

Destiny 1221

Chapter 1221 Future Plans

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"WHAT!?"

The group felt like losing their minds when they realized what Shin had said.

Being a duke was already crazy enough since raising the noble rank within the game was already hard since it concerned a lot of factors. It was way different compared to military rank since a player needed to reach a certain level of achievement.

However, gaining land that was under their name and jurisdiction was a completely different degree. This was the reason why Arthur and the others were currently watching this live broadcast of Guild War since it could dictate the power struggle within the game.

It was in much higher height compared to owning a town, or even a city.

Owning a city only referred to everything that was happening within its walls. Anything beyond that point was not under the control of the force controlling or owning the city.

But having a territory was on a much higher scale. Everything that was within the borders of their territory was under their mercy. They could not only collect taxes from the people, but they could also build their own army that could help them in the future when defending their land.

This was just one of the benefits that it could provide. The wealth that they could get from owning a territory was also unimaginable. There were also different kinds of resources that they could harvest from certain regions within the territory.

Moreover, they could also control the players hunting within their borders. They could even ban their enemies from entering, which would immediately tag them as 'invaders' or 'criminals' if they dared to set their foot on their land.

The guild that could own its own territory would naturally be ahead of its rivals and competitors by a large margin, which was the reason why this was a big deal.

Yet, here was a solo player owning a territory by himself.

Moreover, the said dukedom was much larger compared to the one that would be rewarded to the winner of this official guild war.

"Yoh! You are definitely something else. I don't know what to say," said Leonard while shaking his head.

Cloe smiled from the side while Alice fell in deep thought. Lorraine was quite speechless and could only stare at Shin with dumbfounded eyes while the Potter twins did not know how to react to what they had heard.

In the meantime, Arthur scratching his head as if he was going crazy. He did not know how Shin always did these kinds of crazy stunts at them all the time.

A few moments later, he was finally able to regain his composure before turning to his brother. "Hey! Do you know that Big Sis will go crazy when she learns about this? She will definitely do anything she can just to extort it from you."

Shin chuckled when he heard that and said calmly. "You don't have to worry about that. I have already drawn up a plan for negotiations when that time comes."

"Actually, I have already informed her about this since we are planning to build those cities in my territory anyway, so I am sure that she has already made her own preparations for the deal."

"Anyway, there is no need to think about this for now since there are still certain procedures before I officially own the dukedom. I still have enough time to prepare more, so I will be fine."

Arthur stared at Shin for a couple of seconds before nodding his head. "Well, if that is what you said, then there shouldn't be any problem."

Shin laughed and said. "Moreover, that will be the place where our main headquarters will be located."

Arthur knitted his brows before asking. "Can you manage such a large territory? It is going to be different from the Calderock Town."

Shin nodded his head in full confidence and said. "That will not be a problem. I can deal with it."

He then paused for a moment before chuckling. "Or to be more precise, the Named NPC working under me will be able to do it."

"And if Big Sis helps, then everything will be perfect. I am confident that she will not reject my proposal since it will bring her a lot of profits," he added before turning his gaze back to the television.

He then changed the topic. "So, what do we have here? Which guilds are going to fight for the 'piece of land' that that the gaming company will give?"

"It is the Hydra Guild and the Central Order," answered Leonard as he also turned his attention back to the live broadcast.

"Oh!" hearing that Shin could not help but become a little interested.

He was quite aware of the strengths of these two Superpowers since he had met them a couple of times in the past. But from his observations, the forces that he had fought during those times were far behind compared to their main forces.

"Am I finally going to see the powers of these two top guilds?" muttered Shin as he became more and more interested in this said guild war.

While they were watching the hosts of the broadcast and waiting for the battle to start, Arthur suddenly remembered something and said. "Ah! Shin, do you remember those dudes that we fought during the battle in the Blind Abyss Empire?"

"Which ones? The one who strikes a deal with me before going back to their words due to their superiors?" asked Shin nonchalantly.

"Yeah! Some of them" nodded Arthur before continuing. "There are a couple of team captains with pretty high reputations among their group namely Legolas and Aragorn. They are quite decent when it comes to commanding and have pretty good fighting capabilities."

Shin remembered the two before nodding his head. "So, what about them?"

"Those two were caught in a serious argument with another person named Elrond because they are being blamed for their failure during the incident in the Blind Abyss Empire," said Arthur.

"Are those guys in their higher-ups crazy? It is because of the Great Elder that they have sent. Elrond is also to blame since he goes back on their word. If they have not, then they should be the ones controlling that ancient ruins and not suffer a huge loss," Shin chuckled when he heard that.

"Exactly!" said Arthur before continuing. "A few days after that incident, an internal competition is held in their headquarters."

"And guess what, due to those two being too enraged about what happened in the Blind Abyss Empire, they have teamed up and beat everyone else during the internal competition."

"But before they can enter the final stages of that competition, Elrond plays some underhanded tricks and buys the two's teammates, resulting in them being disqualified."

"The two tried to raise a complaint to the upper echelons of the guild but they were repeatedly rejected due to the interference of the Great Elder that is siding with Elrond."

Shin raised his brows as he could not tell what Arthur wanted him to hear. He then asked straightforwardly. "And?"

Arthur laughed and said. "In the pit of rage, those two strapped their emblems and quit the guild right away. Some of their loyal friends follow their lead and leave."

"What about it?" asked Shin innocently.

"Tsk! Tsk!" Arthur clicked his tongue when he heard it before saying. "Don't you get it? This is a good chance to poach those two! Even though they are not that famous in the eyes of the public, they are actually pretty good talents in the expert's circle."

"Both of them are top Titled Rankers! They will be a good addition to our friends!"

Arthur paused for a moment to think before continuing. "We are building a city, and you own an entire territory, so you will need to have more talents and people to manage and protect them."

"Even though Big Sis and her forces will be a big help, and we have the help of a few Adventurer Teams that will be stationed in the city, having more hands that can help us will be better."

Shin thought for a moment before nodding his head. "I get what you are thinking, but can we trust those people? I can see that Legolas and Aragorn are pretty good people, but the same can't be said for their people."

"After all, what happens during the internal competition is a good example of it. We can't be sure that those people from the Central Order don't put some moles in their group."

"Something like that is not surprising when it comes to these kinds of organizations," even though Shin could still be considered a new player in the virtual world, he was quite familiar when it came to these things.

Cloe, who was silently listening from the side, suddenly chimed in. "I know what you are thinking, but we can solve that issue as long as we ask for some help from the Assassin Union."

Shin became interested and let her continue.

Cloe thought for a moment before saying. "Since Big Sister Shiella is pretty close with the current Union Master of the Assassin Union, we can ask her to do a simple background check on these people."

"Assassin Union not only accepts assassination commissions, but they are also a top-class information merchant. They have been in the business for a couple of years inside the virtual world, so they have their own ways when dealing with this kind of situation."

"As long as we paid enough, I don't think identifying a spy will be a problem."

Shin fell into deep thought as he listened. He could see where Arthur was coming from since managing such a large territory would not be easy, especially when it comes to security.

As an emerging power, there would be a lot of holes that they need to fill. Recruiting some NPCs was just one of the solutions, but it would need to take some time.

If it was about the city itself, then Shin would not have a problem since he could just build a branch of the Church of the Sun and Moon there and let the Paladins patrol the city. Given his current status within the church, such a thing was not impossible.

He could also ask Leonard and Cloe if the Temple of the God of War and Church of Light would be willing to build up a branch there.

Building a branch of the NPC Organizations such as Thieves Guild, the Mercenary Guild, and the Adventurer Guild would also help with that problem. It might be costly, but it would be worth it in the long run.

The protection of the city would be pretty decent with all these forces combined along with his own NPC army.

The problem would be controlling the players hunting in the wild. If he did not have a good force that could deal with the issues arising in the wild, then the players would not be willing to hunt in the surrounding regions.

Or at worst, there would be constant chaos in the wild, turning the entirety of the region to be a chaotic battlefield.

Building multiple barracks was a must and creating a patrolling squad was also a requirement.

Managing a huge territory would require a lot of resources and manpower.

Shin fell into a deeper thought as he started to realize the things that he needed for his territory. This was going to be much more troublesome than he originally thought.

It seemed like they also had to recruit some forces to hunt in the surrounding regions and quell down the chaos when it called for it.

This was where the Adventurer Teams and the forces of the Hand of Midas would step in.

After pondering about it for a while, Shin realized why the people had to form a guild. There was a certain limit that an individual or a small elite group could manage. In the end, they still had to rely on numbers when it came to certain things.

"I guess, Big Sis still has a card that can be used against me during the negotiations," he muttered bitterly.

He then turned to Arthur and said. "Alright, you can try contacting them..."

He paused for a moment as he realized that this was not a suitable job for this idiot, so he turned to Cloe. "And please accompany him during the negotiations. I am afraid that this guy will mess up."

Arthur wanted to curse but suppressed it when he saw Jillian laughing from the side.

Cloe also laughed along with the others, making the atmosphere livelier.

'The best solution here is to build a guild, but since it is too troublesome, I will set it aside for now. Moreover, Big Sis' guild is already powerful enough. She can just transfer more people to our side when the time comes or even turn the city into their main headquarters.'

'There is no need to create a new one for the time being,' thought Shin to himself before nodding his head.

Convinced by these thoughts, Shin finally relaxed and turned his attention back to the live broadcast.

From the look of it, the Guild War was about to start.

Chapter 1222 Might of a Guild

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It was already late at night when the guild war ended. And it was quite an eye-opener for Shin, who just joined the gaming community recently.

He knew that the forces from a powerful guild were very strong, but what he had seen from the broadcast was pretty much overwhelming.

He had already seen the force of a top-class guild and even fought against them himself, so he was very familiar with how strong they could be.

Starting from the HeadHunter Guild that he had first encountered to the Hydra Guild and their alliances, to the forces of the Central Order and Undying Guild during the incident in the Blind Abyss Empire, to the Corrupted Cult, and up to the sweepers of the Pandemonium Descendants – all of them were much stronger than what he had expected.

He thought that he had already grasped the strength of these guilds since he clashed against them for quite some time. He had also seen what the Hand of Midas Trading Firm could do despite being known as a Merchant and Lifestyle Guild.

He had thought that he already experienced the real strengths of these Powerhouses within the game.

But he immediately realized how naive he was when he saw the live broadcast of the war between the Central Order and the Hydra Guild.

Huge troops, cavalry units, archery units, mage units, support groups, thieves squadron, and assassination teams – he had seen quite a number of organized groups within the army of each side, which were led by powerful individuals.

Based on what he had heard from the others, those leading figures were Godlike Players with solid prestige or Maverick Gods that were only known in the expert's circle.

Shin had realized that he had yet to see the real capabilities of these powerful guilds.

Aside from that, he had also seen them using some advanced tools during the war along with sieging weapons and machinery.

He could clearly see how strong these Powerhouses could be when they decided to get serious. This made him realize what a real 'guild' could be. He even started to doubt whether their small elite group could face such a large army.

He started to understand the limitations that a powerful individual could have. He also realized the limited strength that an elite group could possess.

But realizing that and being convinced to create their own force was a completely different matter. Even though he knew that it would be impossible for them to face such an army by themselves in the future, Shin was still confident that they would not lose that badly.

After all, both Arthur and Leonard had become a legend within the game due to them obliterating an entire force from powerful guilds by themselves.

Even though they could not fight them head-on, he was sure that those guys would still hesitate to fight them since the consequences would be much larger than they could afford.

Moreover, there was also the Hand of Midas backing them, so Shin was not that concerned. If these Powerhouses, the Central Order and the Hydra Guild, possessed such a force, then the Hand of Midas would surely be no weaker than them given that it was also among the top forces within the game.

As one of, if not, the wealthiest guild within the game, Shin refused to believe that the Hand of Midas was inferior to them.

