. I'm sorry."

"Eh!? How about my training? And who is going to supervise me when I am trying to awaken my second innate attribute?" asked Shin with slight disappointment.

"Don't worry about the training. You can just do your usual routine and read the books that Professor Henry had left in the living room. Then do the training exercise that you have been doing. There should not be any problem with that," replied Benedict instinctively as he walked past Shin like a zombie.

It was quite clear that this senior was completely exhausted from looking for the thing that the Professor had asked. Even his mind was working quite slowly due to exhaustion.

"Wait," but after a couple of steps, Benedict suddenly paused as he realized something. He then raised his head and looked in the air as he was finally able to process Shin's words. "Ah!"

He then suddenly turned around and looked at Shin with eyes full of disbelief, pointing with trembling hands. "You... you... what did you just say? You have awakened your second innate attribute?"

Shin just became a student of Professor Henry for a couple of days, so there shouldn't be any much progress aside from his deeper understanding of his current strengths and abilities.

He was just undergoing the special course of the professor had prepared for him for just a couple of days, so the progress should not be this fast.

Shin was supposed to be just building a solid foundation for his mentalism knowledge and learning more about willpower, concentration, and mentality. These were the current focus of his training, so he shouldn't deviate much from them.

Even though awakening his other innate attribute was within the course, it was supposed to be scheduled next once Shin fully integrated with the knowledge that Professor Henry and Benedict had given him.

Shin still hadn't finished everything on schedule. He was not even completely familiar with his fire-elemental innate attribute, yet he already awakened another.

This progress was like skipping several steps, thus giving Benedict a headache.

Yesterday, Shin had shown him amazing control over that fire-elemental innate attribute due to a strange breathing technique. That alone had already given Benedict quite a scare, yet this monster was here again, wanting to give him a heart attack.

Fortunately, Shin clarified it to him before Benedict lost his mind. "It is not that I have awakened another innate attribute. I just discovered what my second innate attribute is."

But despite that being the case, Benedict still felt a little overwhelmed. "D*mn, kid! Just how many days are you staying in the academy? Not even a month, right? Yet are already progressing this fast? You are really a monster."

Benedict then ruffled his hair quite hard, understanding that he could not leave this junior behind. "I guess I can't go home just yet."

He then walked back to the house and invited Shin in. "Let's go. Tell me what happened in detail so that I can have a rough understanding of what is going on. And describe your second innate attribute clearly, so that I can arrange a simple training schedule for you until the professor comes back."

Hearing that Professor Henry was not around, Shin could not help but ask. "What!? The professor is not in the academy!?"

Benedict waved his hand as he entered the house. "It is nothing serious. He is just invited to visit a recently discovered tomb on the outskirts of the region."

He paused for a moment and added. "Even though the professor is a top researcher and world-class scientist, he is also quite knowledgeable when it comes to relics and other things."

"Every time some people don't understand something, they are calling the professor for some help. Professor Henry has a pretty good reputation when it comes to any fields related to 'research' and 'experiments.'"

"Why do you think he is assigned as the head of the World Research Center by the World Government?" he continued as he slumped on the sofa.

Shin, who was following behind, also found a spot before taking a seat. "I see."

He then tilted his head to the side and mumbled. "Too bad. I actually want the professor to give me some pointers about my new innate attribute. And I also want to ask if there is any good Breathing Technique that I can practice to perfectly match it."

Hearing that, Benedict rolled his eyes and said. "What is the point? You still have not fully awakened it yet. You only have 'discovered' it."

"Even if you want to practice that element, you still can't do it properly since you still have not awakened it yet," he emphasized.

Shin looked at Benedict before sighing. Then, after a couple of seconds, he started explaining his situation. "Actually, this is what happened..."

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Shin narrated everything to Benedict starting with how Professor Henry had asked him to train inside the game. He described all his encounters and other things, starting from when he had learned the Reality Manifestation and how he used it as a form of training.

And when he was finally done, Benedict could not help but give Shin a weird look before reaffirming to himself. "This guy is a monster. A real monster. Professor also taught it to us, but we did not pick it up right away from a single try."

He then paused and remembered Shin's friends. "Those guys are not normal too. How can they learn it from him just by hearing his description? These guys are monsters."

What Benedict did not know was that Shin and the others had already met all the requirements to practice the Reality Manifestation during that time, unlike them, who just entered the game during its beta test.

Understanding a couple of things from Benedict's words, Shin could not help but become curious. "Senior. Are you saying that you and the other seniors from the department are also playing the game that we are playing? The ?Destiny's Fate??"

