

Destiny 1251

Chapter 1251 Hidden Historical Quest (Part 1)

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Berlin had been waiting for Shin for quite a while now. He had finished crafting the dimensional token earlier and even sent away the Time Mage friend that he asked for the favor of helping him create it.

He wanted to introduce Shin to this good friend of his and recommend the young man when they arrived at the Awakened Continent since the connection was important when they arrived in that place. But he could not ask the Time Mage to stay that long since they were also busy with their matters.

Playing with the dimensional token, Berlin looked at the deeper parts of the volcano while waiting for Shin. He was wondering what that young man was doing for him to miss their appointed time.

Sighing, the Saint Blacksmith could only shake his head and go to the volcano's center where he sent Shin. He was not sure if Shin had encountered some problems, or if the young man just happened to enjoy staying in that place given the rich and concentrated elemental mana that it had.

It was at that moment that he heard the roars coming from the deeper parts of the volcano. He could not hear it from his workshop due to how far it was. The sound of the boiling magma on the blazing river was also loud enough to cover what was happening in the deeper area of the place.

He was only able to hear the roars of the powerful monster because he was getting near the core area of the volcano. He could also feel the intense vibration of the ground and walls, signifying how fierce the battle was happening there.

"So, the kid found someone to play with, huh? It is quite unexpected," mumbled Berlin as he continued to head over to the core area.

But as he got nearer, instead of hearing a more intense battle, he felt that it was getting quieter. The strong vibration and intense sounds of the fight were getting more subtle as he moved forward.

This indicated that the battle was already reaching its conclusion.

Berlin did not know what happened, but he felt that Shin should be the one winning the battle. It was not only because of the signs given to him by the sounds coming from the core area but also because of his confidence in the young envoy.

He did not believe that the person chosen by multiple legendary figures was that weak.

His thoughts were immediately proven when he reached the core area of the volcano. He saw a huge creature lying on the bank of the magma river, lifeless.

Taking a closer look, Berlin immediately recognized the monster. It was the 'Wrath of the Burning River', one of the overlord monsters living in this extreme environment. It was a monster that loved to stay under the magma or any place with rich elemental mana of fire, earth, and metal.

From what he knew, it was also one of the creatures that could form their Beast Cores after reaching adulthood.

Judging from the size of the monster and the luster of its scales, Berlin knew that it was a fully grown 'Wrath of the Burning River'.

Even though Berlin was expecting Shin to win, he still could not help but become impressed at this achievement. Fighting such an overlord by himself was already impressive but killing it in the process was a much more amazing feat.

Casting his gaze at the top of the monster, Berlin saw Shin sitting comfortably while staring at the magma river. The [Yamato] was left stuck on the body of the monster as he rested.

"Amazing! I know that the Envoy has grown quite well since we last met, but I still don't expect you to reach this level," said Berlin, praising Shin.

Even though Berlin was quite strong himself compared to Shin currently, he still believed that this young man would surpass him sooner or later given the insane growth rate that the latter had.

Shin's back was currently facing Berlin, so he did not immediately notice the latter's arrival. But he had already sensed the presence of the latter when Saint Blacksmith stepped on his 'Sensing Circle'.

Shin turned around and smiled at Berlin in greeting. "You don't have to come here, Sir Berlin. I am about to come to you when I am done with this guy."

He patted the corpse of the giant alligator before apologizing. "But I am sorry for missing our appointment in time. I just got a little engrossed in the fight and forgot about the time."

Berlin chuckled a little and commented. "I don't know that you have grown this much. To think you not only can take on an Overlord Monster, but also able to kill by yourself – you sure is amazing."

Shin wanted to play modestly, but he could not find the words to say it. Given Berlin's level, he knew that it was pointless to deny anything.

Nodding his head, Shin stood up and pulled out the [Yamato] from the corpse of the monster. He then strongly swung it to the side to get rid of the blood on the blade before sheathing the sword.

He jumped down from the corpse of the monster and reached Berlin. "I guess Sir Berlin has finished crafting the dimensional token?"

Berlin shook his head when he saw the excited face of Shin tossing the token that he was holding. "I have already finished it ages ago! You are the one who did not come back at the appointed time, so I am forced to check on you!"

Seeing Shin curiously looking at the token, Berlin added. "My friend has done some modifications on it and even strengthened the formation engraved."

"He said that the coordinates that you have given are quite interesting, especially since both can't be found by normal means. One is connected to an independent world while the other is meant for the disappearing island – Tsk! Tsk! You should have seen his excited look when he heard about them."

"But you don't have to worry about your secret leaking. He is someone that you can trust and will not disclose anything about the two places that you have given."

"Moreover, Time and Space Mages like him have sworn an oath to never do such a thing. If they did, they would not only lose their powers but they would also be punished by the heavens."

"At the bare minimum, they will become crippled for the rest of their lives. At worst, they will die an unsightly death," added Berlin, reassuring Shin that his secrets will be safe.

He then paused for a moment before remembering something. "Oh! But he warns me about something. He said that it is better to use this token along with an advanced teleportation formation. It is much safer to take that route to make sure that the spatial corridor is stable."

"He said that has added another formation on it to intercept any prying eyes that may be spying on you. It can also hide you from any powerful void creatures that are residing on the 'Void', so there is no need to worry about them."

After that, Shin continued to listen to Berlin about all the functions of the dimensional token and how the properly use them. Even though it was meant to be a key to enter the Rebirthing Place of this Elemental Spirit Companions and the Phantom Island, it could also help him at critical times.

As a Saint Blacksmith, Berlin did not want to craft any ordinary items. He would always put extra functions on the item that could be used for saving the lives of his friends and customers.

After explaining everything, Berlin turned his attention to the huge corpse of the 'Wrath of the Burning River' before asking. "So, what is your plan with this thing? Do you want to be to turn it into something useful?"

Shin was slightly taken aback by the words of the Saint Blacksmith. But he quickly regained his composure before saying. "Do you want it, Sir Berlin? Then I can give it to you. After all, you have helped me a lot. This corpse can be my gift to you."

Berlin chuckled when he heard that and shook his head. "There is no need for that. We can already be considered as friends, so those favors are nothing."

"Moreover, haven't you already promised to grant a favor for me in the future? That is more than enough for me."

"As for this corpse... I must say that it is quite rare to get a fully intact corpse of an overlord, but it is nothing big. I have already processed quite a lot of corpses from stronger creatures, much less these."

"I can even ask for some rare materials from the Kingdom if I want to. They will not even refuse it since they will not want to provoke a Siant Blacksmith such as myself."

Shin was silent for a moment before shaking his head bitterly. What Berlin had said was right. This corpse might be important in the eyes of players like him, but it was nothing in the eyes of such a powerful NPC, especially when they were talking about someone with such a high status.

While Shin was lost in his thoughts, Berlin suddenly asked. "Does it have a Beast Core?"

Shin nodded. "Yeah. I have already extracted it."

"What are you planning to do with it?" asked Berlin.

Shin thought for a moment before shaking his head. "I don't have any idea yet. I am planning to say it until I find what I want to do with it."

Berlin extended his hand and said. "Then lend it to me. I will use it as a core to forge a pseudo-living armor."

"Eh!?" Shin was caught off guard by those words. He was greatly surprised when he heard the words 'living armor'.

He had heard of it and even read it before. It was a type of armor that could continuously grow like a 'relic' that Transcendent Beings had.

The higher-quality ones could even have a certain 'ego', making the armor look more alive. The other term used similar to this one was 'Ego Weapons'.

Living Armors and Ego Weapons – from the information that Shin had, they were sets of equipment that could only be found in the end-game content of the game.

Even though Berlin only said that it was a 'pseudo-living armor', it should still be an overpowered item at the current state of the game.

He would surely be a broken character when he gets his hands on one!

"You-... you can forge that, Sir Berlin?" asked Shin carefully.

Seeing his reaction, Berlin suddenly started laughing. "Do you still need to ask? Of course, I can craft one! If not for these low-quality materials, then I can even craft you a real living armor!"

"Have you forgotten? I am already a Saint Blacksmith! I can not only Spirit Refine any metals or ores, but I also Soul Refine them while forging!"

Shin was surprised at first when he heard Berlin calling the corpse of an overlord to be a 'low-quality' material. But he quickly understood why the Saint Blacksmith had said that.