Thinking about that, Shin thought that he had to invest in the guild more and help Shiella in the future.

Aside from the forces of the two guilds, Shin was also impressed by the top combatants of each side.

The 'Heads' of the Hydra Guild showed that they could not be messed with. Shin could already see how strong they were even without the help of any kind of Secret Mechanics within the game.

Even though he was confident in himself, he was not sure if he could win easily against these top experts. At most, there would be an intense struggle before he emerged victorious.

On the other side, the 'Order of the Knights' of the Central Order was not that weak either. They were comparable to the forces of the opposing side, putting up a good fight.

Watching the battles between these top experts, Shin was able to pick up a few tricks and learned a couple of moves that he could use in battle.

He could see how experienced these experts were, so it would not hurt to learn a thing or two from them.

During the battle, Shin was discussing with the rest of the group. They were exchanging insights and voicing out their thoughts about the battle.

With this, Shin also realized this kind of discussion could also help him in his progress in both Mentalism and Martial Paths. He was able to share some of his insights and learned a few things from the others.

He thought that this must be why those old experts were discussing martial arts or mentalism rather than fighting against themselves.

Yet another discovery made Shin realize that an individual could not do everything.

Realizing this fact, Shin planned to have this kind of discussion with the others from time to time in the future. As long as they had time, he would suggest they exchange martial insights with words rather than doing more sparring matches.

The other thing that made Shin interested in this guild war was the strategists of each side. He could tell that they were quite experienced veterans of war.

Even though Shin was confident with his commanding skills due to him playing ?War Tactics? Online before, he still felt that he would not win overwhelmingly against the strategists of the two guilds.

The person behind the movements of the army of the Central Order seemed to be well-versed when it came to orthodox military tactics. They seemed to be very knowledgeable when it came to battle formations and strategical movements.

Even though Shin felt that this person followed the basic tactics in the book, he could still feel that they were quite skilled when moving the entire army.

The only problem that Shin could see from this strategist was they were not too keen on reading the traps that their enemies had laid for them. They were vulnerable when it came to unexpected circumstances since they were relying on the 'book strategy' a little too much.

In the meantime, the person controlling the army of the opposing side was completely opposite.

Based on what Shin had seen, the strategist of the Hydra Guild was not knowledgeable when it came to the overall moments of their troops. But they possessed sharp eyes and were able to read the overall situation of the entire battlefield.

There were no particular patterns nor battle formations in their movements, but they were able to repeatedly fight against the opposing side on equal terms.

Moreover, the strategist seemed to be relying too much on the overwhelming strength of their leading generals, who were at the forefront of each battlefield.

Shin could instantly tell at that time that this strategist was very similar to him when he was just starting to play ?War Tactics? Online.

They were someone who relied too much on their intuition when moving their troops. An instinctive type of general.

Even though they had an advantage against their counterpart, their forces would still suffer immense losses if they continued this exchange.

In the entire battle, Shin was telling the group how each strategist was moving their forces and what kind of trap each side laid for their opponents.

He kept on reading their movements as if they were an open book, impressing both Jillian and Molton, who first realized how good Shin was when it came to this kind of strategic battle.

In the end, Shin predicted that the winner of the war would be the Hydra Guild because the strategist of the Central Order was too conservative. They had stubbornly persisted in using the strategy by the book, which the opposing side would take advantage of.

The battle continued for a few more minutes at that point, but it still ended up with the same result as Shin had predicted – the Hydra Guild had won with a very slight advantage in the end.

"If the strategist of the Central Order is not stubborn, then they should be the ones celebrating their victory instead," muttered Shin with a sigh.

Arthur shook his head and said. "Since the Hydra Guild have won, then that means they will be taking that 'piece of land' and turning it into their territory."

"Tsk! Tsk! These guys sure are lucky. They have already pulled out their forces from the Saint Heaven Kingdom and retreated, yet they still win a territory that is completely under their control," he added while shaking his head.

In the meantime, Cloe was thinking about a whole other topic. "Hey, Shin. Can you prepare something simple for us? It is already late night, but we are quite hungry."

Shin turned to her and the pitiful look that her eyes were showing. He then turned to the others and realized that they were mimicking her actions.

He then chuckled and nodded his head.

When the group saw that, they could not help but jump in joy. Even the Potter twins could not hide their excitement. Ever since the time they had first tasted Shin's cooking, they could not take it from their minds and wanted to taste more.

He was much better than the chefs from the hotels and restaurants that they had visited. He was comparable with the top chefs who were famous in the culinary industry.

While Shin was preparing their midnight snack, Arthur suddenly asked the group. "What are you guys going to do tomorrow after our afternoon classes?"

"What do you mean?" asked Jillian with a frown. She was just planning to do her usual routine. Go for extra training since they could not play the game before heading to bed.

Arthur thought for a moment before replying. "I mean-... the game will be undergoing their regular maintenance for Monday and Tuesday, so we are pretty much free from anything during that period."

"Unless you have any assignments from your respective departments – how about we do some club activities?" he added.

"Club activities?" muttered Lorraine before asking Arthur to continue.

"I mean-... we are not even a proper band yet, so we have to do some rehearsals or such during our free time," said Arthur before continuing. "We can't just head on the stage and perform whatever we want before messing up due to our lack of practice, right?"

Shin, who was preparing in the kitchen, could tell that Arthur had some sort of hidden motive. But he did not expose the latter either and supported the idea instead. After all, what this guy was saying was pretty reasonable.

Even though he had already thought of his plans for those days, he could still change it since it had yet to be finalized. "I agree with him. It is a good time for us to get familiar with each other and work out our synergy. I think that it is a good idea."

Hearing those words from Shin, the others did not reject the idea.

"Alright, count me in," said Leonard in a nonchalant manner. As long as the two were on it, he would follow them. "But I did not bring my saxophone with me since I am supposed to train in this region. I left it in my home."

"Don't worry about that. We can handle such a small problem," said Arthur, telling Leonard not to worry.

Despite being a little suspicious, Lorraine nodded her head and agreed. "Just tell me the location and I will be there."

She was not sure what Arthur was planning, but as long as Leonard was around, she would be fine.

Cloe also nodded her head in excitement as this would be the first time that they would be playing instruments together since middle school.

Alice hesitated for a moment before agreeing. She even volunteered to book a venue for them. "Then let's use one of my studios here in the Ace City. We can use it however we want."

She then paused for a moment before messaging someone. "I will contact my manager now."

Jillian and Molton did not know what to do. But after seeing that everyone was excited, they turned their heads to each other before nodding.

Then Jillian turned to the group and said. "Then, count us in too!"

Chapter 1223 Showcasing their Talents other than Fighting

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The next day, Shin woke up in his usual schedule and quickly did his daily routine. After doing the morning training and quick meditation, he took a shower and got ready to head to the academy.

It was already late when they finished last night, so the Potter twins could not go back to the place where they were currently staying. The girls offered Jillian to stay with them instead of booking another room while Molton was dragged by Arthur to his room.

The group quickly assembled in the lobby and went to school together.

In the morning, they did the usual lecture with Professor Kyrie. She discussed a few training techniques that were common for Martial Artists and Mentalists when they were in the middle of awakening their innate attributes.

Aside from that, she also discussed a couple of topics that concerned some practices that practitioners used when they were in this critical conjecture on their respective paths and disciplines.

When the lecture was done and the entire class finished their lunch, they quickly headed to the training ground, where Old Man Lin was currently waiting for them.

As usual, they went on another torturous experience with the obstacle field the old man had prepared for them. To make it even worse, Professor Lin Huang made a couple of adjustments to the field, making them suffer even more.

And just like the previous training sessions, none of the class was able to finish the entire obstacle course despite most of them working together.

However, despite the torturous training session that they went through, none of them raised any complaint or any kind of displeasure this time around.

It was because even an idiot could tell how much they had improved during these past few days that they were training under the supervision of Old Man Lin.

The growth rate was one thing, but the things that they had learned from training were on a whole other level.

Even though the entire field was meant to be for the entire class, there were some obstacles that targeted each of their weaknesses. It took them quite some time to realize that, but when they did, the students quickly realized what the old man was trying to do.

Due to that, none of them made a fuss or even complained about how torturous this training session was.

Aside from that, the class also realized how helpful the basic breathing techniques that the old man had given them individually. Each of the breathing techniques that they had learned targeted a certain weakness or problem that they were currently facing, which were gradually being fixed after practicing them.

Shin could instantly tell how much the entire class improved compared to the first time they joined this special program of the academy. Moreover, it only took them a couple of weeks to improve that much, making him realize how helpful it was to have a dedicated training program.

After their afternoon training and a quick shower in the locker room, Shin and the group gathered in the park of the academy.

"So, where are we headed now?" asked Arthur with an excited tone, clearly expressing what he currently felt. It had been a while since he had played the drums, and he was very much excited to show off his skills right now.

Alice was currently talking with some on her phone before turning to the others. "We can head over to the studio now. My manager has already prepared everything and even cleared out the whole place just like you guys want."

"Then, let's go!" answered Arthur before heading to the parking lot where their cars were currently parked.

Shin could only smile bitterly and shook his head repeatedly when he saw this brother of his was acting like an excited child. He could clearly see through the hidden intentions that this guy had but chose not to expose him.

Cloe and Lorraine were also giggling on the side as they followed after Arthur. They did not care what the guy was planning, but they quite enjoyed what was happening.

The Potter twins, Jillian and Molton, did not know what was happening, but they could at least tell that the group seemed to be excited about this. They could tell that they really wanted to play together.

Leonard, who was walking right beside Shin, could not help but become a little nervous since there were others who would hear him play aside from his close friends. Even though he did not act like this during his street performances, it had been a while since he played, so he was worried that he had gotten rusty and could not perform well.

Noting his actions, Shin patted his shoulder and said. "Don't worry, Leo. I am always here. I can help you fix anything."

Leonard looked at Shin for a moment before shaking his head. He just remembered how strict this guy was during the time when he was being taught how to play the saxophone. Shin was like a strict music teacher who was hard to please and somewhat of a perfectionist when it came to music.

He could also remember how the group was 'whipped' by him during that little performance that they did during their middle school.

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It took them a few minutes to arrive at the music studio that Alice had booked for them.

After parking their cars, the group could not help but look at the tall building right in front of them. Even though it was not their first time to such a luxurious building, they still could not help but be in awe when they noticed the huge digital billboard displayed on it.

It was a music video of the person standing with them.

"So, this is one of the branches of your music company. I thought you would reserve a simple one," commented Arthur.

"Well, the instruments and equipment here are much better," said Molton.

"Tsk! Tsk! You sure are a big star. Can you sign me another autograph after this?" said Lorraine jokingly as she got near Alice.

Alice felt a little shy when she saw the video projected on the billboard before stealing a glance at Shin. And when she saw that he was not showing much interest in it, she felt somewhat disappointed.

Not long after, the entrance of the building opened followed by the appearance of a man who seemed to be in his middle forties.

He walked toward the group before bowing to Alice. "You are here, young miss. Everything has been prepared."

He then gestured to the group, telling them that they could now enter.

When the group was about to make their move, Shin suddenly stopped them and said. "Wait. We are waiting for one more person."

The group halted their steps before turning to him with a confused look. Then they turned to each other, looking for someone that was missing from their group. But after seeing that everyone was there, they could not help but give Shin another inquiring look.

Shin chuckled when he saw that and said. "You will understand when you see her."

Vroom!

Not long after, an eye-catching sports car suddenly emerged from the distance before arriving in front of them within a few seconds.

Arthur could not help but whistle when he saw the red sports car in front of them. The others were also surprised when they saw it. Even though they were not that knowledgeable about cars, they could tell that this sports car at least cost millions of federal dollars even with the cheapest price.

Click!