Hearing that, Benedict finally snapped out of his thoughts before nodding his head and answering absentminded. "Ah! Yeah. But we are playing in a different server compared to the rest of the players."

Learning something new, Shin's interest was instantly piqued and asked. "Different Server? Are you saying that there are different servers of the game?"

"Ah!" understanding that he had accidentally spilled the beans, Benedict panicked a little. But knowing that there was no turning back, he sighed helplessly and answered truthfully. "It is actually not a big secret, but it is better if you keep it from other people. Yes, that game has other servers called 'Secret Servers'."

"They are special servers prepared for the players, who joined the Beta Test of the game. This game will not be this successful without beta test players trying everything, am I right?"

"Usually, these contracted players, who joined the beta testing, are forbidden to join the game due to them knowing a lot of its secrets ahead of time. As you know, this game is not as simple as the others, so such a rule is implemented."

"But this will put us at a disadvantage, so some of the top beta test players filed a complaint, putting the gaming company in an awkward position."

"And with the lead of those players, the rest followed. And given their overwhelming number, it put the higher-ups in a tight spot."

"In the end, Professor Henry and some of his friends suggested creating special servers for these beta test players and setting it up as an independent place compared to the main servers."

Reaching this point, Benedict paused for a moment and knitted his brows before continuing. "To put it in simpler terms, we are currently in a special dimension or independent world compared to the one that the main server has, which is the Atlas World."

"And we are only able to enter the main world when the progress of the main server finally catches up to us."

"Oh~!" Shin nodded in understanding before suddenly asking. "What are those conditions?"

"Ah!" Benedict paused for a moment before shaking his head. "Ah! This... I can't tell you about it."

"Then, are the races from those secret servers different races compared to us? And are their abilities different from ours?" asked Shin, continuing to press further.

"I can tell you about the races from my server, but I can disclose their abilities to you," said Benedict before continuing. "From my server, we have Spirituals, Eternals, Barbarians, and Druids."

"As for the others, I don't have any ideas about them," he added before remembering something. "Hey, wait! We are getting sidetracked. We are supposed to discuss your problem and not to look to my secrets!"

"Ah!" realizing that he had been carried away by his curiosity, Shin awkwardly laughed and scratched the back of his head.

Then he apologized with a meek tone. "I am sorry. It just carried away."

After that, he quickly diverted the topic and redirected it to the original one. "So, what you do think about my situation, senior? How are we going to proceed."

Benedict sighed for a moment before pointing at the pile of books on the table. "You can read these first and wait for me here. I will look for suitable materials that you can use later."

After that, he stood up and walked upstairs, heading toward the mini library there.

Chapter 1220 Golden Immortality Technique

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Shin was inside the meditation room in the house of Professor Henry.

He was currently seated in a cross-legged position while meditating. But instead of doing his usual routine of training his Mentalism Method, he was currently focusing on the circulation of his Mental Energy and his breathing.

At this moment, Benedict had found a couple of Breathing Techniques related to Metal Elements. Since Shin had discovered that his second innate attribute was related to this element, Benedict helped Shin find a few breathing techniques and energy applications related to it.

Shin was already familiar with the regular Metal Breathing Technique due to the previous assignment that was given to him by their Practical Training Instructor, Martial King Lin Huang. Given this, he did not have any problem when he tried practicing the other breathing techniques that Benedict had brought him.

There were three breathing techniques related to Metal Energy Control that Benedict had brought. They varied from basic, intermediate, and advanced grades.

The Metal Breathing Technique that Shin was practicing could be considered a foundation rank. It helped him build a solid foundation that would help him when he changed to a more advanced technique.

And since the list of techniques used the Metal Breathing Technique as their main model, Shin would not have a hard time when changing into them.

But since Shin still hadn't fully awakened this innate attribute, Benedict suggested to Shin to focus on building up a more solid foundation before transitioning to the basic breathing technique that he had brought.

This case was different from what happened to his Fire Elemental Attribute. During that time, some mysterious and unknown circumstances occurred, so they could not rush things just like before.

Moreover, Shin was familiar with that attribute since he had been dealing with it inside the game for a long time and his 'Sacred Qi' was very close to its properties.

At the same time, the Fire Elemental Attribute that he had was already awakened to the full extent, so adjusting to its prowess was more suitable than taking the normal approach.

This was the reason why Shin had no problem when skipping a few steps and went straight to practicing the Solar Breathing Technique. Moreover, this technique was somewhat created by him, so it became a more suitable breathing technique that he could use.

He even integrated his Fire Elemental Attribute successfully with his main Mentalism Method, the Four Symbol Scripture, with the help of all these factors. The Solar Breathing Technique became a tailored technique for his Celestial Vermillion Bird Method.