He then fell into deep thought before taking out a few more materials. He took out the materials that he had gotten from the Stoneback Gorilla, Ironhead Chimpanzee, and Steelfist Ape.

Berlin suddenly stopped laughing when he saw those materials. With his discerning eyes, he immediately recognized them with a single glance. He then looked at Shin before turning back to the materials and then back to Shin.

It took him quite a while to regain his composure before asking. "You went to the Starry Spears Mountain Forest?"

As someone with his status, Saint Blacksmith Berlin knew where these materials came from.

Shin nodded his head before asking. "Yeah. I also killed these Overlords. Although I have some assistance, I am still the one who killed them."

Berlin was not interested in who killed these Overlord Monsters but in their backgrounds. Seeing that Shin had no idea what these materials were meant for, he could not help but ask. "Kid. Do you know anything about these monsters? Do you know about their history? Do you know how they come to be?"

Shin was now confused when he saw the serious look from Berlin. He now knew that there seemed to be something to it that he was not aware of. He then shook his head, telling the Saint Blacksmith that he had no idea what he was talking about.

Berlin shook his head and sighed before nodding his head. "Yeah. How can you know about them when you are this young."

Then paused for a moment before looking at Shin with full seriousness. "Kiddo. I will be taking back my earlier offer-... No-... I will be modifying it a little bit."

"I will still be crafting a set of armor from this giant corpse. But it will not be a pseudo-living armor anymore. You can recommend someone, to whom you want to give the armor, and I will craft it according to their style and what they want."

Shin nodded his head and agreed. "That will not be a problem. I even have to take you for that, Sir Berlin."

Berlin did not care that much about that since it could only be a normal crafting for him. Instead, he was more interested in the new set of materials that Shin had taken out.

"But in exchange, you have to entrust these materials to me along with that core that you have gotten from the 'Wrath of the Burning River'. You also have to gather more materials for me."

Shin was slightly confused but still nodded his head. "That is barely a favor. You are still helping me, nevertheless. I will naturally agree."

lightsNovel.com Seeing that Shin still did not understand what he was trying to say, Berlin shook his head. "Kiddo. I see that you have yet to realize it yet."

"These materials that you have are not as simple as you think. They have a long history and even part of a legend. If you gather everything that I am going to ask you, then I can forge you a set of armor that even the gods can tremble in fear!"

"The armor that even the God of Blacksmith and Craftsmanship has coveted when it is forged by a certain individual to fight against the gods!"

When Shin had heard those words, he could not help but tremble.

It was at that moment when a system notification rang in his eyes.

Ding

System: A Hidden Historical Quest has been Triggered!

Chapter 1252 Hidden Historical Quest (Part 2): Secrets of the Gods' Primordial War

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Ding

System: You have triggered a Hidden Historical Quest!

System: Berlin has given you a clue about ancient weapons!

System: Quest is updating-...

System: Continue to listen to Berlin for more information.

Shin glanced at the notifications briefly and got a rough idea of what this quest was about. And given what Berlin had said earlier, he could also guess that it was another gathering quest.

While Shin was lost in thoughts, Berlin continued. "Have you heard about the weapons that the people have used during ancient times?"

Shin shook his head when heard it. He might have learned a few things from reading the official website of the game and online forums, but he was still lacking in a lot of areas.

He had also read some from the libraries before, but he no longer had the time to visit those places at the moment due to how busy he was recently.

Speaking of libraries, he could not help but think about Molton. That guy loved to stay in the libraries within the game and read the historical records stored there. He even became a Grand Scholar due to it.

If it was Molton, then he would most likely know something about these 'ancient weapons.'

Shin thought that he had to ask Molton about this later to get a rough idea concerning these weapons. It could be very helpful for them in the future. They could also try looking for these overpowered weapons and take them if possible.

With such tools under their arsenal, their overall strength would surely reach another level.

Seeing that Shin still had no idea of what he was talking about, Berlin continued. "Listen, kiddo. As you know, this world has already gone through a lot of eras. The current era that we currently living in is called the New Age Era. It was an era where you, Otherworldly Individuals, are summoned to help us original residents of this world fight against the spawns of left behind the Demons during the previous era, the Repelling Era."

"Even though it has bitten us back due to the other Otherworldly Individuals who sided with the Demonic Churches and Corrupted Cult, we still have benefited a lot with the help of the majority of your people."

"Before these two eras is the Warring Era, where Racial Wars are constantly happening. Those wars are the battle between different races and believers of different gods. It was one of the most chaotic times in this world. But it was not the most tragic one."

"The most tragic era happens before that. No, it happened even before the Ancient Era – the Era where Primordial Gods start war against each other."

"As you can guess – when the gods fight, the mortals suffer."

"During that time, when the gods are fighting against one another, a lot have fallen, and the new gods rise and snatch thrones. They do not care about the consequences of their actions and only think about their selfish goals, which is why a lot of the ancient beings have fallen and been wiped from history."

"But despite those selfish gods have won, they are not able to consolidate position smoothly due to certain circumstances."

"The ancient beings of the world have revolted and started fighting against those surviving gods. Some of the most formidable ones have killed their way to Heaven and slayed those selfish gods."

"These ancient beings have created some divine tools and equipment that can help them fight against those powerful gods. And after successfully killing those gods, those formidable individuals have absorbed the powers of fallen gods and become gods themselves."

"Realizing that they can also snatch the throne of the gods, more and more ancient beings started to join, making the situation more chaotic and tragic."

"More ancient people die innocently after being caught in the crossfire. It is said that the Blood Sea in the west of the current Awakened Kingdom is formed from the blood of the countless gods and powerful ancient beings."

"This chaotic and tragic war lasted for eons. Until one of the most divine gods sacrifices himself to separate the world in halves. One is where the current gods and divine beings reside while the other is where, we, lesser beings are left behind."

"That is where the Higher and Lower Planes are created."

"Then he created a powerful boundary that cannot be breached by either side. He also barrow the power of the Universal Law and Heavenly Principles to forbid those from the Higher Plane to cross unless they strip their divine powers to descent. It also ejects the powerful beings from the Lower Plane

and sends them to the other side once they reach a certain threshold on their power. That is when they become Divine Beings."

Shin could not help but become surprised at the sudden revelation. From what he knew, the records about the ancient war were already lost and could not be found, especially those from the era way before the Ancient Era. To be more precise, what happened during those times had already been erased from history by those absolute beings.

Even Hanzo, an Ancient Void Spirit, was not fully aware of this fact. As for Solus, she briefly mentioned that she was from the war that took place during the Ancient Era, which was also where the master she served, the Sun God, had fallen.

It was also during a Divine War between gods.

Deducing the events from this, Shin immediately realized that this was most likely the second war between gods.

But what confused Shin was how Berlin knew about this when even the most Ancient Beings that knew were not aware of it.

He was about to voice these thoughts when he suddenly noticed that Berlin seemed to have already guessed what he was thinking.

The Saint Blacksmith was smiling at him and continued. "Most people do not know about this due to how long have passed. But there are still some individuals who managed to record everything and pass it down from generation to generation."

"As for me, I happen to be one of the descendants of the ancient being, who managed to ascend to godhood after killing a god."

"And as you can guess, it is the god who is now known as the God of Craft and Blacksmith. He is the ancestor of all dwarves and I belong to the main family. This is the reason why I know more about those events than most of the people."

"Even though I have not experienced it personally, the knowledge of those eras is passed down to us, direct descendants of Ancient Beings, through generations."

"Ah! I see," Shin quickly realized that it was indeed possible. He was also able to understand that these direct descendants were purposely hiding the records of those events from everyone else for a certain reason.

Although he was curious about it, Shin did not pry deeper and just nodded his head in understanding. It was a family secret, so he could not dig deeper. He was already lucky enough to hear most of the story from Berlin.

Berlin smiled in satisfaction when he saw the reaction coming from Shin. He became even more reassured that he could share his secret with this young man.

"As I said before, the God of Craftsmanship and Blacksmithing have forged the first living armor to defeat those gods. From the knowledge passed down to our family, we have learned that the armor is called the 'Thousand Chaos'."

"It is a set of armor that is made from materials gathered from the powerful primordial beasts and ancient minerals."

He then pointed at the materials that Shin had taken out and continued. "These materials that you have brought are from the Stoneback Gorilla, Ironhead Chimpanzee, and Steelfist Ape, am I right?"