Then the car door suddenly opened before a beautiful and alluring woman suddenly got out of it. She wore a fashionable, yet comfortable set of clothes matched with a luxurious yet lowkey handbag.

She took off her glasses as she looked at the group and smiled. "I guess I am not late."

Jillian and Molton were surprised at her sudden appearance. Even though they were not familiar with this woman, they could at least tell who she was given her fame in the virtual world and different online platforms.

"Oh! So, it is Big Sis Bunny. What are you doing here," asked Arthur with a slightly confused tone.

As it turned out, this woman was Miss Bunny, who was also the site manager of the Empyrean Talons. She gave Arthur a smile as a greeting before pointing at Shin with her glasses. "Young Master Shin called me here."

"He said that you guys are going to do something interesting, so I come to join the fun," she added before handing the keys to her car to the chauffeur of the company to park her car.

The others simultaneously turned to Shin before giving him a questioning look.

Shin smiled awkwardly before explaining himself. "I just thought that since we are to rehearse, it is good to ask some opinion from our site manager."

"Since our fan page has a music section, I am thinking of putting some of our music there. I don't feel comfortable to put my songs there alone. Moreover, we can also use some of our songs as background music whenever we upload a new video."

Hearing that, Miss Bunny nodded her head before saying excitedly. "That is right! This can be a good opportunity! It can also be a good marketing strategy since this guy's music alone can make our supporters and fans crazy!"

She then paused and quickly added. "Don't worry. The fan site has a special function that prevents others from downloading the songs and music videos. There is no way they can pirate it from us."

Hearing her confident tone, the man, who seemed to be Alice's manager heaved a sigh of relief.

After a little introduction, the group finally entered and headed to the music studio where they were going to rehearse. Behind them, Miss Bunny and Alice's manager were discussing something, seemingly talking about some legal procedures and whatnot.

"Woah! This is cool!" Arthur quickly headed to the drum set situated at the furthest spot and sat behind it. He then took the drumsticks and started hitting some beats to get himself familiarized with it.

Lorraine was not idle either as she quickly headed to the electric keyboard and started checking it. She adjusted a couple of keys before playing along with the beat that Arthur was playing.

Cloe put down her back before walking toward the violin sitting on the corner. She then picked it up before checking if it was on the right tune. After checking that everything was in the right order, she quickly joined Lorraine and Arthur in the song that they were playing.

Seeing that they were having fun, Leonard also headed to the saxophone situated on the corner. He then started checking it before standing at the mini stage along with the others and waiting for a moment. Then, when it was the right time, he quickly started blowing the sax.

His finger danced along with it and started creating sounds that completely complemented the music that the three were playing.

In a sense, he seemed like the main act of the play as the three played the supporting role.

It was at that moment when Jillian and Molton realized what Shin had said to them before when he complimented that Leonard was very talented when playing the saxophone.

He was not only talented with it but also very gifted!

They could not help but be in awe when they saw him perform, especially when he started to get heated up and picked up the pace.

Cloe and Leonard even started to have a duet and a showdown at the same time. Each time they made an exchange, they were showing their skills and techniques in music.

Shin smiled as he looked at them before putting down his bag and walking toward the stage. He then picked up the electric guitar in a casual manner before running his fingers on it, checking if it was on the right tune.

He quickly attracted the attention of the four, which made them slow down. Then they played a slow and calming rhythm as they watched Shin walk over.

Tak!

When he stood at the center of the stage, the four simultaneously stopped. Then Shin suddenly turned around and quickly hit the guitar as his fingers played along its strings.

His fingers were moving fast but in a gentle fashion. What he was doing seemed to be a little chaotic but the music that it produced was surprisingly tranquil and relaxing.

With him at the center, the entire studio seemed to have quieted down with the only thing that could be heard was him playing the guitar.

And when he hit the guitar with the final strum, the other four, who seemed to be waiting for this very moment, started playing their respective instruments once again and joining Shin.

No one was singing this time, but the music that the others were hearing seemed to be some sort of hypnotic music that attracted them to it.

The group of five continued to play while Alice, Jillian, and Molton stared at them with dumbfounded looks on their faces.

Miss Bunny and Alice's manager, on the other hand, could not take off their eyes and ears from the group as they were also stunned by their performance.

"What the heck? Are these really some students who are not even in their twenties? My god!" Alice's manager seemed to be having a mental breakdown as he could not properly process what was going on.

In the meantime, Miss Bunny was smiling from ear to ear while muttering to herself. "Good thing I have already started recording them right after entering the studio, or else I would have missed such a good performance."

Chapter 1224 Sudden Inspiration

...

Lowen Black was one of the most loyal servants of the Stuart Family. As someone who was very experienced with the law and possessed great managing skills, he was chosen to be Alice's personal assistant when it came to her chosen career.

He had become the manager of the youngest idol of the Soaring Continent, which was overseeing the schedule of the young princess of the Stuart Family.

He was very dedicated to his work and was able to become one of the most knowledgeable people in the field upon studying thoroughly.

As Alice was not only famous in the Soaring Continent, but also in the entire world, he mostly accompanied her on her every world tour and event along with her personal bodyguard and dedicated maid.

They were mostly on Alice's side whenever she went, especially when it came to these kinds of events. It only changed when she started attending classes in the Magic Ace Academy just recently and became one of their chosen talents to attend the special program.

Being an experienced expert in the field, he saw multiple talented people, young and old, in the music industry. He had also seen some amazing people who were comparable to the top stars of the field, but also unknown to most of the people.

But for the very first time in his career, he had witnessed something that he never would have imagined. He also did not expect to discover such hidden gems that were completely unknown to the music industry despite being this talented.

Moreover, there was not just one but at least the entire band.

One of them was the girl, who was skilled at playing the violin. She could also sing very well and dance much better than the idols that could be seen in the field.

From his perspective, this girl might be on the same level as his young miss if she was contracted by a huge company.

The other was a boy who was very like a professional musician. He was very good at playing the saxophone and knew a lot of songs, new or old.

He heard from the group that this kid was a street performer in the past, but he never had heard of someone this good in the streets.

But the one that shocked Lowen the most was the young man, who seemed to be a real professional among the group.

This kid seemed to be very knowledgeable in the field. He could play any kind of instrument and was even skilled in all of them. Moreover, the young man could also make some skillful arrangements in the song as if he were a real music arranger.

Earlier, the group decided to choose one of Alice's songs to make her more comfortable with them and how she sang.

Then Lowen was shocked when he heard that the kid would make some arrangements with the song to let everyone in the group showcase their talents and even make the song better.

At first, Lowen thought that the kid was just playing a joke, but he quickly realized that the kid was really doing it.

Then Lowen panicked as he thought that his young miss would become angry as it was her song. Even though she was not the one who wrote and composed it, she was still the one who sang it and released the music video.

But to his surprise, not only Alice did not become angry or feel offended, but she also listened to the young man's comments and suggestions attentively.

Then there was a shocking result that Lowen was not expecting. The final product of the group was way better than the original and even made it sound like a completely different song.

Lowen was totally shocked and completely in awe. He could not help but ask himself repeatedly who this kid was.

But the surprises did not end there as the group continued to do the same thing on the other songs that Alice had. The result was always the same and ended up with a very version of the original.

Moreover, the young man kept on scolding the others whenever they made a mistake despite how tiny it was. Even his young miss, Alice, did not escape the scolding, telling her that she lacked sincerity and did not put her soul into the song.

What was more ridiculous was when he heard the young man say something so insightful. – "The vocalist and the band give life to the song; the singer becomes the song itself!" –

Lowen was so in awe that it made him so speechless. But what he had seen after that made him almost worship the young man – the rest of the group seemed to have undergone a complete change and started performing well.

Lowen was about to lose his mind at that point.

While he was lost in thoughts, he could not help but turn his attention to the woman, who was accompanying this group. Then he saw her recording everything with the camera and other sets of equipment that he did not know when she had set up.

Miss Bunny was enjoying herself when recording everything and even humming the songs that the group was performing. She kept on saying that she had hit the jackpot repeatedly, whispering to herself.

Not knowing what to do, Lowen could only sit on the side and started to accept this reality.

...

Late that night, the group finally finished rehearsing. They had enjoyed themselves too much, making them lose track of time.

They did not notice that it was already that late until Miss Bunny finally said that it was time to go home.

Due to them enjoying it a little too much, the others suggested doing it again tomorrow, at the same time.

Unfortunately, Shin shook his head and told them to take it easy. He suggested resting properly tomorrow instead.

When he saw the disappointed and unwilling looks on their faces, he told them that in order for them to create good and beautiful music, they had to take a proper rest and refresh their minds.

It was just like their training. If they want to perform better, then they must be in their perfect state. Or at least something better than being exhausted.

He had suggested doing it on Thursday and Friday after their department duties. After all, those days were meant to be used for club activities, in the first place.

Seeing that they could not convince Shin, the group bid farewell to each other before dispersing.

The Potter Twins were fletched by their family car and headed toward the place where they were currently staying.

Shin then told the others to head to the hotel first since he had to head somewhere first.

Arthur stopped the car in front of Shin as he lowered the window before saying. "Where are you headed in the middle of the night? Don't tell me you are up to something-..."

But before he could even finish his words, Shin quickly refuted. "I am heading back to the academy."

On the passenger seat, Leonard tapped Arthur's shoulder before saying. "Let's go already. I am quite sleepy and tired. I want to lie on the bed right now."

"Don't worry about him. We are currently in the middle of the Ace City, so there is no one who will dare to assassinate him this time. What's more, the academy is a few intersections away from here. It is that that far," he added before adjusting his position.

The three girls were in the back seat and seemed to be quite exhausted. They seemed to be unbothered by three guys and kept their eyes closed. It was clear that they also wanted to rest right now.

Arthur nodded his head and rolled up the window once again before driving away. He also honked a couple of times as the car drove away.

Miss Bunny, driving her flashy sports car, also stopped by for a moment to say goodbye. "That is impressive of you. You are very hot and sexy when playing the guitar and arranging those songs. If only you are not too young, then I may try snatching you from the other girls."

Shin chuckled before tapping the roof of the sports car. "That is enough teasing for today. Go ahead and edit the video that you want, Big Sis Bunny."

Miss Bunny giggled before waving at Shin before driving away.

Shin watched the silhouette of her car go further away before nodding his head. He then headed to his Black Panther and entered it.

Vroom! Vroom!

After heating up the engine for a moment, he quickly drove the car toward the Magic Ace Academy.

Earlier, during the rehearsals, Shin got inspired by something.

'Rhythm' and 'Arrangement' – these words seemed to have given him some idea, making him want to train right away.

But since it was such a rare occasion for the group to have some fun together, he chose to wait until now. He suppressed the ideas floating inside his head while taking note of them to make sure that he would not forget anything.

He was too eager to try something right now, but he was afraid that he would mess up, so he wanted to head over to Professor Herny's house and ask Benedict for some help. He wanted his senior to oversee his training to make sure that there was no accident.

Swoosh!

Screech!

The tires of the car drew a long mark on the road as Shin parked the park. He then quickly got out of the car and locked it before heading straight to the professor's house.

From his understanding, Benedict seemed to be always guarding the house whenever the professor was away.

Benedict was regularly coming back and forth between his quarters to the professor's house to make sure that no one would be sneaking in it during Professor Henry's absence.

Even though there were some high-class security measures installed in the place and some powerful defensive formations built within it, Benedict still wanted to make sure that everything was fine.

After all, there were a lot of important documents there.

Benedict was such a perfectionist, so despite those documents being completely hidden and placed in a secret and secured place, he still wanted to oversee everything.

Click!

Right after Shin reached the door of the house, it suddenly opened. Then Benedict quickly followed as he was about to exit.

But upon noticing someone suddenly appearing in front of the door, and since he could not clearly sense the presence of the person due to their skillful disguise, Benedict instinctively threw his fist and attacked.

Swoosh!