In comparison, the Metal Elemental Attribute that he discovered had to follow the orthodox path if he wanted to utilize its powers fully.

Building a solid foundation was always the first step along with learning the basics.

Shin had already mastered the Metal Breathing Technique, so Benedict was pretty relaxed. He found a spot, where he could lie down and sleep. He was pretty much exhausted since last night, so he had to take this opportunity to take a rest.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The air surrounding Shin was revolving around him with a steady pace as he remained seated at the center of the mediation room. The flow of Mental Energy around him was also keeping their constant stream surrounding his body while moving upwards.

Whoosh!

A few moments later, there was a subtle explosion within his body that only he could hear. But in response to it, the flow of energy around him spread outwards and continued to extend until they reached the walls of the mediation room.

Sensing something, Benedict woke up and opened his eyes. He could feel the strange change in the flow of energy within the surroundings, making him sit up and look at the center of the room.

Then he saw Shin floating in the air while his body was currently covered with a Mental Energy filled with a metallic luster. There were also small glittering lights mixed with that Mental Energy, signifying what elemental attribute it had.

"Tsk! Tsk! This kid is really a monster. He has already completed that stage after such a short period of time?" he muttered before turning his gaze to his advanced watch to look at the time. "It has only been

six hours since he started the Mind Visuality Training, yet he already finished building a very solid foundation."

Turning his gaze back to Shin, Benedict squinted his eyes and observed Shin with his special ocular skill. It did not take long for him to realize why it was the case. "So, it is because of his monstrous willpower and that strange Mentalism Method created by Grandmaster Benn."

He could see that Shin had taken advantage of his strong mental fortitude to increase the difficulty of his Mental Visuality Training. Then he relied on his experience inside the game when applying the Metal Elemental Attribute with the Mentalism Techniques under the Sacred White Tiger Method.

Since everything was complementing one another perfectly, all steps went according to what he had expected.

"With this pace, he will awaken his second innate attribute within three days to a week at the earliest or half a month at the latest. Tsk! Tsk! What a monster!" commented Benedict before walking for everything to settle down.

He waited until the energy surrounding Shin calmed down and receded back inside his body before walking forward.

Swoosh!

Shin steadily landed on the floor of the mediation room before slowly opening his eyes. He took a deep breath and exhaled a lot of air before turning back to Benedict. "It went according to what you have said, Senior."

Benedict shook his head before saying. "Don't get cocky. I know what I have said. You are supposed to build a solid foundation for an entire day, but it only takes you six hours. Do you know how much of a monster you are?"

After that, he quickly shifted the topic and instructed. "Now that you have a solid foundation, you can change to the basic breathing technique that I have brought."

He paused for a moment and pointed at the pile of books beside Shin. "Those books are part of the famous 'Golden Immortality Technique'."

"It is supposed to be a body refining technique that is used by ancient cultivators. But it is studied by many experts, scholars, and researchers and converted it into a more suitable method use for the current era."

"It is a technique that can be used by both Martial Artists and Combat Mentalists, so you will not have any problem practicing them."

"The purposes of these techniques are to strengthen your lungs, to refine your mental energy, and finally use those energies to strengthen the body."

"It is a very special breathing technique that needs to be regularly practiced with a series of strict physical training."

"The breathing technique and the physical training need to come hand-in-hand and cannot be separated, or else the desired result will not be achieved."

"Do you understand?" he asked with a strict tone.

Shin smiled and nodded his head. "Don't worry, senior. You have already warned me enough. How can I forget about it?"

Benedict nodded and said. "I have been with the professor for a long time already, so I am very familiar with him. I am sure that he will pick the best for his students. I am confident that he will choose this 'Golden Immortality Technique' for you."

"I will be supervising your training personally, so you have to come here every day from now on. I can't let you practice it on your own to prevent unnecessary trouble."

"You can continue doing your thing inside the game and use it as a training facility, but when you are in the real world, you have to be under a strict watch."

Shin chuckled as he answered. "You don't have to repeat it again and again, senior. I understand it already."

Benedict nodded. "We can't let you practice it alone unless we get permission from the professor."

He then paused for a moment before asking curiously. "Actually, there is something that I want to ask you. How do you come up with that 'Solar Breathing Technique' of yours? It is really special."

Shin sighed as this was the fourth time since Benedict asked him about it. He had already explained it multiple times, yet this senior could still not believe what he said.

Understanding what Shin was currently thinking, Benedict quickly added. "In truth, it really is hard to believe. This breathing technique, from what I can see, is at least comparable to advanced techniques out there."