"They are monsters that can only be found in the Sparry Spears Mountain Forest. But do you know that these beasts can never be found in the same era?"

"These three monsters are called the Trinity Apes. Legends say that they are born from the fragments of the first Divine Ape, the Heavenly Dominator."

"It is a monster that can trample the sea and crush the mountains with a lift of its finger. It is one of the ancient monsters that can fight against gods on equal footing due to its powerful defense."

"Our ancestor, the God of Craftsmanship and Blacksmithing, has found this monster on its dying breath. It is defeated by one of the Primordial Gods and our ancestors harvested its body for materials, which become one of the core components of the 'Thousand Chaos'."

"After that era, a Heavenly Dominator has never been found again. But it is prophesied by the wise men of our race that when the Trinity Apes have appeared together on the same era, the time for the Divine Armor to reappear again will be approaching."

Shin now finally understood the reason behind Berlin's reactions. Based on what he had heard from the Saint Blacksmith, the appearance of the so-called 'Trinity Apes' was the sign this family was waiting for.

But at the same time, Shin had suddenly gotten a bad feeling about this. If such a powerful weapon was about to appear, then something terrible was about to befall this world.

And sure enough, his suspicion was immediately proven when he heard the next words that Berlin had said.

"This also serves as a warning. The 'Thousand Chaos' is a divine armor that is used to fight against gods, so its reappearance will naturally cause a disaster due to certain circumstances."

"But what the wise men of our race have feared the most is the reoccurrence of another tragic war that occurred in the past. They said that if the Heavenly Principle had permitted such an armor to reappear, then it could only mean that a terrible disaster is about to descend on our plane."

Hearing that, Shin was immediately reminded of the World Quest that he had gotten during the time they were doing Arthur's Empire Quest.

"The Descent of the Devil Ancestor," Shin mumbled.

His voice might be soft and quiet, but given Berlin's realm, he was able to clearly hear those words.

The Saint Blacksmith looked at Shin with wide eyes, full of shock. He then pointed at Shin and repeatedly said. "You-... you-... know about the Devil Ancestor!?"

"Ah!" Shin immediately realized that he subconsciously voiced out his thoughts. He also did not expect that it could cause Berlin to react this way. But he quickly regained his composure and calmly said. "I am not exactly sure about it-... but I happen to stumble upon the information about this Devil Ancestor."

However, when he said those words, Berlin seemed to not have heard him. Shin was confused as he looked at the Saint Blacksmith to continue mumbling to himself.

"No wonder-... no wonder King Orn has chosen you. He must have seen something in you when you two first met. He must have expected this to happen. He must have discovered that you can be the person that we are waiting for!"

"You even found the Trinity Apes! It must be the will of the heavens! It must be! You must be one of the chosen individuals to fight at the frontline! You must be one of the heroes of this current era."

"That is right! This must also be the reason why the Phantom King has chosen you! He must have expected this to happen!"

Shin was unable to pull Berlin back in real as the latter had already been lost in his thoughts and continued talking to himself.

This even scared Shin as it looked like Berlin had lost himself and become crazy.

Fortunately, Berlin was able to regain himself not long after. However, the gaze that he had when he looked at Shin gave the latter a huge scare.

.com "Sir Envoy-... No-... The Prophesied Child! The Hero of this Era! Please grant me the honor to serve you and forge the worthy armor to accompany you in this upcoming war!"

Hearing those words, Shin immediately got a bad feeling about this. Unfortunately, it was already too late as he saw Berlin kneeling in front of him with a lowered head.

"Please grant me this honor!"

Along with it, the quest that he had received had already finished updating and sounded in his ears.

Ding

Little did Shin know, this particular quest would cause a chain reaction that would change the flow of the game once again.

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At the same time, this terrible news would also drive the developers of the gaming company crazy!

He truly lived up to his name as one of the Problem Children (Miracle Players).

Chapter 1253 Hidden Historical Quest (Part 3)

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Shin walked out of the abandoned blacksmith shop in Berlin after talking with the Saint Blacksmith.

It took him quite a while to calm Berlin down from his excited state. Shin did not know that muttering the words 'Devil Ancestor' would have such a serious effect on Berlin.

He was quite flustered about it earlier, and it took him a great effort to calm Berlin. He just realized how crazy an NPC could be just by 'following' the 'script' of the system.

He was sweating bullets the entire time.

On the other hand, Shin also felt that this would be a good opportunity. Having a Saint Blacksmith serve him would not only benefit him greatly, but it would also include his allies as well such as the Hand of Midas and Empyrean Talons, especially now that they were about to build and develop their territory.

Even though he could not constantly ask Berlin to craft them a batch of equipment, he could still make him a consultant or a special instructor for the Blacksmith of the Trading Firm.

.com Shin was sure that not only the chiefs of the Hand of Midas could learn from a Saint Blacksmith, but it would also greatly develop their respective crafts. Black Hammer and Harmony would greatly benefit from Berlin due to their professions, especially the former.

Black Hammer was a blacksmith too, so there was no need to talk about him. But Harmony was a tailor. Even though Berlin majored in blacksmithing, he was still a descendant of the God of Craftsmanship and Blacksmithing, so he was still quite knowledgeable when it came to other crafts.

Berlin did not become a direct subordinate of Shin, but he promised to support Shin to the best of his abilities. Developing an army might still be out of the question currently, but helping his friends would not be a problem.

Berlin had already asked Shin if he could recommend a friend for the materials that he had gotten from the corpse of the 'Wrath of the Burning River' earlier and he chose Akailu for it.

Akailu had already converted his class to a special class called Spiritual Beastmaster. It was a class that seemed to be a fusion of a Human Summoner and Beastman Hunter (Tamer). He had gotten it just recently and was able to successfully change his class in a single trial.

The class greatly pleased Akailu as he said that it perfectly suited him and his play style. His Ranker's Title was also 'Beastmaster', so there was no need to ask how satisfied he was.

Shin had already consulted Berlin about this earlier. Based on the materials that they had gathered from that giant alligator; he could guess that the set of armor that could be forged from it was a plate or light armor.

Akailu's class was meant to use leather armor, so he was quite worried that the armor made from the scales and bones of the giant alligator would not fit him well.

But Berlin reassured him that he could fix that problem. After all, he was a Siant Blacksmith. For little problems like this one, he could easily solve it.

With that, Shin called Akailu over for the great news.

How could Akailu refuse such an opportunity? Although he was busy doing his Promotion Quest, he instantly dropped what he was doing and immediately exited the trial ground.

He was quite jealous of Owen, who had gotten a powerful class after Shin defeated Demon God Justin and even received all the equipment that the fallen god previously had.

What kind of equipment were those?

Of course, they were top-class! They were equipment from a renowned Godlike Player, after all. Moreover, Justin was the commander of the Silent Night Adventurer Team, which was not only a famous group but also quite rich as well.

The equipment set that Owen had received was not inferior to the sets that the gods of their team possessed. Shin and Arthur had even admitted it, so it was natural for Akailu to be a little envious.

Even Ithilien had received an overpowered bow, which Shin and the others had gotten from Caelum. It was a top-class weapon, so the might that it had surpassed most of the weapons in the game.

But given the personality of the leaders of their Adventurer Team, Akailu waited patiently. His patience paid off as it was finally his turn.

He was very excited!

Shin did not wait that long outside the blacksmith shop as Akailu rushed to the shop right after receiving the news.

He could not help but smile helplessly when he saw the latter excitedly run toward him. "There is no need for the rush, don't you think? It is not like your armor was going to run or anything."

Akailu chuckled a little when he heard that and said. "Vice-Commander, you should understand how I am feeling! I have been waiting for this!"

Shin laughed before turning around and entering the shop. "Alright, alright. I understand. It is finally your turn. Follow me inside."

Akailu did not hesitate as he followed behind Shin after closing the door.

Shin explained everything to Akailu as they walked toward the secret room. "You are in luck since you will be receiving one of the best equipment sets in the game. Your equipment will be crafted by the only Saint Rank Blacksmith of the Kingdom, and one of the best in the entire continent. You should be grateful."

Akailu was dumbstruck when he heard those words. He first thought that his equipment would be crafted by Black Hammer, the best blacksmith in the entire game. But from what Shin had said, it seemed like he would be receiving equipment from an NPC. Moreover, it was someone with a very high status and highly skilled.