Shin was somewhat caught off guard and immediately gathered his Mental Energy together and crossed his arm in front of his chest.

There was also a hexagonal wall that appeared in front of him, which was currently filled with glowing runes.

He used one of the techniques under the 'Heavenly Black Tortoise Method' to block the incoming strike.

Bang!

But it did not even stand a chance in front of the simple-looking punch thrown by Benedict.

That punch might look like a simple and regular punch, but it was actually filled with Spiritual Qi that controlled the space element. His fist was covered by an invisible energy, which quickly shattered the transparent wall in front of Shin.

There was even a small shockwave that was trying to pull Shin forward right after the mental energy wall was shattered.

Sensing the strong force that was pulling him, Shin quickly changed the rhythm of his breathing and switched to the Solar Breathing Technique.

Bang!

His right foot stomped on the ground behind him while his arms were suddenly enfolded with a raging flame. He then borrowed the attraction force of the opposing side to increase his momentum before pushing his arms forward.

Boom!

A little explosion erupted when Benedict's fist and Shin's arms clashed against each other. The former remained standing on his spot, completely unmoved, while the latter was pushed a few meters away upon impact.

Benedict was about to follow his attack with another when he finally realized who was the other party.
"Shin? What are you doing here?"

Shin was shaking his arms up and down due to the pain that he was suffering. His arms might not have been broken, but they were not in good shape either. Fortunately, his fire elemental attribute could have healing properties, so he was able to quickly heal his arms with his special technique.

After that, he turned back to Benedict and said excitedly. "Senior, please oversee my training. I want to try something right now!"

Chapter 1225 Perfected Path (Part 1): The Missing Piece

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Benedict stared at Shin with an astounded gaze. He could not believe how this guy changed so much and become this strong in just a day. From his perspective, this junior seemed to have undergone a series of changes since they met yesterday.

"What happened to this kid?" he mumbled as he looked at Shin while wearing a deep frown.

He was surprised earlier when he saw Shin in front of the professor's house. He was also taken aback when the latter asked him to oversee his training and even invited him for a quick spar. Little did he know that this guy would show him something like this.

Shin did not show him any fancy moves or advanced techniques. He did not even use his Fire Elemental Attribute, nor the Solar Breathing Technique and Golden Immortality Technique.

Instead, Shin showed him a bunch of basic techniques under the Four Symbol Scripture along with the four special Mentalism Methods under it.

At first, Benedict was quite confused about what Shin was trying to show him, but he later realized that it was not about the battle techniques or some sort of special abilities.

He discovered that Shin was trying to show him how smooth and flawless his transition between the four special Mentalism Methods was and how he was able to use the techniques under them without any issues.

There was some awkwardness initially as Shin seemed to be trying to test something. But he later became more accustomed to it as time passed and was able to fight without a problem.

It was also at this moment that Benedict realized that Shin was able to summon a complete Aura Manifestation of this Mentalism.

Shin was having a hard time summoning it before because of the complexity of the Mentalism Method, but he was now able to achieve it without having any issues.

Behind Shin, Benedict could see the translucent apparitions of four divine beasts. A vermillion bird, an azure dragon, a black tortoise wrapped with a serpent, and a white tiger – these four beasts were forming a special battle formation behind Shin while glaring at his opponent.

Even Benedict, who was way ahead of Shin when it came to Mentalism, could sense an overwhelming pressure just by staring at them.

It was at this moment when Benedict realized how strong the Four Symbol Scripture was that Shin was practicing.

The sparring continued for a few more moments which led Benedict to spot a couple of problems from Shin's techniques and battle style. He could not lay his figure on it completely, but he could feel something was still missing.

It seemed like despite how perfect the Four Symbol Scripture was, there was still a missing piece hidden somewhere. It did not give the feeling of 'completeness' like the other Mentalism Methods that Benedict had encountered or known.

Benedict did not know what it was, but he was sure that if Shin managed to find it, this junior would achieve something that most mentalists wanted to reach.

Shin also noticed it and could not help but stop to contemplate. He stopped and supported his chin with his right hand while his elbow was held by the other. He fell into a deep thought, trying to find what he was missing.

He was wearing a deep frown while thinking, but he could still not find what he was looking for. "What is it? Everything is perfect but why do I feel that there is still something missing in it?"

Earlier, during their rehearsal, he had been inspired by 'rhythm' and 'arrangements', which was why he was able to learn how to properly transition between the four special methods of the 'Four Symbol Scripture' without affecting each other.

He was even able to enhance the effects of each technique by using the other techniques that complemented each other. He was reaching the mastery that Grandmaster Benn had set for him.

He might not be there yet, but he was infinitely close to it and just missing something.

Even though he still could not fuse it with the 'Solar Breathing Technique' and 'Golden Immortality Technique', due to his unfamiliarity with them, he was still able to achieve the state that he wanted.

He could even use his Natural State while using all methods of the Four Symbol Scripture, which was great progress already. Yet he was still feeling that he was missing a single piece of the puzzle. And this missing piece was the most important of them all.

"What is it?" mumbled Shin as he was trying to find the answer.

Benedict had some ideas, but even he was not confident with the answer. He could give Shin some ideas, but he chose not to say anything as he wanted his junior to find the answer himself.

After all, the elders always said that 'the answer that you had found yourself was something that you would remember for a lifetime'.

Benedict wanted Shin to discover the answer himself so that it would accompany him forever.

Seeing that Shin was currently in deep thought, Benedict also relaxed before heading to a corner and resting. Given that this junior of his was lost in thought, he suspected that it would take some time before Shin was able to pull himself back to reality.

"Is it because I still have not awoken the rest of my innate attributes? No, it is not like that. This is about techniques and the Mentalism Method itself and not about my Mentalism Path."

"There must be something else. The missing piece must be somewhere else."

Shin repeatedly muttered to himself as he was trying to find the right answer. But despite how hard he tried to think, he could not come up with the right answer.

In the end, he could only sigh in disappointment before coming back to reality. When he came back to his senses, he found out that he was still in the middle of the training room in Professor Henry's house.

Looking around, he saw Benedict lying on the floor in the corner of the room, sleeping comfortably. He could even hear this senior snoring slightly while traveling inside a dream.

Shin then looked at the window and noticed that it was still dark outside. And when he looked at his advanced watch, he realized that it was already half past 12 at midnight. "Oh! It is already this late!? Tsk! Tsk! I have lost track of time!"

With that, Shin did not wake up Benedict and walked out of the training room silently. He was slowly and carefully closing the door when he got out when he noticed that someone was looking at him from behind.

His head quickly snapped toward the direction of the gaze while being on full alert.

On the sofa, under the shade of the night, he saw someone sitting calmly while looking at him in full amusement.

Shin squinted his eyes and focused his Mental Energy on them, activating his unique ocular technique, the True Sight. When he did, the appearance of the person calmly sitting on the sofa was slowly revealed in his vision.

"Professor!" said Shin in surprise as he quickly recognized the other party.

Professor Henry, who just came back from his trip, slightly nodded his head. He then smiled at Shin while saying. "It seems like you have been working really hard these past few days. I heard from Benedict that you are making such huge progress."

"Have you discovered something interesting? I have noticed that your breathing and energy circulation are much different from before."

"I can also feel some interesting changes that pique my interest," the professor paused for a moment before continuing. "You are practicing two new breathing techniques – and both of them have pinnacle potential."

Pausing for a moment, Professor Herny continued. "One of them is the 'Golden Immortality Technique' and you have gained the initial mastery of it already."

"As for the other-... hmm... this is interesting. It is similar to Fire Breathing but has a much better application. It is also possessing some similarities with the other techniques that I have suggested to you, yet it also carries some noticeable differences."

"What is it called?" asked the professor after failing to guess the technique that Shin was using.

Shin was very much surprised at the professor. He did not expect that Professor Henry would instantly see through the techniques that he was using. A single glance was more than enough to identify the changes and progress that he had made since the last time they had met.

Regaining his composure, Shin bowed at the professor before answering. "It is something that I have learned just recently. It doesn't have a real name yet, but I called it the 'Solar Breathing Technique'."

"The breath of the sun. Amazing, amazing. It matches its properties very well. I feel and see why you have given it such a name," said the professor while nodding his head repeatedly.

Then the next words that the professor had said shocked Shin very much. "A combination of the Fire Breathing used by most practitioners and a breathing technique that is used in forging equipment and weapons. Then combining them with a circulation technique that perfectly matches their properties."

"What a very suitable breathing technique for you," the professor repeatedly praised before adding. "I am guessing that you have learned it from the game?"

Shin's eyes turned completely wide as he heard those words. He could not believe that not only was the professor able to identify how he had created the technique, but also guessed its origin completely.

After being stunned for a couple of moments, Shin absentmindedly nodded his head, confirming the guess of the professor.

Professor Henry ignored the silly look that Shin was making and continued to nod his head. "Good! Good!"

"But you don't have to be too surprised. This is not the first time that such a thing has happened. You are not the first person to achieve such a feat either. In fact, it is not that big of a deal either. This will be revealed to everyone sooner or later. However, achieving it is much harder compared to what anyone can imagine."

Professor Henry waited for his words to sink inside Shin's head before continuing. "What I am curious about is why you are practicing the 'Golden Immortality Technique'. Don't tell me, you have already awakened your second innate attribute this early?"

Shin finally snapped out of his daze when he heard that before nodding his head, but quickly shaking it after. "It is half like that, professor. I have not completely awakened my second innate attribute. But I have just discovered what it is."

"The Metal Elemental Attribute, huh?" the professor quickly guessed the attribute without Shin telling him about it. He stroked his brows for a moment before nodding his head. "It is perfect. This technique is perfect for you. I am guessing that Benedict has helped you choose it?"

He nodded his head in confirmation.

Then the professor laughed while hitting the sofa repeatedly. "I knew it. That old fatty must have set it up this way. So, he is still stubbornly believing that 'it' is achievable."

"His stubbornness sure knows no bounds. But I can't blame him either since it is theoretically possible," he muttered as he was able to guess the final stage of Shin's Mentalism Method based on the current attributes that he had and was about to gain.

He then turned to Shin before asking. "So, I am guessing that you are trying to find the missing piece, am I right?"

Shin was suddenly taken aback as he did not expect that the professor would instantly realize his current problem. He then slowly nodded his head, confirming the suspicion of the professor.

Professor Henry smiled before saying. "There is no need to rush. You have to take it one step at a time. You don't have to be too anxious about it. You are already on the right path, so all you must do right now is to be patient."

He then paused for a moment as if he was trying to contemplate something. After a few seconds of consideration, he sighed and added. "Let me give you a little hint. What you lack right now is the 'Link'."

"Link?" Shin confusedly knitted his brows as he repeated the word.

Professor Henry smiled mysteriously before nodding his head. "That is right. The 'link'."

"Season changes but you don't know exactly when. Day and Night swaps but only because you know the sun and the moon rise and set."

Shin creased his brows tightly as he contemplated the words that the professor had given him like a puzzle. He then muttered in a soft voice. "Everything is linked together, but the question is what binds and keeps them together."

He had read those lines from the books that Professor Henry had published. He had read those books before when he was considering which school, where he would enroll in.

Now that the professor had reminded him about it, he felt like he was about to discover the piece that he was missing.

He was close but still too far.

Stubbornly trying to grasp it, Shin continued to think, making him fall into a trance. He felt like the answer was right in front of him, patiently waiting to be discovered.

Chapter 1226 Perfected Path (Part 2): Attaining the Absolute Balance

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Then they repeatedly mumbled to himself. "Rhythm, Link, and Arrangements."

Then Shin started to realize what exactly inspired him earlier. "When notes and rest are linked together, they create rhythm. When the rhythm and beat are arranged and organized together, they create music."

Then he was brought back to what he was trying to find earlier and compared this idea with the Four Symbol Scripture. "My Mentalism Method not only represents the four divine beasts and the styles and techniques."