"It even has the potential to rival this 'Golden Immortality Technique' if it reaches its peak form. So, I am having a hard time believing that it was created by a junior."

Shin shook his head and explained. "I have already said it to you before, senior. It is not like I have created it from scratch. I have realized the technique after watching a very powerful NPC inside the game worked."

"I have gotten inspired by their work and technique, which is why I am able to create such a technique."

Benedict sighed and nodded. He then waved his hand and continued. "Alright, you can rest now and continue again later."

"We can call it a day once you are down two sets of the physical training," he added before going back to his spot.

...

The sky was already dark when Shin returned to his room at the hotel where they were staying. He was completely exhausted when he arrived and wanted to quickly take a rest.

He was not even in the mood to play the game at the moment.

But when he entered his room, he immediately saw a crowd in the living room. When he took a look, he saw that they were Arthur, Leonard, Alice, Cloe, Lorraine, and the Potter Twins.

Thinking that they want to have a free meal here, Shin suddenly said. "Hey, what are you guys doing here? It is already late."

Hearing him, the other turned to him before Arthur suddenly said. "Oh! You are finally here. Quick, come over! Let's watch something interesting."

It was at that moment that Shin realized that they were currently watching something on the TV. Casting his gaze over it, he immediately recognized that it was something about the game.

Curious, he forgot that he wanted to scold the group and walked over. He then took a seat beside Leonard and asked. "What is going on? Is this something important that you guys have to be here as if having a serious meeting?"

Leonard did not even turn his head when replying. "Yeah. Something big happens. A guild war is about to take place."

Confused, Shin could not help but ask again. "Guild War? Isn't it a normal occurrence in the game? It sounds nothing special for you guys to gather here and watch it together."

Hearing this, Arthur clicked his tongue repeatedly and said. "Tsk! Tsk! You are already an expert within the game, yet you still don't know about this kind of official war?"

"Let me tell you. This is not your average war. It is an official event that only happens when a guild presents a formal challenge against another."

"And as an official event, the gaming company has to organize a special venue just for them. You can say that this war will take place in an independent space that can't be found inside the game."

Shin slightly nodded in understanding before asking. "So, what is so special about this so-called official Guild War'."

"Normally, it is nothing special since something like this regularly happens from time to time when the game reaches a certain stage of progression. But this time, something makes this guild war a big event."

"It is confirmed that the gaming company will grant the winner of this war a huge piece of land within the game as a reward."

"It is that it is a special event that the two guilds have triggered after meeting certain conditions, and the reward for it was supposed to be that piece of land."

"But since this thing concerns too many factors, the two guilds come to an agreement to settle the score in an official guild war. It is also to prevent the other guilds from taking advantage of them when they have been weakened by both sides."

Leonard nodded his head and commented. "These guys are too cunning."

On the other hand, Shin was still not fully convinced that it could be a big event and continued to ask. "So, what's so big about it? I don't see why everyone has to make it a big deal."

"Tsk! Tsk!" Arthur clicked his tongue and finally answered. "Of course, it is not enough to make a big deal of it. But what makes everyone interested in it is the so-called 'piece of land'."

"It is not strange for a player or certain power within the game to control a certain region as long as they meet certain conditions. But from what the official report has said, this 'piece of land' is as big as a small kingdom."

"Whoever wins this war will become the owner of that land. They can build their own kingdom and even collect taxes from the citizens living in their borders."

"In short, the winner of this guild war will become ahead of everyone else when comes to wealth and influence."

Hearing that, Shin finally understood. He could see that this guild war would break the balance between these superpowers within the game. The winner of this war would be the leader of the pack.

When his thought reached this point, Shin suddenly remembered something and suddenly blurted out. "I wonder if it is as large as my land."

His voice was soft and quiet, but given the senses of everyone inside the room, they were able to hear him clearly.

With that, they simultaneously turned their heads to him, giving an inquiring look.

Sensing the gazes directed at him, Shin could not help but raise his head and look at them. He swept his eyes at everyone before realizing what their gazes meant.

He could forget about Lorraine, Molton, and Jillian since they were not aware of it. But the rest were a part of the Empyrean Talons, so they were supposed to be aware of what he just said.

Confused, he tilted his head to the said and looked at Arthur, Lonard, Alice, and Cloe. Seeing that they did not have any idea of what he just said, he could not help but ask. "What's wrong? Don't you guys know? I am a Duke now and the entire Sky Deceiving Valley is my dukedom."

There was a complete silence that enveloped the entire room as the others could not open their mouths.

It took some time before they were able to process the words that Shin had said. They gulped swallowed hard and turned to each other before turning back to Shin with a seemingly exaggerated shout.

"WHAT!?"