His brain seemed to have short-circuited after realizing this fact. He could not pay attention to the next words that Shin had said as his mind was already floating somewhere else.

He was only able to snap back to reality when Shin had repeatedly called him.

"It looks like you are absentminded. Is the news that shocking?" said Shin while chuckling.

Akailu dumbly nodded his head as he still hadn't fully recovered.

Shin shook his head when he saw that. Then he quickly changed the topic. "How is the progress with your Promotion Quest?"

Being reminded of this matter, Akailu could only smile bitterly. "Terrible. I can't even endure for more than ten minutes. Much less, beating the entirety of the quest."

"That is fine. There is no need to rush. Just learn from your experiences in the quest and train more," said Shin, trying to console Akailu.

Then Shin suddenly remembered something. "Oh! How about your progress with Reality Manifestation?"

Hearing that, Akailu could not help but groan. "Urgh! Well, it is not like I don't get it or anything, but I feel like this secret mechanic is not suitable for me. It restricts some of my techniques and skills, especially with my current class."

Shin immediately fell into a deep thought when he heard that. It did not take him that long to figure out the problem.

Akailu's class was Spiritual Beastmaster, and his signature technique was fusing with his tamed and summoned monsters. If that was the case, then it would naturally conflict with the 'Reality Manifestation' since this special state was to summon the Martial Arts or Mentalism of an individual into the game.

If Akailu was in his beast form, then the martial arts skills that he had in the real world would not fit with his current body structure within the game.

Because he had already experienced the might of the Reality Manifestation, Shin felt that it would be best for everyone to learn it the same way he did. Arthur, Leonard, and Dylan (Zero) also showcased great strengths under the influence of that state, so he had a misconception that everyone would experience the same.

This was a miscalculation on his part, so Shin did not blame Akailu for it. He just felt that the secret mechanic of the game was not as simple as it seemed.

"So, it turns out that not everyone fits for the Reality Manifestation," he mumbled as he was immediately reminded of Diablo and Haowin.

Diablo showed him that there was another state aside from the 'Reality Manifestation'. He heard from Arthur and Leonard that the secret mechanic that Diablo had used was an advanced version of 'Hyperactive Immersion.'

Then there was Haowin, who fought him just recently. From what Shin had seen, that guy had neither used the Reality Manifestation nor the Hyperactive Immersion. It was clear to him that no matter what it was, it was on the same level as the two states that he knew.

Thinking about this, he turned to Akailu and said. "That is fine. You don't have to force yourself if it does not suit you. We can just find another method that you can use."

He then opened a virtual screen and said. "I will be sending you the record of my battle against Haowin. You can try and study it. I feel like his special method may be suitable for you. But since we don't have any information about it, you can just study it yourself."

"But you are always welcome to ask me or the others for some advice. We will do our best to help you," he added while sending the battle video.

Akailu was very grateful when he heard that. He had also seen the battle between Shin and Haowin in the online forums, so he knew how amazing his opponent was.

At the same time, he also agreed with Shin as he felt that the special method that Haowin had used during that battle was perfect for his style.

He repeatedly thanked Shin for that.

Shin smiled helplessly as he said. "There is no need for that. You are already a part of our team, so it is natural for us to help each other."

They had already arrived at the secret room at this point and Shin had instructed Akailu on how to activate the teleportation formation.

After that, he said. "You will find yourself in the heart of a volcano a little later. Then just follow the path leading to outside the cave that you will be in and find the NPC named Berlin. He will take care of the rest."

"I have already informed him about you, so you don't have to worry about anything. But you must treat that old dwarf as a real elder. He has a nasty temper for strangers."

"But given that you are acquainted with me, I doubt that he will treat you that coldly," he added, chuckling.

Akailu nodded his head and readied himself. But before Shin could even step out of the room, he suddenly remembered something and called out. "Ah! There is another matter that I want to tell you!"

Shin paused his steps and turned around. He then looked at Akailu with a curious look, waiting for the latter to continue.

Akailu thought for a moment before continuing. "I am not sure if this will be helpful, but I accidentally stumbled upon an interesting quest before I tried taking my Tier 3 Promotion Quest previously."

"The quest is a little strange. It is a part of quest chains that keep on asking you to run some errands and other trivial tasks."

"I heard it from some random players in the town where I meet the NPC that leads me to my Promotion Quest."

"I get a little curious at that time since it is quite strange to have such a trivial quest chain in that high-level map. I have tried quite a few of them and find something strange."

"Quests are indeed strange and relatively easy. But they did not give anything – not even a simple reward. But that is only for ordinary players and the ones who are not aware of the hidden mechanics and special methods."

"If I don't know about your Reality Manifestation, then I will also think that it is just some errand quest. But since I am aware of the existence of these special methods, I have this suspicion-..."

Akailu had yet to finish what he was saying when Shin immediately realized the purpose of these quests.

He had already suspected it before, but he knew that the game developers would at least give some clues for the players to discover these hidden secrets.

After all, these secret methods were one of the keys to getting through the Tier 3 Promotion Quests.

The version that the players would get after completing those 'trivial' quests might not be as good as the real deal, but they would at least give the players enough understanding of those secret methods.

Nodding his head, Shin said to Akailu, "Alright, I will investigate it later when I have time. Send me the coordinates and I will head over there later."

Akailu quickly sent the coordinates to Shin before telling the latter that it was all.

Shin also noted the coordinates before saying goodbye to Akailu and wishing him good luck. After he had exited the room, the latter quickly activated the teleportation formation excitedly. It was clear that he could not wait for his equipment set to finish.

Sensing the changes inside the room, Shin could not help but smile bitterly as he could feel the excitement of Akailu.

After organizing everything, Shin felt that he had to take a rest. He had already completed most of the urgent tasks that he had.

The only thing left was for him to head over to the independent world where the rebirthing place of this Elemental Spirit Companions was located and train his Elemental Mana there.

When he finished forming a higher form of Mana for the Earth and Metal Elements, he would re-take his Promotion Quest and see if he would be able to finish it.

But before anything else, he had to look at the new quest that he had gotten from Berlin and see how difficult it was.

"Let's see. Given my experience with the previous gathering quest, I am sure that this one will be much more difficult to complete."

"But the reward will surely be worthwhile!" he added as opened the quest panel.

Chapter 1254 Hidden Historical Quest (Part 4): Divine Ancient Armors

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[Quest Name]: Divine Ancient Armor – Thousand Chaos (Living Armor)

[Quest Type]: Hidden Historical Quest, Gathering Quest

[Quest Difficulty]: SSS+ (Chaos)

[Quest Background]: You have discovered from a descendant of the God of Craftsmanship and Blacksmithing the secrets of the Primordial Gods' War.

During this war, a lot of gods had fallen and risen in the battle of seizing the thrones, countless denizens of the original world had suffered and died.

After thousands of years of suffering, the mortals could no longer endure. People with amazing talents started to look for the path of escape and a few individuals with unrivaled resolve chose to fight back.

Seize the divine thrones for themselves and protect their people.

After countless sacrifices and research, mortals finally found a way to fight these gods.

Individuals with the most outstanding talents, people with the firmest resolve and unyielding spirit, and the wisest of the denizens had led the revolt against the Gods and charged through the Heavens.

The people that the gods treated as ants had joined the war, making it more chaotic.

After countless years of battles, the mortal denizens of the original world had created weapons that could slay even the gods.

The individuals who had successfully reached the thrones and snatched them from the gods became gods themselves.

They also became the ancestor of their respective races. They also became the Ancient Gods of those races.

[Quest Details]: Berlin, a descendant of the God of Craftsmanship and Blacksmithing, saw you as one of the heroes of the current era.

He wanted to serve you and re-create the amor that the God of Craftsmanship and Blacksmithing had used during the Primordial Gods' War.

It was also to prepare for the upcoming war.

[Quest Conditions]: Collect all the listed materials and bring them to Saint Blacksmith Berlin.