"The beasts also symbolize the four cardinal directions that they are guarding and the four seasons that they represent."

Ideas continued to flow inside Shin's head and fill his mind. Realizing that he was gaining another enlightenment and falling into a deeper trance, he swiftly sat on the floor and quickly meditated.

He was also reminded by the other teaching of different disciplines that Grandmaster Benn had told him. From what he could remember, the Old Benn had gotten his inspiration from those teachings.

"The Black Tortoise of the North – the one who controls the water, watcher of the winter and the night."

"The Azure Dragon of the East – symbolizes the element of wood, the guardian of the spring and the sunrise."

"The Vermillion Bird of the South – the bird of fire, the representative of the summer and the day."

"The White Tiger of the West – embodies the element of metal, the overseer of the fall and the evening."

Mumbling with these pieces of information, Shin started to fall deeper into his thoughts. These four guardian beasts represented the 'Four Symbol Scripture' that he was practicing, which also made Shin realize a lot of things.

Given these, he did not have to blindly look for the innate attribute. This Mentalism Method was already showing it to him, yet he failed to notice since he was too occupied with 'finding' them.

Little did he know that it had already laid in front of him since the very beginning.

Then he was brought back to the word that Professor Henry had told him – the 'Link'.

Despite understanding the whole cycle of the 'Four Seasons' and the 'Day and Night' from these teachings and his Mentalism Method, he could still feel that he was missing a crucial piece.

It was at this moment when he remembered something from what David had told him before when he was telling him about the 'Jade Kirin Scripture'.

From what he could remember, the said scripture was different from all the Mentalism Method. Its purpose was not to nurture his Mental Energy nor teach him any kind of techniques.

But it was to help him cleanse his mind and forge it to become unshakable. It was to prepare him when he faced his inner demons and when he fought against the 'Seed of Hatred'.

Aside from that, David also mentioned that this Mentalism Scripture would help him link the paths that he was walking – the paths of his Martial Arts and Mentalism.

When his thoughts reached this point, he suddenly paused and focused on the word 'link' once again. And the moment when he did, the entire manual of the 'Jade Kirin Scripture' was suddenly presented in front of him.

Then, all of a sudden, when he was reading through everything, the entire scripture seemed to have read his mind and started 'moving'.

Shin saw that the text of the entire scripture moved inside his head. A portion of it seemed to have separated itself from the whole scripture while the rest was fading away.

To his surprise, Shin suddenly discovered that another Mentalism Manual was laid in front of him.

He did not expect that there was another Mentalism Practice hidden within the entirety of the 'Jade Kirin Scripture'.

It was at that moment that he realized that this special scripture might be a collection of different kinds of Martial and Mentalism Manuals.

Setting that thought aside, Shin immediately read through the new manual and subconsciously chanted it out. Then he finally found the missing piece that he was looking for.

"The Yellow Dragon of the Center – the god and guardian of the earth, the representative of the Sun and Heaven, the overseer of the Changing Seasons."

"Everything revolves around the center, expands, and carries the power of transformation."

Right after Shin mumbled these words, there seemed to be a sudden explosion inside his head.

Boom!

Then it was followed by a strong stream of information that quickly fused with the teachings and manual of the 'Four Symbol Scripture'.

And when everything was done, Shin finally felt that he had attained the sense of 'completeness' that he was looking for.

Then, as if projecting what was happening inside his head, the aura manifestation behind him suddenly appeared. The projection of the four divine beasts floated in the air behind him before a Yellow Dragon suddenly joined them and positioned itself at the center.

Bang!

Responding to this, the surrounding energy suddenly started rushing toward Shin like tidal waves and flowed toward the center of his brows. They flooded toward his Niwan Palace and started gathering at the 'Spirit Pagoda' situated at the center of his Sea of Consciousness.

Thump! Thump!

Then there was a series of steady beating sounds that seemed to be resonating with the flow of energy entering his body.

The Spirit Pagoda that was built with the Divinity Grade Mental Energy seemed to have grown stronger, reinforcing its foundations with a much more solid material, and became much sturdier than what it used to be.

The illusionary floors that his pagoda had seemed to become more 'realistic' and less translucent.

The patterns of the walls and roof of each floor became more vivid while the runes flowing through them became much brighter.

Along with this, his Sea of Consciousness took some massive changes.

A sun and a moon seemed to appear in the 'sky', revolving around this world, and started the cycle of day and night.

The time seemed to have also accelerated, showing the changes between seasons.

The bloom of spring, the heat of summer, the fall of autumn, and the snow of winter – these four seasons appeared one after another matching the cycle of the day and night.

The time flowed along with the corresponding season that the four guardian beasts were representing.

The four divine beasts appeared in a constant cycle while the god beast at the center was overseeing everything.

Shin could already feel the changes in his Mentalism with these scenes appearing in his Sea of Consciousness. However, he could still feel that he was still far from reaching the Peak of the Grandmaster Realm.

The floors of his Spirit Pagoda might have shown some changes and become more solid, but that did not mean that he had successfully broken through the minor stages.

He might have become much stronger compared to what he was just earlier, but he was still unable to attain the peak of his form due to the absence of his innate attributes.

Aside from his Fire Elemental Attribute that he had already awakened due to some accident, and the Metal Elemental Attribute that was in the middle of awakening, the rest of his innate attributes were still in a completely dormant state.

If he wanted to completely awaken them, then he still had to work hard.

Fortunately, he would not blindly look for them in the future since he had already gotten a rough idea of where to start and what elements he needed to pursue.

This gave him a lot of confidence.

He felt that it would only take a little time before he finally reached the Peak of Grandmaster Realm.

Having all of that in mind, Shin entered a deep mediation state as he organized everything that he just discovered and consolidated his foundation.

Outside, the five guardian beasts projected behind him through his Aura Manifestation slowly faded and receded back to his body.

Aside from the constant flow of energy filling his Niwan Palace and rising along with his physical body, there was nothing else to take note of.

...

Sitting on the sofa, Professor Henry had witnessed everything. He observed Shin for a couple of moments before nodding his head repeatedly. He looked very much satisfied with the outcome right now.

He had just given Shin a simple advice, yet the young man seemed to have found the answer right away.

This kid clearly reminded the old professor of a certain student who had studied under him in the past. Given their talent and insight when it came to Mentalism, they were almost comparable to each other.

At the same time, Professor Henry could also not help but think about his old friend, Grandmaster Benn.

He could still remember when the Old Benn had become inspired by the teachings of different disciplines to create his own Mentalism Method.

Combining multiple paths of the Mentalism Method into one was highly ambitious, especially when the usage of Mentalism Runes, Arrays, and Formations was involved. But that old fatty had partially succeeded and only missing a single piece.

Grandmaster Benn's only dream was for the world to witness the might of the Mentalism Path that he had created and prove to those who mocked him that they were wrong.

Even though Old Benn did not complete it until he reached his current realm and got stuck in it, which was his only regret. It seemed like this little discipline of theirs had finished the job for him.

Professor Henry did not know how Shin had done it, but he suspected that the little guy had gotten some help from someone. Even though he had some guesses, he had no intention of telling Shin about it since he felt that it was still not the time.

While watching Shin consolidate his realm, the old professor was suddenly reminded of another matter. He also remembered Professor Plum, who was also his old friend and another lunatic who created his own Path that was different from the rest.

A Martial Art that let its wielder practice two different styles and nurtured two types of Internal Qi.

It was also another incomplete art since Professor Plum had failed to achieve the absolute 'balance'. The 'Yang Part' of the complete 'Yin-Yang Arts' was more dominant than the 'Yin Part'. This resulted in the current imbalance between the two styles and Internal Qi.

But from what he had heard that certain lunatic and a madman had revised the 'weaker' part and created a suitable art to attain that 'balance'.

Starting from the Qi Circulation Technique to the permanent Qi Reinforcement Skill, up to all of the Martial Art Skills – that man had re-created everything.

If their estimate was not now, then the 'Yin-Yang Arts' that Old Plum had created would most likely become complete with this version of the art.

When they came together, the absolute balance would finally be attained.

With this thought in mind, Professor Henry focused his gaze and looked at Shin. His eyes flashed with a brilliant light as he peered through the secrets of the latter's body.

The others knew that Shin's Martial Arts was currently sealed, but he knew better than anyone that it was only put in a 'dormant' state.

He had learned something from David, which made him realize the true state of Shin's body.

As long as Shin was 'awake', his Mentalism would only be the one that was active along with his 'Spiritual Embryo Special Physique'.

But if he had fallen 'asleep', then the other person would be 'awakened' and 'switched' places with him.

At that time, his Martial Arts would 'wake up' along with his other special physical, the 'Heavenly Martial Body'.

Professor Henry originally felt that this was impossible, but after experiencing and encountering a lot of strange things during his research, he did not become too surprised about it and calmly accepted everything.

Even though this still needed a lot of study, he could at least tell that this was not necessarily a bad thing.

However, he still had some doubts inside his heart.

Professor Henry stared at Shin for a couple of moments before mumbling to himself. "I wonder what will happen when the 'Five Elements' meet the 'Ying and Yang'."

"Will this cause a horrifying disaster or create an unbelievable miracle?"

Chapter 1227 Perfected Path (Part 3): A Complete Mentalism Method

...

The next day, Professor Henry personally called Professor Kyrie and Old Man Lin to inform them ahead of time regarding Shin's absence.

The consolidation of Shin's realm took longer than they had expected. His deep meditation alone lasted until it was eight in the morning. When it ended, Professor Henry still needed to check if there were some hidden problems or flaws in the current Mentalism Method that Shin had.

With that in mind, the professor asked Benedict to spar with Shin a little more. He wanted to personally oversee everything to make sure that there were no drawbacks or hidden side effects left behind.

The poor senior had just woken up at that time and had not even brushed his teeth yet, but he was immediately dragged back inside the training room before he even got out of the room.

Benedict had not recovered yet from Professor Henry's sudden arrival, so he could not respond in time. He was immediately thrown back into the training room while having a sleepy look.

As a result, Shin had to suffer.

At least that was the plan at first, but Benedict almost got a heart attack when the spar started. Shin was completely different from what he could remember. Whether it was the battle style, the mentalism techniques, energy and technique applications, or Shin's temperament – everything was way different compared to last night.

Benedict could not process everything as he was quite confused about what was happening. He could not put his finger on it as he was trying to understand what was going on.

It was until he remembered that Shin was supposed to complete or do something later that night. Benedict had fallen asleep at that time, so he almost forgot about it. And adding the drowsiness that he currently had due to him just waking up.

Shin's continuous assaults made Benedict fully awake.

After regaining his composure, Benedict returned to his steady pace and started responding to each move that Shin was trying at him. He was able to properly put up a fight right now and even snatched the initiative. He was now the one who was dictating the pace of the battle and controlling its rhythm.

But despite that being the case, Benedict still could not help himself but became more confused and surprised as more time passed.

He could clearly see the rapid growth that Shin was making during the battle. It was so fast that it could even scare Benedict, who was witnessing it firsthand.

Benedict was aware of Shin's combat talent, which was the Battle Genius Talent. This was the reason why he was always taking the initiative to ask Shin for a spar rather than exchanging insights through words.

He knew that Shin would grow much faster when it came to practical training and sparring sessions, so he preferred to teach this junior this way. But what he was seeing right now clearly scared him.

This rate of growth was way beyond his understanding. It was like watching a monster undergo a growth phase from a mere cub into a full-grown adult within a short period of time. It greatly surpassed his imagination.

But after seeing the calm look from Professor Henry, Benedict quickly realized that it was a 'normal' occurrence. At least, from the current state that Shin was currently in.

From what Benedict could see, it seemed like Shin was currently in the middle of building a tower with the current foundation that he already had.

Or to be more precise, it seemed like Shin had crushed everything that he had before re-building everything with a much faster pace.

It was as if Shin was picking up all the broken pieces from the ground and started arranging and putting them together, placing them into their most suitable position.

At first, Benedict could still see some flaws and recklessness from Shin's movement, but as time went by, everything gradually disappeared as the latter got rid of them instantly.

Then Benedict witnessed how Shin rearranged his mentalism techniques and put them in great order.

If before, Shin was only able to transition between the 'Four Divine Beasts Methods', then he was now able to link all of them together without leaving a gap or brief pause that his opponent could take advantage of.

Everything was flowing like a steady river.

From what Benedict could see, it seemed like Shin had perfected his Mentalism Method and created a perfect cycle between the techniques under it.

And it would not take that long before Shin was able to fully master it and make it his own.

...

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

A series of explosions could be heard as Benedict left his afterimages within the training room. He continuously moved around while continuously using the teleportation technique with his Spatial Elemental Attribute.

Despite the limited space within the room, he was able to maneuver himself without being cornered by his junior. He disappeared and reappeared in different places within the room while Shin was continuously chasing after him.

Shin, on the other hand, repeatedly threw a series of attacks during the chase. He perfected and linked each of the techniques that he was using, switching from one special method to another. He even fused some of them together, making Benedict almost panic when facing them.

But despite all his efforts, he still could not land a clean hit to his senior. Although he was able to engage in an intense exchange of blows, all his attacks were either blocked or avoided.

Regardless, he could still put up a good fight until Benedict decided to toy with him using spatial movement techniques.

Shin relied on his sharp Spiritual Sense and True Sight Ocular Technique to track Benedict's movements.

Swoosh!

At this moment, Benedict appeared in a corner of the training room. He was about to use another movement technique when he realized that Shin had unknowingly appeared right in front of him.

"Sh*t!" he could only curse out loud when he realized that he had fallen into a trap.

Shin was reading his teleportation pattern earlier. After analyzing it and memorizing the timing of the teleportation technique of his senior, he had finally gotten a chance like this.

He would naturally not let this opportunity slip away from his hands and quickly made his move.

But to Benedict's surprise, Shin did not throw a punch or execute a complicated technique. Instead, he saw his junior make a series of seals with his hand in an instantly fast but very smooth motion.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

He then saw his surroundings being filled with multiple runes that formed a mentalism array that disturbed the flow of energy. It also shook his control over the Spatial Elemental Energy, making him unable to use any movement techniques.

'Perfected Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon Method – Mountain Seal'

Shin had just learned about this method earlier during his deep meditation when he was consolidating all the knowledge that he had gotten from the 'Jade Kirin Scripture'.

Combining it with the Mentalism Rune Application that he had learned from Grandmaster Benn, he was able to bring it to heights.

And with his meticulous preparation, he was finally able to catch his senior with his trap.

Bang!

Benedict felt a huge mountain trying to crush him when the mentalism array was completed.

"Ugh!"

He could only groan painfully due to how powerful the pressure was.

Left without a choice, he could only extend his hand and wrap it with his 'Spatial Spiritual Force. He was planning to grab Shin and cancel the activation of the array.

Swoosh!

Unfortunately, right after he grabbed onto 'Shin', the latter suddenly turned into smoke that quickly dissipated in the air.

Then Benedict saw Shin standing in the distance. The latter was doing yet another series of hand seals before clasping his hands together.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then a series of Mentalism Runes suddenly appeared in the air surrounding Shin. They revolved around him while releasing a brilliant glow. Then they formed a huge series of 'Rune Sequences' while they lined up behind Shin and turned into multiple circles.

"Condense!" right after Shin shouted that word, the Mentalism Circles suddenly rotated before fusing into one and absorbing the surrounding energy. Then it turned into a huge Mentalism Rune behind Shin that was releasing a blinding light.

Wail!

Howl!

Shriek!

Roar!

Then the sounds of the four beast cries could be heard as they manifested right behind Shin for a brief moment before spinning and fusing together with the glowing rune behind Shin.

Then Shin suddenly extended his right hand forward while maintaining a seal and his left hand holding onto his wrist.

Pointing at Benedict, who was still locked in place in the distance, Shin suddenly shouted. "Blast!"

Boom!

Following his words, a powerful beam of light suddenly flew out from the glowing rune and went straight to Benedict.

'Perfected Four Symbol Scripture: Unity Ray of the Divine Beasts'

Swoosh!

Seeing the incoming ray of light that was flying at him with an insane speed, Benedict suddenly lost his calm demeanor and could not help but curse under his breath. "F*ck! Is this kid trying to destroy everything?"

He then paused briefly and threw a quick glance at the professor. When he saw the calm look that the professor was wearing, he instantly knew that the old man had already expected this to happen and even deployed a powerful barrier within the training room.

Realizing that he would not need to worry about anything, Benedict decided to show Shin what he was capable of.

As if the leash that was restricting him earlier was finally broken, the power that Benedict was suppressing finally exploded.

Boom!

Then, quickly following it, the apparition of a demonic marten with silver-white furs suddenly manifested behind him.

The silver flow of Spiritual Force also appeared around his body, creating an extra layer on it. It flowed continuously and moved upwards like a gentle stream.

His extended hand earlier remained in its position before he flipped it upward.

After that, he made a snapping gesture before finally snapping with his fingers.

Snap!

When the sound finally reverberated in the air, the time seemed to have slowed down before a cluster of energy suddenly appeared in front of him.

'Dark Heaven Cannon: Black Hole'

Swoosh!

Then a small ball of energy suddenly appeared a few meters away from him, which rapidly turned into a black sphere that sucked all energy around it.

Swoosh!

And when the beam of light that Shin had sent came in contact with that black hole, it was immediately absorbed until it exhausted all its powers.

When the beam of light finally dissipated, Shin stared at the black hole that was still absorbing everything before shaking his head.

It was still the strongest technique that he had up until now. He even made a couple of modifications to it after perfecting the 'Four Symbol Scripture', so its might was supposedly much stronger compared to the time he first used it against David.

Moreover, it was also reinforced by his Divinity Grade Mental Energy and was even executed under the influence of his Natural State, so the might could not be compared to the first time he had used the technique.

Yet it was still neutralized by a single technique by Benedict.

"Tsk! Tsk! I guess the gap was still huge," murmured Shin as he looked at Benedict who was currently covered with Spiritual Force with the Spatial Attribute.

Just standing there alone was more than enough for Shin to feel threatened. Shin could easily tell the difference between Benedict and the opponents that he had met before, who were at the Ethereal Opening Stage and Peak of Grandmaster Realm.

Understanding that he still did not stand a chance, Shin raised his hands and surrendered. He had already familiarized himself with his newly improved Mentalism Method and adjusted his battle style along with it.

He could also use the Perfected Four Symbol Scripture with his Natural State, so there was no point in continuing right now and asking to get beaten up by his senior one-sided.

Seeing that Shin surrendered without any hesitation, the corner of Benedict's mouth suddenly twitched. He was forced to enter this state and ready to teach the cheeky junior a lesson, but the latter surrendered straight away, not giving him the chance to put his thoughts into action.

"Why do I feel that I have been played?" said Benedict before retracting the Spiritual Force that was covering his entire body.

He then shook his head and sat in the corner, sulking. He knew that the professor would not let him beat Shin at the moment, so he could only dejectedly draw circles in the corner.

Professor Henry ignored Benedict and called out for Shin. Now that this new apprentice of his had familiarized himself with his newly improved Mentalism Method, it was time to tell Shin at the next training course that he had prepared.

At the same time, they were already aware of which element Shin could possibly have, they did not need to look for them blindly.

At this moment, preparing the body and creating a perfect vessel to host those elements would be their next course of action.

Chapter 1228 Preparations for a Spiritual Vessel

...

In the afternoon, Professor Henry asked Benedict to bring Shin to the 'office' of the Research Department, which was also the headquarters of the 'Sleeping Dragons' Club.

The professor had already prepared a training plan just for Shin. The latter only needed to follow it so that his body could adjust accordingly. It was a training plan that would let Shin prepare himself. It would make his body a perfect vessel that could host the multiple attributes that he would gain in the future.

Professor Henry told Shin that the 'Spiritual Vessel' that he was preparing for him was called the 'Five Elemental Body' which was known as one of the legendary physiques during the era of Cultivators.

(It was the counterpart of the 'Natural Body' of Martial Artists before reaching the Ethereal Opening Stage.)

It was a special physique that was slightly different from the natural body that an individual could gain from their birth.? It was a type of physique that was forged by a practitioner instead of innately gaining after being born.

In a sense, it was a type of Advanced 'Qi Reinforcement Skill' that Martial Artists would possess after engraving special runes in their body.

From what the old professor had said, this 'Five Elemental Body' was slightly stronger than the 'Sacred God Physique' and 'True Demonic Body' that he gained for his Martial Arts after engraving the permanent 'Qi Reinforcement Skills' that Old Plum had taught him, albeit only individually.

But when it came to the combined might of the two permanent Qi Reinforcement Skills, this 'Five Elemental Body' was slightly inferior in comparison.

However, that was only for ordinary 'Five Elemental Body'. For Shin, who possessed the perfect Mentalism Method along with the five innate attributes that he could possibly gain in the future, this Spiritual Vessel would be much more remarkable.

Professor Henry believed that Shin could bring out the true strength of the 'Five Elemental Body'.

...

Shin was starting to feel fatigued after the adrenaline of discovering the perfect form of the Four Symbol Scripture receded.

He still had not gotten a proper rest since last night, much less a good sleep. It was normal for him to be this exhausted. But since Professor Henry wanted him to familiarize himself with the training equipment and machines, he had to at least visit the headquarters along with Benedict.

Standing in front of the rundown building once again, Shin could not help but doubt whether this was really the main office of the Research Department or not.

Seeing the doubt in Shin's eyes, Benedict could only smile bitterly before saying. "Don't let its outer appearance fool you. This place actually has the most advanced facilities within the academy."

"It just always ends up like this because of reason that you already know," he said, trying to explain.

Hearing that, Shin was suddenly reminded of the time when he first visited this place. At that time, he clearly remembered one of his seniors was fighting against Benedict. When he remembered that, he could not help but turn back to his senior, sending an all-knowing look.

Realizing his mistake, Benedict could only cough awkwardly before heading inside the building.

Seeing that Benedict did not want to defend himself or anything, Shin chuckled before following behind his senior. Even though he had already visited this place a couple of times, he still had not explored the entire place yet.

Aside from the ruined straining room and broken meditation room, he had not seen much. Even the reception room that was meant for accepting visitors was no different from a messy storage room.

Walking along the corridor, Shin could not help but observe the place carefully, he was trying to see if there was really something special about this place that he had missed.

It did not take long for him to find the answer. Benedict had brought Shin to the deepest part of the building, reaching the end of the corridor.

At first, Shin thought that it was a dead end, but he quickly dismissed the idea as he knew that there must be a reason why Benedict had brought him here.

"Perhaps, there may be a secret room hidden behind this wall or something?" murmured Shin to himself.

That question was immediately answered in the very next instant.

Benedict tapped a couple of times on the wall before one of its segments suddenly fell, revealing a keyboard and a computer screen. He then inserted his ID into the pocket beside the screen before tapping on the keyboard as if he were entering a secret password.

After that, laser scanners suddenly appeared from the walls on each of their sides along with a pupil-scanning device in front of Benedict.

Click! Click!

Clank!

Then Shin could hear a series of mechanical sounds before a wall blocking their path suddenly sank into the floor, revealing the corridor behind it.

Shin slightly frowned before nodding his head, understanding what was going on.

Not long after, Benedict had led Shin inside and reached the special facility on the other side of the corridor.

Shin could instantly tell that it was a very advanced laboratory after looking around. He could also tell that all the equipment and machinery here were top quality.