- Heavenly Dominator

0/1 Fragment of the First Stone Ape

Trinity Apes

1/1 Body of the Stoneback Gorilla

1/1 Head of the Ironhead Chimpanzee

2/2 Arms of the Steelfist Ape

- Ocean Overlord

0/1 Scale of the Original Sea Monster

Four Kings of the Sea

0/100 scales of the White Sea Serpent

0/1 Heart of the Hydra

0/1 Core of the Kraken

0/1 Heart of the Devouring Whale

- Sky Monarch

0/1 Feather of the Primordial Flame Bird

Three Legendary Birds

0/9 Feathers of the Sky Peacock

0/2 Wings of the Golden Roc

0/1 Heart of the Thunderbird

- Forest Guardian

0/1 Branch of the World Tree

Four Mountains

0/1 Heart of the Green Dragon

0/1 Seed of the Ancient Treant Protector

0/2 Antlers of the Golden Stag

0/1 Essence of the Will-O'-Wisp

Looking at the long list of materials presented in front of him, Shin could not help but feel a little conflicted.

He knew that this Divine Ancient Armor would be a very powerful armor that he would need in the future, but this list was a little too much. At least, he was clear that he could not complete it with the current level and strength that he had.

He just happened to be a little lucky with the three Overlords that he had encountered recently, the Trinity Apes.

If he would be following the pattern, then he could at least give it a try hunting the other overlord monsters listed on this list. He was quite confident dealing with them. But it was a little different when it came to the four other beasts listed right above the overlord monsters.

According to his understanding and the clues that he had gotten from Berlin's words, the other four beasts would most likely be a World Boss. If he was not mistaken, these world bosses would most likely be in the end-game stages of the game – or at least for the lower plane.

Shin thought that these monsters would only appear when most of the players were already reaching the peak of the lower plane, the Sovereign Being, and about to break through the restrictions and become a Divine Being.

If that was the case, then this quest was supposed to be cleared when he was about to reach that stage. It was way far from his current self.

But based on what the clues had indicated, this quest was some sort of preparation for the upcoming war against the Devil Ancestor.

.com From what Shin could deduce, this war against the Devil Ancestor would most likely be near, and the Demonic Churches were the main perpetrators of his descent into this realm. If that was the case, then Shin had to make haste and find a way to defeat these World Bosses as soon as possible.

But that was just one of the problems. It was because he still had found them one by one. He needed information about their location quickly to be prepared for the future.

Recalling his conversation with Berlin before, when the Saint Blacksmith had reforged the [Yamato], Shin remembered something. Berlin had mentioned to give him the heart of a hydra when he ever encountered one in the Awakened Continent. This meant that the Hydra was most likely to be found on the second continent.

Thinking about this, Shin suddenly felt a sense of urgency. He needed to finish his Promotion Quest as soon as possible and reach the Awakened Continent with the fastest speed possible.

Understanding the gravity of the situation, Shin immediately organized his thoughts. He formulated a series of plans inside his head, planning to share it with the rest of their group.

From what he could see, the easiest solution that they had was to clash against the Demonic Churches head-on. They had to sabotage the plans of the evil faction to the best of their abilities and delay the descent of the Devil Ancestor as much as they could.

The longer the Devil Ancestor was delayed, the more time Shin and the rest could have.

"I guess I have to pay more attention to the movements of the Demonic Churches. I should ask Big Sis to help us keep an eye on them. She has more connections that she can use for this kind of situation. I am sure that she can find a way to track those people."

Shin was polishing his plans when he noticed that it was already time to log out. He could not help but click his tongue as he found that he now had little time on his hands.

Regardless, he still had to log out of the game on time. Even if there were urgent problems within the game that he needed to take care of, he still could not neglect his training in the real world.

After all, the main reason why he was paying more attention to the game was to train himself, particularly his mentalism and martial arts. It would be meaningless if he neglected his training in the real world because of this.

...

Logging out, Shin quickly did his daily morning route before heading to the opposite room. He would be making his breakfast first and consult Arthur and Leonard about his plans during the meal.

But he would not expect that this topic was more serious than he had originally thought.

"What the heck! You also get a quest about Divine Ancient Armors. D*mn! And here I have thought that I know ahead of the pack. It turns out that it is a 'group' event!"

Arthur could not contain anger and disappointment after hearing everything from Shin.

Based on what he had said, he had also gotten a similar quest. Even though it was a little different and directly came from his main faction, the Dragon Sanctuary, the overall outcome was still the same.

"I also have gotten a similar quest! It is a follow-up quest from the Empire Quest that we just recently cleared!"

"Of course, it is still some time before I meet all the conditions to trigger it! But it is still a quest related to that one."

"The connection with the Devil Ancestor is also its main trigger!" Arthur kept on complaining as he explained everything to Shin.

He first thought that he would not be ahead of Shin and Leonard after receiving such a quest. But who would have thought that it was not the case?

"So, what kind of armor is the Dragon Race looking for?" asked Shin out of curiosity.

He had already shared his quest with Arthur and Leonard and told them his thoughts about it. He also told them the historical background of the armor that Berlin would be making, the [Thousand Chaos], so the two had gotten a rough idea of what kind of armor it was.

On the other hand, Arthur's quest was a little different.

"Mine? Well, it is not the same. Instead of looking for materials to craft the armor, I am to look for the 'fragments' of main armor," mumbled Arthur before continuing.

"From the background of the quest, it is said that the armor that the King of the Divine Dragons has used during that war is broken into 'pieces.'"

"The main armor is called the [Divine Dragon Armor] originally, but it is broken into four pieces after that war. Then those pieces are scattered all around the world and become lost through the passage of time."

"Naturally, the Dragon Race will not easily give up on that armor since it is an ancient relic of their race. It is a treasure that they can't afford to lose."

"And after long years of search, they finally find some clues about the four broken pieces."

Arthur paused for a moment as he tried to recall the names of the armors. "The first is the [Dragon Chain Armor]. It can be found in the depths of the Eternal Cave in the Awakened Continent. I am not sure where can I find the place, but this armor sure is amazing!"

"From what they have said, it is an armor that can reattach severed limbs even during the battle. It is said that even if the wearer has gotten their heads cut off by their opponents, it can still be reattached as long as their hearts are beating or not destroyed."

"Sheesh! This is such an immortal armor!"

"Moreover, it can also act as a weapon. It can even transform into different forms, following the will of its wearer. Isn't it amazing!?"

Calming his excitedness, Arthur then continued. "As for the other three. There is not much information about them aside from their names – the [Golden Scale Armor], the [Crimson Guard Armor], and the [Heart of Immortality].

Hearing that, Shin felt in a deep thought before turning to Leonard. "How about you, Leo? Didn't you say that you also have a similar quest?"

Leonard nodded his head as finished the foot on his plate. He then gulped a glass of water and burped, fully satisfied with the breakfast.

He then turned to Shin and answered. "Yeah. The background is also somewhat similar. It is said that the first humanoid beast has gained that form after achieving the final evolution, but it is still enough to find those gods."

"Following the lead of the other races, the Primordial Beast have sacrificed a great portion of their race to create this mythical armor."

"It is forged from the ground bones, torn flesh and heart of the beasts, and a sea of blood. Their race prepared a sacrificial ritual at that time and created the armor."

"But unlike the armor of the Dragon Race that has broken and the armor of the Dwarven Race that was destroyed during the Primordial Gods' War, ours has exhausted its powers and become a simple relic."

"It has lost all its powers and become nothing but an ordinary antique."

He then paused as he tried to remember the details of the Historical Quest before continuing. "There seems to be an event that forces the Temple of the War God to ask the Primordial Beast to reawaken that armor."

"What is it called again? Ah! It is called the [Primordial Heart]."

"And I will be needing the heart of impossible-to-defeat monsters just to reawaken that armor – the hearts of the Behemoth, Leviathan, and Ziz. Aside from that, I also need to head to the Blood Sea and build an altar at the center of it for the ritual."

"Either way, all of the requirements sound very troublesome, so I feel a little powerless due to it," he added before sighing deeply.

In the meantime, Shin remained silent as he felt the gravity of this situation. Since these major factions of the most powerful NPCs were making their move, it reflected how large the upcoming war was.

"This is getting more and more serious."

Chapter 1255 From a Troublemaker to a Problem Solver?

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Real World

World Gaming Organization Headquarters

Monitoring Department

Inside the monitoring, every staff of the department felt like they had aged for a couple of years due to the work that they had done these past few days. The game had just re-opened recently yet the work that they had done was already comparable to years' worth of time.

It would be fine if the problem was done by one or two players. Unfortunately, the culprits were a whole bunch of troublesome people. The Miracle Players always found a way to give them trouble one way or another.

The recent quest that Shin had triggered in the Starry Spears Mountain Forest was already enough to give them a headache, yet this kid was not satisfied yet. He had triggered yet another quest that was connected to another huge content.

It was supposed to be given by a high-ranking NPC in the Awakened Continent!

At least that was how it was supposed to be.

But what was done was done. The Monitoring Department was already used to this. It was already a common occurrence for them. It was like any other day now.

The problem was the other Miracle Players.

As if these troubled children had a prior agreement, all of them had triggered the same type of quests at once.

Arthur and Leonard were just a few of them, but the other Miracle Players were not lagging as they simultaneously had gotten quests with similar levels of importance.

"Are they ganging up on us right now?"

"Do these guys know each other?"

"I think they know each other. Aren't most of them acquaintances? They meet each other regularly in the Hegemon Cup, don't they?"

"Should we file our resignation letter now?"

"I suggest that we should ban these players at least for an entire day so that we can have a decent resting time."

"If only we can do that, then that will be perfect."

"Good thing we have the vice head now, or else we will be suffering even more."

"Hah! I am sure those guys in the Development Department are crying right now!"

Due to their previous experiences, the Monitoring Department had gotten used to these kinds of events. They no longer panicked whenever they came across these situations, especially when their newly appointed vice head was quite crafty.

Click!

Not long after, the door of the monitoring room was opened followed by the entrance of Lohengrin, the current vice head of the department.

Seeing him enter, every staff of the department immediately stood up and greeted him. "Vice Head!"

Lohengrin nodded his head before turning to the side and asking for an update. "How is it?"

"It is not looking good, Vice Head. We are already occupied with monitoring the Miracle Players of the Empyrean Talons, but the guys in the Gods' Paradise have joined in too," reported the subordinate standing on the side.

Lohengrin remained calm despite the news that he had gotten. "Oh! The Martial God and his people are joining the party?"

"What about the others?" he asked after the casual comment.

The assistant standing beside him could not help but admire the calm demeanor of their vice head. He then turned around and signaled one of the people in front of the computers. "Pull up the quest distribution window that I asked earlier!"

That person swiftly got to work taped a series of keys on his keyboard and displayed the asked data on one of the big screens in front of them.

Lohengrin looked at the table for a while before nodding his head. He was finally able to get a rough idea of what was going on and said. "It is not that bad. We are not in a desperate situation yet."

He pointed to the upper portion of the table. "Most of the Historical quests that they have triggered will still take some time to be cleared. Most of the monsters that they have to kill and items that need to be found are in the Awakened Continent. It is still following the original quest line."

"The Miracle Players of the Gods' Paradise is also in the same position. Even their Empire Quest will take some time. That Archipelago Map is not that easy to clear. It will depend on their preparation. If they ran out of supply, they may not even clear that quest."

He then paused before turning his attention to the lower part of the table before continuing. "The main problem is those people from the Pandemonium Troupe."

.com "Their people are actively clearing those series of quests, not caring about their Promotion Quest. They ignored the Tier 3 Promotion that can give them access to the larger content of the game and just focus on the Main Scenario Quest of the Demonic Churches."

"Because they are clearing the required quest and the other prerequisites to trigger that Main Scenario Quest, the pace of the game is getting off the rails. If they complete all the requirements, then we must prepare for another huge update within two weeks or so."

"We have yet to reach the target for this update, so this is going to be a huge problem. The 'World Metamorphosis' was just released recently. It has not been a whole month yet, but we are already approaching the 'Demonic Invasion' and 'Decent of the Devil Ancestor' at a rapid pace."

"This must be the main reason why the other Miracle Players triggered their respective Historical Quests."

"Tsk! Tsk! This is supposedly a contest between the two major factions. The original plan is to make the players from both factions fight each other and battle for control over the territories."

"They are supposed to fight a faction war that will last for a couple of months instead of this. The people from 'Righteous Churches' and 'Council of Neutrals' are busy with their Tier 3 Promotion Quest, but still sidetracked by these hidden quests and completely unrelated tasks."

"In the meantime, the 'Corrupted Cult' and 'Demonic Churches' are taking advantage of this and dealing with these chain quests!"

"One side is progressing a little slow while the other is not following the script!"

He then massaged his temples as he was now getting a headache. "Why are all these Miracle Players don't play by the book? Why are they giving us all this much trouble?"

His assistant waited patiently on the side as he also got the whole picture of what was going on.

"Should we make the people from the External Affairs release some information about the Mysterious Instructors? Up until now, not many people have discovered them yet. For those who can find them, none can trigger the quest to measure their respective 'Potential' Stat."

"If we can redirect the attention of the public and make the leading players focus on clearing their Tier 3 Promotion Quest, we can delay the World Quests of the Demonic Churches as much as possible."

Lohengrin was mumbling those words when the door of the Monitoring Room suddenly opened. Turning toward it, he saw Carlos entering.

A moment later, Carlos quickly denied the words that Lohengrin had said. "We can't do that. It is no different than manipulating the flow of the game."

"We can't control the thoughts of the player and what they do. And these people are the most unexpected group, who surpass our imaginations, which is why they are called Miracle Players. Even the Super AI Chronos can't figure them out. Its calculation is always off when it comes to these players."

"All we can do is take future measures and create more content as much as we can," he then paused for a moment and chuckled. "Well, that is not exactly our problem since that job is for the Content, Design, and Development Departments."

"So, what is the plan now, Department Head Carlos?" asked Lohengrin.

Carlos gave him a mystifying smile before saying. "Wait. All we have to do is wait."

"Of course, we must inform the other departments about this development. They can take care of the rest themselves. Troy is always keeping an eye on these people, so I am sure that he is already aware of it," he added after a slight pause.

Lohengrin was taken aback by the former part of Carlos' words. "Wait? Are you sure about that, Department Head? If we wait any longer, then those people from the Pandemonium Troupe will most likely complete all the requirements for the next large content at the very least."

Hearing that, Carlos chuckled a little. "I understand your concern, but there is no need to rush."

He then pointed at the certain screen in front before saying. "You may not understand it, but these people are called Miracle Players for a reason, especially that one."

Turning his head toward the direction where Carlos was pointing, Lohengrin saw Shin doing some trivial tasks and seemed to be very relaxed. He knew that player, and he must admit that that guy was really good and very capable. But he could not fully understand what Carlos was implying.

Seeing Lohengrin's confusion, Carlos suddenly chuckled before explaining. "You are still quite new here, so you may not exactly know how much we have suffered because of that kid."

"You may have experienced it once, but we are already used to the problems that he is giving us," he added while reminiscing the times when they had to constantly go in overtime just to monitor this problem child.

"At first, he is originally our main problem. But at times like this, he will suddenly become our problem solver. Trust me, that guy will create a miracle that will shock everyone at the time you least expect."

Lohengrin was listening seriously and trying to understand Carlos. But no matter how much he gave it a thought, he still could not find himself fully convinced with just these.

Seeing that expression, Carlos suddenly asked. "What is our main problem right now?"

Lohengrin gave it a lot of thought before answering. "I guess it is the movements of the Demonic Churches and Corrupted Cults. If they don't slow down their progress, then we will surely encounter some problems with the upcoming contents of the game."

"Sooner or later, they will trigger the next major event. No.... It must be a World Event since it will involve the portal opening," he added while wearing a deep frown.

Carlos then smiled before asking again. "And how do you think we are going to prevent that from happening?"

Lohengrin became even more confused as the answer was already obvious. "It is to redirect the attention of everyone and make them focus on taking their Tier 3 Promotion Quests."

"It will even be better if some people managed to pass all the tests from the Mysterious Instructors and reach the Awakened Continent."

Carlos nodded his head and asked another question. "Then who among these guys do you think has the highest chance of clearing their promotion quest?"

Hearing that, Lohengrin slightly understood and immediately turned to the screens in front. He was trying to see if any of these Miracle Players had a good chance of clearing their respective promotion quest.

He was clear about the requirements that one needed to clear these Promotion Quests, especially for the ones that had Transcendent and potential Ascended Class. Their Promotion Quests were much harder than regular classes due to the advantages that they had.

But after looking around for quite some time, Lohengrin could not find anyone who had decent progress on their respective Promotion Quest. Even the kid that Carlos had pointed out seemed to be quite far from it. That player had not even defeated a single clone on the trial ground.

Moreover, that kid was even doing a completely different task, which was unrelated to the promotion quest or the requirements that he needed at all.

This confused him even more.