Benedict let Shin walk around the laboratory for a couple of moments before finally saying. "We will first conduct a thorough physical examination of your body. We have to see the exact state and gather the most accurate data before proceeding to the next part of the plan."

"We are not going to use the recent data that you have when you first entered the academy since we are sure that you have changed quite a lot since that time."

"We need the most recent parameters and most accurate data to make sure that everything will be going smoothly. If we find any kind of abnormalities, no matter how small it is, we are going to send it to the professor and report everything."

Shin nodded his head in understanding while sweeping his eyes in the entire lab. It was at that moment when his eyes caught a few metal doors lined up in the distance.

Noticing where Shin's gaze was directed, Benedict immediately explained. "The ones at the right are the special training facilities used for advanced training such as Hyperactive Reflexes, Superhuman Strength, Extreme Sensitivity, and others."

"Those training rooms are meant to test if anyone has other talents that they are not aware of. Those rooms are also used to train such talents and further hone them."

He then paused and pointed in the other direction before continuing. "On the other hand, those rooms at the left are used for Innate Attribute Training and Energy Control Training."

"As you can guess, each room is designed to train a certain attribute that one specializes in. They can also be used by either a Mentalist or Martial Artist since those rooms are rich in both Mental Energy and Internal Qi."

"If your realm advances, you can also use those rooms to train your Spiritual or Natural Forces."

He then took another pause and looked at Shin as he added. "As for your current state, Professor Henry wants you to use those facilities to familiarize yourself with the different attributes that you will gain."

"Once you have gained a certain understanding and reached the ideal level of control over them, you can start using the room in the middle to form your own version of 'Spiritual Qi'."

"After that, the professor will prepare a special room for you, where you can train your 'Spiritual Qi'. That room will also be your personal training room," he added before pointing at the other end of the laboratory, where another series of doors were lined up together.

Looking over, Shin could see some nameplates attached to each of the doors, indicating the owner of each room.

Nodding his head, Shin suddenly felt excited before turning back to Benedict. "So, where should I start first?"

Seeing that reaction, Benedict shook his head and smiled bitterly. He then led Shin to one of the parts of the laboratory where a series of training equipment were gathered.

...

While Shin was currently busy with his own thing, his friends found it weird that he was constantly absent and missing the class, which was very unlike him.

But they also understood that this was a critical period for them since it was when they were showing an insane rate of growth. This was also why the academy had given them a very tight schedule every week and throughout the semester.

Arthur found this day boring since he did not have anything better to do. He still could not play the game since it was still down and would only be reopened the next day.

He was also not in the mood to train since he was currently facing a bottleneck. He was too tired and too lazy to look for answers at the moment, yet he also could not fool around due to the recent incidents that occurred.

While Arthur lazed inside his room, Leonard suddenly entered, looking as if it was his own room. He was very familiar with it, so he quickly headed to where Arthur was and said. "Yoh! I need your help for something. Can you lend me a hand?"

Arthur did not even bother to look at Leonard and continued lying on his bed while staring blankly at the ceiling. "I am not in the mood to do anything right now. Come back again later."

Seeing that, Leonard could only smile bitterly and shook his head repeatedly. He then leaned his shoulders on the door while crossing his arms. "Come on, Arthur. Shin Bro is out there training, yet you are lazing around here. Are you not afraid that he will leave us behind?"

Arthur rolled on the bed and lay on his stomach before looking at Leonard in a lazy manner. "It is not that I don't want to train. It's just I don't have any motivation right now. And I am also stuck on something. Let me think about myself for the time being and I will be fine."

Leonard clicked his tongue and said. "That is your problem. I understand."

He then paused for a moment before continuing. "But I am asking you to help me train. I really need your help since you are the only one that I know who can help me.? You are also a Bloodline Possessor, so I know that you can help me."

Hearing that, Arthur suddenly remembered something. He had heard from Shin that Leonard had awakened the dormant bloodline that he had during their previous mission. Moreover, the guy also received an important ancient inheritance along with it, which also underwent a special mutation due to the bloodline ceremony.

At that time, Arthur could not believe the luck that Leonard had. But since everything had already happened, he could only accept the reality.

Understanding what Leonard was trying to say, Arthur picked himself up and sat on his bed. "You want me to help you train how to properly wield your bloodline powers?"

Leonard did not answer but nodded his head.

"Can't you just contact your master and consult him about it?" asked Arthur confusedly. If there was anyone who could help Leonard right now, then it would undoubtedly his master.

Leonard smiled bitterly when he heard that. "Do you think that I will come to you if I can ask my master for help? I have been contacting that old man for a couple of days already, yet I have not heard anything since then."

"I also tried to look for him, but I can't find him anywhere. I am sure that he is out there hiding on purpose, which is why I can't find him."

"That is why I can only ask you for your help."

Arthur clicked his tongue repeatedly as he also found that their elders were getting more and more unreliable as time went by. Even his father and grandfather were unreachable for the last few days while his uncle was busy dealing with the matters regarding the last incidents that happened just recently.

He also heard from Shin that Professor Plum and Grandmaster Benn were also nowhere to be found and could not be contacted, which meant that they also had gone missing or must be hiding somewhere.

Messing with his hair, Arthur turned to Leonard and said. "Training our Bloodline Powers on our own is not safe since we can lose our minds in the process due to the inherited knowledge that it contains."

"We may get swept by the emotions left behind by our ancestors or the primogenitor itself. We may get devoured by it and lose ourselves in the process, so we must ask an elder to oversee our training."

Pausing for a moment, he suddenly added. "I can help you, but we have to ask for some help from our seniors or the elders from the school."

"Should we go back? I think Professor Kyrie will help us since she is our class adviser."

He then paused before quickly adding. "Old Man Lin is also a good choice. Even though I am scared of that old man, he is the best person that we can ask about this since he is of the same generation as my grandfather."

Leonard thought for a moment and considered Arthur's words before nodding. "Then let's go. I also heard that Cloe Sis is currently training with the old man right now, we can contact her and consult Old Man Lin about our situation."

Chapter 1229 Brewing Storm

.....

Shin was able to come back to his room in the hotel at nine in the evening. And right after he reached his bed, he immediately collapsed on it. He was extremely exhausted right now and did not have any plans to do anything else.

He was almost awake for two days straight and had no time to rest. Even during his deep meditation, he was currently training or studying something.

After getting inspiration from the rehearsal that One Day Dairy had just done, he went straight to Professor Henry's house and asked Benedict to oversee his training and even invited the latter to spar with him.

At that time, even though the progress was good, it still did not meet his expectations. He still missing a crucial key that would make his Mentalism complete.

Then, after a few moments of contemplating the questions inside his head, he suddenly met with the professor, who had just gotten back from the trip and given him some hints about the problem that he currently facing.

He then entered a state of enlightenment, which lasted for a couple of hours and was immediately followed by another sparring session with Benedict to consolidate his realm and newly improved Mentalism.

After that, he went to the headquarters of the Sleeping Dragons to undergo a complete physical examination and thorough data gathering.

It was to prepare him for the upcoming training sessions that would be much more difficult and extreme than what he was already suffering from.

Professor Henry had also given him some tasks that he needed to complete. One of them was for him to master his Solar Breathing Technique and reach a certain level of mastery.

It was the same for the Golden Immortality Technique, which needed to be on the same level of mastery as the previous technique to maintain a balance between his innate attributes.

To make sure that the balance would not be broken easily, Professor Henry had also prepared another special technique that Shin had to master. It was another Breathing Technique, but the elemental attribute that it had was for Earth Element.

The professor wanted to create a plate that would make Shin able to withstand the multiple elements within his body. If at least one of the elements was slightly off, it could cause disastrous consequences, leading him to be heavily injured.

Worse, it could also make him a cripple.

Out of the five attributes that Shin could possibly get, the Earth Elemental Attribute was the best when it came to 'containing' the other attributes.

It could help Shin create a perfect structure or prototype of the ideal vessel that they wanted, which would also be molded into the 'Five Elemental Body' that they wanted. This attribute would be the base and the main foundation.

The technique was called the 'Great Dominator Technique', another body strengthening technique converted to a breathing technique.

This 'Great Dominator Technique' had a similar root to the 'Golden Immortality Technique', which was derived from the ancient cultivation methods of the era of cultivators.

The only difference that the two had was the latter was meant to hone the lungs through breathing technique and used it as a center of energy circulation within the body, which would fill all the energy absorbed in the air and turn it into pure energy that would hone the body along with a set of physical exercises prepared for it.

The former, on the other hand, followed the teachings of different ancient disciplines, particularly in Buddhism.

In the era of ancient cultivators, the monks of Buddhist Temples were one of the strongest experts when it came to body refining. Their methods of honing the body were one of the best, especially the 'Immortal Flesh Technique', 'Golden Varja Body', and such.

The current era adapted these techniques and converted them into a new set of techniques that would be more suitable for the current era. One of the products that they had made was the 'Great Dominator Technique', which was also another type of breathing and body strengthening technique combined together.

Despite having the same root, the 'Golden Immortality Technique' and 'Great Dominator Technique' had a somewhat different style and path that they were following. Especially when it came to innate attributes that they were nurturing.

But due to the same reason, these two techniques did not deviate too much away from each other. Instead, they even complimented the main characteristics that the other technique had. They strengthened and lifted each other to a whole different level when used together.

This was the main reason why Professor Henry had chosen the 'Great Dominator Technique'.

With that, Shin had gotten another advanced technique that he had to learn and master. He had to properly train all three breathing techniques and equally manage them so that he could attain the ideal balance that they were hoping for.

Thinking about the series of events that happened to him these past two days, Shin could not help but feel more exhausted.

He could only sigh deeply before slowly closing his eyes. It was not long until he had fallen asleep and drifted away into the dream world.

...

The next day, Wednesday, was yet another day.

Shin had woken up at the usual time. Even though he still wanted to sleep and continue lying down on his bed, his body clock was already used.

Even if he was completely exhausted, his mind and body were telling him not to slack off on his training.

He could only curse himself as he forced his body to get up. Even though his comfortable bed was still trying to tempt him to be lazy and continue sleeping, he managed to fight against the alluring temptation.

Professor Henry had already explained it to him yesterday. He had to continue his regular morning training and start with the basics once again.

The professor explained to him that before his body deteriorated from its current form and destroyed his current foundation.

He had been warned that his current body still had not adjusted itself to the newly improved and perfected Four Symbol Scripture. If he did not want to destroy everything that he had built up until now, then he had to start training from the very beginning and reconstruct his current foundations.

Starting with the basic was the first followed by the more advanced methods and others.

Shin had to start reviewing everything he had learned up until now if he did not want to lose everything and leave a flaw or hole in his Mentalism.

He did not do anything, especially in his morning training, and instead focused on the basic foundation training and deep meditation. He had performed every simple move and basic skill repetitively and patiently before undergoing a mediation where he reevaluated himself and calmed his mind.

After all of these, he went to take a quick shower before preparing to head to the academy. He did not want to miss another class this time since he understood more than anyone how important each class was, especially after learning from Professor Herry these past few days.

...

In the Magic Ace Academy, nothing special happened. Everything went according to everyone's daily routine like attending lectures during the morning and undergoing torturous physical training in the afternoon.

This was even more true for the class that students of the special program were attending. Professor Kyrie seemed to be stricter than before while Old Man Lin continued to give them an impossible task.

Shin, his friends, and the other students in the class could not tell exactly what it was, but they could at least tell from the atmosphere surrounding the entire school that something intense or important was currently happening.

No one voiced it out, but everyone knew that something was coming, and it was not a smaller matter.

Their suspicions became eminent when the academy announced that any activities that needed to be conducted outside the academy or city premises would be suspended, particularly the scheduled field trips, combat competitions, and such.

...

Back in the hotel where Shin and the others were currently staying, the Monster Trio was gathered inside Arthur's room once again.

"This is odd. Why is the academy suspending all the outside activities when the semester barely started? Something must be happening," mumbled Leonard as he found the strange atmosphere surrounding the academy was quite disturbing.

"Is it a terror attack or something? I also noticed that the Military is making obvious movements. They seem to be preparing for something. Maybe there is a war coming?" said Arthur, voicing out his thoughts.

But this was immediately dismissed by Shin by saying. "It is definitely not a war. Given the background of the Soaring Continent, which is also known for its powerful military prowess compared to the other continents, it will be impossible for the government to hide from the citizens if there is an upcoming war."

"We have protocols and other civilian practices when it comes to these occasions. The citizens know what to do when there is war coming," he repeated, rejecting the idea.

"Then what is it?" mumbled Leonard.

Shin thought for a moment before voicing out his thoughts. "I am not sure, but I have some guesses."

"Oh!? Alright. Let's hear your thoughts about this," said Arthur, curious about what Shin was currently thinking.

Shin thought for a moment before saying. "Remember our mission with Senior Brother?"

"The one where Leonard gets his inheritance and undergoes an unexpected Bloodline Ceremony?" said Arthur with creasing brows.

"Yeah, that one," nodded Shin before saying. "From what I have heard, it created a lot of issues and even attracted the attention of different big organizations."

"With such a big event, it is only natural for the big groups to investigate the truth about it," he said as he started to analyze everything. "But since Uncle Nathan is suppressing everything and hiding the fact that Leonard is the one who accepts that powerful inheritance, there must be a limited number of people who know about the truth."

"What about it? It is not like a war will break out due to it," said Arthur, not fully convinced, before adding. "From what I have heard, this is not the first time that something like this has happened."

Shin nodded his head before continuing. "Yes. That is right. But what if another one appears in our territory while those big figures are investigating the truth of what happened?"

"What if an inheritance of a similar level, or something even better, appears all of a sudden any they stumble upon the news when they are investigating?" he emphasized to make sure that Arthur understood.

"Ah!" Arthur quickly realized the gravity of the situation. "Then there must be an intense competition that will take place!"

"No wonder the academy halted all the outside activities. It is to prevent some accidents from happening and... and... it is also to preserve their strengths when something unexpected happens!" said Arthur with a loud voice after realizing what was going on.

Then quickly voiced out his thoughts. "Then the place where it will happen must be near Ace City since the professors are clearly on high alert!"

Shin slightly nodded his head before adding. "That is only one of the places."

Hearing that, the other turned to him with an inquiring look, clearly asking him to continue.

Shin thought for a moment before continuing. "My first guess is the place that you have mentioned before. That place where a strange phenomenon is currently happening. The one with the trees and plants is wilting at an insane rate."

"Oh! The one near where that senior from Heavenly Taste asked us to be substituted for their missing performers!" exclaimed Arthur as he suddenly remembered.

"That is a strange place, and the rapid wilting of the plants must be due to something related to an inheritance or a powerful monstrous beast that is absorbing all the life force of from the surroundings," said Shin.

He then paused for a moment before continuing. "The other place may be related to the tomb or ancient ruins that our excavators have dug recently."

"My mentor has visited it recently. I don't know what they have discovered, but I am guessing that it must be something important since Professor Henry is an important figure in the World Researcher Center."

"And if it is something that can pull him away from his research activities, then it must be something very important. Something that he can't ignore," he added as his suspicions grew larger.

...

Later that night, Shin did not go to bed and instead got inside his gaming cabin. The scheduled maintenance of the game had already ended last night, so it was reopened once again.

Shin knew that the gaming company was doing this random and scheduled maintenance every month or week to make sure that the players would not suffer from VRD (Virtual Reality Disorder), where they confused the game with reality.

The consequences of this mental disorder were heavy since it could even cause someone to commit serious crimes. Theft was one of the mildest among cases, but it could become more serious such as assault. Worse, it could even lead to murder.

This was the reason why the gaming company implemented this rule of having such maintenance aside from the huge updates and required patches.

This was what he thought at first. But after learning from Professor Henry, Shin felt that there was something more to it. It was as if there were other reasons for the gaming company to implement these maintenances. It was for them to check the system or to look for something.

Shin was not sure what it was, but he could at least tell that it might be something important that even some organizations in the real world were involved.

He knew that that game had some connections with reality, but he still had not discovered what it was since it was being hidden from them.

Reaching the Peak of the Grandmaster Realm was the bare minimum for Mentalist while breaking through the Ethereal Opening Stage for Martial Artists.

"I have to reach those realms if I want to get involved, huh?" mumbled Shin as he lay inside the gaming cabin and closed its door.

"It is not that far now," he continued to murmur while adjusting himself.

He could already see the path in front of him and what was left right now was to walk through it and reach the end. He now had a clear path in front of him, so there was no need to blindly look in the dark.

He would reach those realms and uncover the secrets that the game was hiding.

Sigh~!

Taking a deep breath and adjusting his mind, Shin closed his eyes and said. "Initiate Game Login!"

Swoosh!

[Establishing Virtual Connection]

...

[Initiating Virtual Login]

...

...

[Retrieving In-game Data]

...

...

...

Ding

"Welcome Back, Player Sickarius!"

...

Swoosh!

When Shin was back in the game, he appeared at the strange ancient ruins where he met Kentas for his Tier 3 Class Promotion Quest.

Looking around, he saw nothing but darkness and a ruined place. The sky was clear and full of stars, creating a stunning and amazing scene.

Shin stared at the sky for a couple of moments before lowering his head and casting his gaze in the distance.

Looking at the darkness, he could feel that there were things hidden behind it. This was a strange and isolated map within the Atlas World. Even though he knew that he was still within the main world, he could still feel that he was in a place that was not part of the main continent.

Or at least an isolated map that was forgotten by the rest of the world just like the Forgotten Kingdom.

Shin was confused about this since he still could not find which part of the Atlas World this place was. He also did not get any notification that was informing him that he had stepped upon a special region or something similar; not even a notification that said that he was the first player who discovered this place.

Confused, he could not explore the place and look for answers.

He was not in a hurry to finish his promotion quest since he knew better than anyone that he was still not strong enough to clear it – at least not in his current state.

If he wanted to clear it, then he must conquer more elements and unlock his full potential within the game. Or at least gain absolute control over three elements – the Fire, Metal, and Earth Elements.

He already had a way to awaken the other two elements. After all, Astaroth was a master of this element. As long as he got some access in the rebirthing place of the said Elemental Spirit, then he would be fine.

He could study the elements in that place without worrying about time and resources. The moment he set foot in that place, then he was confident that he would be able to awaken the said elements.

Then the awakening of his innate attributes would follow.

Right now, what Shin had to do was to focus on training the two special techniques that Professor Herny had given him, the 'Golden Immortality Technique' and the 'Great Dominator Technique'.

If he managed to reach the same level of mastery as his Solar Breathing Technique with these two, then he would be able to establish the ideal balance that he was looking for.

And when it happened, he would gain the confidence to win against those clones inside the Trail Grounds.

For now, he had to find a good sparring partner that he could use to practice his techniques. He believed that there must be some monster around here that would fit his criteria.

He originally wanted to go back to where he came from and look for materials that he needed to create the 'dimension key or token' that Hanzo was talking about before asking Berlin to make it for him.

But given that this place might be something special, he refused to go back for the time being and investigated the place first.

Walking around the ruins, he found that this place was huge. The ruins alone were as large as the Holy City.

This gave Shin an idea that this place must be a city before it became like this.

When he reached its borders, he finally saw how tall the trees surrounding the ruins were. He first thought that it might be ordinary trees similar to the ones that he could find anywhere on the First Continent, but he immediately realized that he was wrong when he was standing in front of them.

Each three was as stall as skyscrapers that he could see in the real world, dwarfing anything that stood next to it. Their trunks were so large and wide that even if three huge buses lined up together, they would only be barely enough to cover the distance; that was one of the sides of the tree alone and not its entire circumference.

"D*mn! They are so huge! Don't tell me there are giants living in this place," mumbled Shin as he stared at the tree in front of him. He could not believe that such a tree existed, and there was an entire forest of them.

It was until now that he realized that this rune could not even reach the standard of being a city in this place. It might only be a manor or something.

After observing the three for a moment, Shin detoured around him and entered the gigantic forest. Then he realized that this place might really be related to giants or at least gigantic creatures.

Not only the trees were huge, but it was also the same for the bushes and other plants.

After walking for an unknown time, Shin found that there was something strange. He had been walking for a couple of hours from his estimate, but he still had not encountered any living being or undead monster around. Even an insect was not present.

Moreover, the forest was very quiet. It was eerie quiet that it was no longer normal anymore.

Based on his previous experiences, this kind of silence could only mean two things.

First, there was an overwhelmingly strong monster residing in this place, which was why no creatures dared to step on it. If it was the territory of such a powerful being, then it explained why he did not encounter any monster along the way.

The second case was because of an unknown phenomenon. There must be a disease, epidemic, or mysterious phenomenon happening in this place. It could cause any living creature that steps in it to die or sort. But if that was the case, then it would be strange that Shin did not encounter any remains along the way.

Given the current circumstances, Shin was leaning more toward the first case. There must be a powerful monster or mysterious creature living in this place.

Having that thought in mind, Shin put up his guard more and sharpened his senses. If there was really a monster with such strength, then he must be very careful when advancing forward.

This situation lasted for a few more hours without the slightest bit of chance, which made Shin suspicious and more cautious.

Looking back, he had already traveled quite a distance, yet he had not met a single soul along the way.

"Am I wrong? Maybe this is just a special region where nothing could live or something like that?" Shin started to doubt his first theories and thought deeply.

But he later shook his head and rejected the idea. He was still not convinced about it and believed that there must be a reason why the place was so devoid and quiet.

Swoosh!

Then something happened!

While he was deep in his thoughts, a powerful aura suddenly swept through the entire forest and went past his body.

Shin shivered as he could feel that the aura that passed through him was similar to the Divine Sense that only top experts in the real world could do – at least Martial Artists in the Domain Realm or Mentalists in the Exalted Realm.

Shin quickly put his guard up and turned toward the direction where the sweeping aura came from. He was afraid that he would be detected by the other party through it.

But after standing on his spot for a few more minutes without anything happening, he started to doubt himself and thought that it might be his Imagination.

But after some consideration, he decided to investigate it and see if it was really nothing. He started walking toward the direction that he suspected to be the source of the aura.

Not long after, he suddenly saw something that sent shivers down his spine.

His body shook as he was completely taken aback. Then his mind won over the instincts that telling him not to move. He forced his body to move and hide behind the nearby tree.

"What was that?" he mumbled to himself as he started sweating bullets. He was grasping and leaning on the tree while recalling what he had seen.

But after he could not recall what it was, he decided to take another look. He then calmed himself and relaxed his body before swallowing hard and bracing himself.

He slowly turned around and peeked from the side of the tree.

Then he saw it!

There were a bunch of black-feathered birds, which looked like a hybrid of a crow and a vulture, pecking at the huge corpse of an unknown creature.

Due to how deformed and scattered the innards of the dead creature, Shin could not tell what exactly it was. But from what he could see, it must be some sort of furred creature like a bear or something similar.

He was taken aback earlier due to how gruesome the sight was. Moreover, the skull of the dead creature, which was half-finished from being eaten, was facing his direction, so it made him think that it was looking straight at him.

After observing the humongous birds feast on the corpse of the unknown monster, Shin activated his ocular skill, the 'True Sight', to peek at the basic information that they had.

Then he could not help but swallow hard once again when he saw the level of these birds.

All of them were at least level 300!

He could only curse under his breath after realizing that this place was really not something he could explore with his current strength.

He then turned around and planned to go back to where he came from.

But right after he did, he was immediately greeted by something that he did not expect.