He then turned to Carlos and asked full of doubt. "Are you telling me that that kid will do it? From that looks it, it is very unlikely."

Carlos chuckled when he heard that before saying. "That is why I said that he will surprise you."

Carlos did not know if it was because of the influence that Troy had on him after watching Shin's progress together, but he seemed to have somehow converted from a strong doubter into a complete believer.

Chapter 1256 Independent World: Reaper's Realm

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Lohengrin was still not fully convinced by the words of Carlos. He also could not deny it fully due to the recent events that occurred during the recent events.

Remembering everything that happened during those events, Lohengrin realized that Shin indeed had done a lot. He not only first discovered the secret method for 'Reality Manifestation', but he also led his group to defeat both the Corrupted Cult and Demonic Churches on their invasion of the Saint Heaven Kingdom and attempt to seize the body of Dracula in the Frozen Kingdom.

And those were only a few of his achievements.

Looking at these, Lohengrin thought that Shin might be the one with the highest chance of clearing his Tier 3 Promotion Quest. But with the current progress that Shin had, he still could not fully convince himself of it.

He was still thinking that Shin was still far from completing that quest.

Turning his head, he looked at the virtual screen dedicated to monitoring Shin's movements and progress. As one of the Miracle Players that they needed to keep their eye on, Shin was being monitored like this around the clock.

From what Lohengrin could see, Shin was way too off if he wanted to clear his Tier 3 Promotion Quest. "What the heck is this kid planning now? He really is not playing the book. Can he at least follow the progress path lay in front of everyone?"

Hearing those words, Carlos chuckled and commented. "That is why they are called Miracle Players. They are always doing incomprehensive things and actions that normal people can't understand."

He then turned to the virtual screen and saw Shin activating the dimensional token that Berlin had crafted for him previously. Not long after, they saw Shin enter the independent world where the Rebirthing Place of his Elemental Spirit Companions was located.

Looking at that screen, Carlos secretly clenched his fists while mumbling to himself. "Let's see if what Troy has told me from his analysis is true."

On Shin's side, the day was pretty much an ordinary day. He went to school with the others and attended the lessons along with the other forms of training on their schedule in the afternoon.

Given that they were quite busy inside the game, they immediately headed home to log back in. Shin was especially in a hurry since he had a lot to do.

After logging in, he quickly restocked his supply before heading to the Teleportation Hall of the city and taking out the dimensional token that he had received from Berlin. Then he activated it along with the teleportation formation.

Swoosh!

He was immediately blinded by the intense light that swallowed him up.

Not long after, he was immediately greeted by a chaotic world. He found himself standing in the middle of a world filled with by raging storm of multiple elements. But surprisingly, he was not affected by this storm despite how strong they were.

Looking around, Shin could instantly tell that this place, despite how chaotic it was, was fully under his control. Or to be more precise, it was in total control of his Elemental Spirit Companions.

He raised his head and saw the dark sky filled with crimson clouds. Lightning in different colors could be seen flashing and swimming through these clouds along with the deafening thunder that kept on shaking the world.

Having a flash of thought inside his head, Shin suddenly summoned his wings and immediately flew into the air to get a better look at this independent world. It had been a long while since he had last visited this place, and he wanted to see how much he had transformed.

When he reached a desirable altitude, he finally had an ideal vantage point where he could see everything. When he did, he could not help but inhale deeply at what he was seeing.

He found that this world was very similar to the place that he had last visited – the Phantom Island.

"This-..." Shin could not express his current feelings as he kept on turning around to look at the entirety of this independent world.

The world seemed to be divided into different regions filled with Elemental Mana from different elements.

He saw an area which was shrouded by a thick crimson fog. Based on what he could see, it seemed to be a fog that was created due to the rich Blood Elemental Mana filling that region.

It was not hard to guess whose territory that was, especially with the silhouette of a huge castle hidden behind that crimson fog. It was definitely the castle that Vladimir used to have when he used to rule this world before he became a Noblesse Crimson Spirit.

Not far from it was a world filled with spatial rifts. It was surrounded by these rifts that kept on flashing from time to time. They were like shattered glasses dividing the physical world from the primordial void.

A single look at these spatial rifts was more than enough to warn anyone who would dare to get near them. It was a region that seemed to be in the middle of a spatial storm.

It was very obvious that this region was being controlled by Hanzo, the Ancient Void Spirit.

Turning his head to the next region, he saw a sight that was completely different from the rest, particularly its surroundings. It was a place where nothing was present aside from the huge burning sphere situated in the middle of it.

This brilliant sun was illuminating its surroundings. It was burning and melting anything that tried to approach it. Even the other elemental particles that happened to be moving in its direction were immediately melted before they could even get near it.

Under this miniature sun was a boundless sea of blazing flame. It was similar to the magma river where he stayed previously but with a much more intense heat.

This scorching region was under the rule of Solus, the fallen goddess of the Eternal Flames, which turned into an Elemental Being.

Beside that region was another strange region that seemed to be created due to the collision of two elements. It was a peculiar region that was being separated into two smaller regions. One was a region filled with brilliant light while the other was enveloped by total darkness.

It was a region with contrasting elements. He could even see the region where the two worlds created by this strange phenomenon met. That line was clearly dividing the regions into two, setting up a boundary for the elements filling up each region.

But despite the opposing elements that this region had, there was a clear balance between them. Shin could even see the clear balance that they had. Despite the chaos that they created by colliding with each other, there was a clear sign of tranquility between them.

There was no need to doubt it. This region was definitely set up by the twin tigers, which also turned into Elemental Spirits – Whitie and Blackie.

Whitie was still in the lower rank in terms of power compared to the rest of his Elemental Spirits, but Blackie had already evolved into an Abysmal Penumbra Spirit.

But despite the difference in power, Shin could still see the balance that was being maintained in this region. He guessed that Blackie might be suppressing her region, avoiding the other from being devoured.

The last and final region was filled with stone mountains and metal pillars. There was no need to guess as the Earth and Metal Elemental Mana filling that region was more than enough to prove that it was under the rule of Astaroth.

This guy had recently evolved into an Obsidian Guardian Spirit but given that his territory did not lose compared to the rest, it was clear that his power was not inferior to any of them.

The only Elemental Spirit that did not have a territory that he ruled here was Grimrace. This guy was previously an Abomination Shadow Spirit, who lived by consuming other Elemental Spirits and their Rebirthing Place, so he did not have to rely on a fixed place where he could constantly be reborn after being killed.

But after being bound by the contract that he had with Shin, Grimrace no longer needs to rely on those methods to survive. He now had a certain freedom and was not restricted by the shackles of the world, which was constantly devouring his energy.

He even evolved into an Eltrich Psychic Spirit after following Shin. He might not be showing it, but he preferred this life more than he had previously.

Shin kept on turning around to observe the regions dividing this world. He could not sense any living beings in every region other than the one shrouded by the crimson fog, which clearly indicated that this world was mostly inhabited.

He could guess the living beings residing in the region ruled by Vladimir were the people who used to serve him when he was still their ruler. Even though they had already become a monster and mostly lost themselves, it seemed like Vladimir was still treating them as his people.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

While Shin was lost in his thoughts, the specks of lights revolving around him suddenly separated themselves from the cycle before turning into their respective humanoid forms.

Some of them gave him a respectful bow and some were kneeling like a loyal servant. The others were acting indifferent while the rest was wearing a haughty look on their faces.

Shin slightly turned to them one by one before instructing. "I will be staying here for the time being. You guys should go to your respective regions to train or whatever."

"Yes, my lord!"

"I understand."

"I will follow your orders, my liege!"

"Hmph! This is supposedly a world under this monarch's rule! Why are you guys acting as if it is your home?"

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

After giving their respective answers, they turned into streaks of lights that headed to the respective regions that were under their rule.

Shin could tell that this was a relatively small world compared to the outside world, but he could also feel that it was rapidly growing. It seemed to be growing at a steady pace, which gave him a rough idea of what was going on.

This independent world was still in the middle of evolving. It was growing along with the powers of his Elemental Spirit Companions, which was why he sent them to their respective regions to train.

Grimrace was the only one that was in an awkward position. Since he was originally an Abomination Shadow Spirit, he did not have any territory. But after seeing that everyone was moving, he chose a random direction and headed over there.

He happened to follow Vladimir, who was heading toward the region filled with crimson fog. Despite their not-so-great relationship, these two seemed to be the closest to each other.

Even if they were constantly arguing and fighting against each other, they looked like best of friends in Shin's eyes.

"What!? Why are you following me? This is my territory! Go and find your own, you stupid clown!"

"Tsk! Tsk! Only weaklings like you need something like this. I am just going to look around. It is not like there is something that can benefit me from the territory of a measly mosquito."

"F*ck! Do you think this noble spirit will not punish me after disrespecting my noble self? My power is at the fullest in this place! I can crush a bug like you here!"

"Hah! As if I am not in my full power in this place. I am also not restricted by the 'law' here! I can easily squash any living mosquito here!"

"If you are going to mess around, then don't do it to my territory! Go to that dark world of the black kitten! You used to be a Shadow Spirit!"

...

Shin watched the two argue as they headed over Vladimir's territory and chuckled. He also saw the two start fighting one another not long after.

After that, he turned around and looked in a certain direction before mumbling. "Alright, it is time to train and form a higher form of mana for all of my elements!"

"Let's start with the Earth and Metal Elements first since I am about to awaken my innate attributes of the same elements in the real world. What will I find here will be greatly helpful in my progress."

Thinking about all of these, he no longer hesitated and flew toward the region filled with stone mountains and metal pillars.

He would first visit Astaroth's territory and see what he would get there.

Chapter 1257 Warning

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Shin had dedicated himself to training in the next couple of days both inside the game and the real world. He focused on awakening his two innate attributes, making it as his priority while training his techniques were just secondary.

With a clear path ahead of him that needed to be followed, Shin did not need to blindly advance anymore. All he needed to do was to focus on this path and reach his goal.

It only took him three whole days before he was able to awaken both the earth and metal elemental attributes in the real world, making Benedict look at Shin as if he were some sort of a monster.

And with these two innate attributes being awakened, Shin's strength reached yet another height.

This was the first time Benedict had seen someone grow at an insane pace. This speed of growth was not normal. In his eyes, Shin had become a real monster.

After awakening these two innate attributes, Shin spent some time familiarizing himself with them while consolidating his Mentalism Realm. Since he had awakened two more innate attributes, it could also mean that he could now promote his realm to a higher stage.

With the secret technique that the mysterious priestess had taught him, he was able to wield a power that was comparable to late stage Grandmaster Realm. Even though that realm could be considered fake, his strength was still a real deal.

And that was only his realm. His real battle capabilities were much stronger than that. If he went all-out right now, his strength would not be weaker than a peak Grandmaster Realm. He could even defeat the majority of such experts as long as they were not on the same level as the veteran experts or prodigies like his Seniors in the Research Department or David and Shiella.

With the additional innate attributes, his Mentalism was now at a level much stronger than what it used to be. He was now in a real middle phase Grandmaster Realm.

He was able to quickly consolidate his realm in the real world due to the secret technique that the Head Priestess had taught him before. His Bloodline had also helped a lot in this area, making his foundation much more solid than before.

In the meantime, his progress inside the game was not as smooth as he had expected.

He made huge progress when it came to his techniques and other areas, especially when it came to his control over the elements of earth and metal.

With his current progress in the real world, and awakening the two new innate attributes, he was able to apply most of his knowledge inside the game.

In the real world, his progress in the 'Golden Immortality Technique' and 'Great Dominator Technique' was rapidly catching up to his mastery of the 'Solar Breathing Technique'.

This was also clearly reflected in the game.

He even tried taking his Promotion Quest a couple of times during his training period, and his performance was at a satisfactory level. But it was still far from the result that he was expecting.

Even though he was able to incorporate the three breathing techniques into his style and even apply them to the Mentalism Techniques that he had to complement them, he still felt that he was far from the ideal state inside his head.

He was barely missing something. It might be a single piece, but he was sure that it was a crucial one.

Shin first thought that it was because the level of his elemental mana for Earth and Metal Elements was not on the same level as his fire elemental mana, which was the power of the Brilliant Sun.

Due to the gap, the balance in his techniques was obvious. Even though he could also use the 'Golden Immortality' and 'Great Dominator' Techniques along with the 'Sacred White Tiger' and 'Divine Yellow Dragon' Methods from the 'Four Symbol Scripture', the result that he could produce with them was still incomparable when he was using the 'Solar Breathing Technique' along with the 'Celestial Vermillion Bird Method'.

This higher form of Elemental was the crucial piece that he was lacking. Due to the imbalance between the three elemental mana, he could not produce the result that he wanted.

He also could not merge them due to this problem.

This was the main reason why Shin wanted to train in the independent world where the Rebirthing Place of his Elemental Spirit Companions was located.

But despite how dedicated he was and how much he tried, he still could not promote his Elemental Mana of Earth and Metal. It was much harder than he had expected.

He had no choice but to stop and pause his research on this for the time being, especially when he was feeling a little stressed due to this matter.

Instead, he visited the other regions under the rule of the other Elemental Spirits. He was trying to see if he could get some insights or inspiration from them.

He also visited Phantom Island from time to time, especially when he wanted to train his swordsmanship and other techniques.

But despite his efforts, he still could not shake off the thoughts inside his head. He was still getting distracted by this matter.

He encountered a wall that he could not surpass, and he was running out of options.

It was at that time that he received a call from an unexpected person.

Shin was training inside the game when he received the call. When he looked at the ID of the caller, he could not help but frown deeply before answering.

And before the person from the other side of the line could even say anything, he quickly snarled at them. "D*mn you, Old Geezer! Disappearing just like that and not contacting me up until now? Do you still dare to call yourself my Master?"

Given those words, it was already obvious that the caller was Professor Plum.

"Haha! Given that you dare to nag at me, I guess you are doing quite well there," Old Plum laughed heartedly when he heard those words.

He let Shin vent out his frustrations for quite some time before finally cutting in. "Alright, alright! I get! I get it already! You don't have to keep on repeating yourself."

"And I hear from Henry that you are progressing quite well. Continue doing great and make this old man proud!" he added with a heartful of laughter.

From the look of it, he seemed to be very satisfied with Shin's performance up until now.

Shin, on the other hand, frowned deeply before saying. "What's with the praise? It is as if I am using your Martial Arts here."

"Don't you hear? My Martial Arts are currently sealed, and I can't use it for the time being. Instead, I am using my Mentalism Techniques to the fullest! The Old Fatty should be the one jumping in joy right now since I have already completed his 'stupid' Mentalism Method!"

Professor Plum seemed to be unaffected by his words and just said. "Potato-Potahto! It is the same thing. No matter what, you are still my disciple, and I am the first to discover you and acknowledge your talent!"

"And I have already heard your situation from Henry, so there is no need to repeat it," he added while picking his ear with the pinky finger.

After that, he continued. "Anyway, let's get down to the business. I don't call you just to catch up like this."

Shin frowned slightly when he heard that before nodding his head. "Alright, tell me the purpose of this call. You are not the type to call someone to ask how well they are."

"Tsk! Tsk! Brat! I am still your master! At least show some respect!" said Old Plum before clearing his throat. "Ahem! Anyway, I called you because there is something that I need you to deal with."

Hearing that, Shin clicked his tongue repeatedly as if he was already expecting it. "Tsk! Tsk! I knew it."

lightsNovel.com Professor Plum ignored Shin's remark and continued. "I guess you have already heard about recent events since you are studying under Henry."

"The Government has discovered an ancient tomb of an old expert of the previous era. The two were not that important for absolute experts of the current era, but they want to use this opportunity to deal with some hidden enemies that everyone has."

"The Government and the Council of Elders have agreed. Then they invited all the forces within the Soaring Continent to join them in this operation."

"Later, your school will send some young talents to assist them. The main mission was to explore the ancient tomb. Only young people in the Ethereal Opening and Peak of Grandmaster Realm or below can enter."

"This was a perfect opportunity for the younger generation to gain some experience, especially when the forces from the other continents were also eyeing the tomb."

"At least, that was what it was supposed to be on the surface. But the truth was a whole other matter. Their main purpose was to target a certain organization and uproot some traitors of our era."

Shin continued to listen until he had gotten the full picture. He then nodded his head and asked. "So, you want me to join this expedition along with the selected people from our class? That shouldn't be a problem given that Sir Lin Huang is insisting to let us join just like you have said."

But to his surprise, Old Plum had rejected the idea. "That is not what I want you to do. Instead, it is the complete opposite."

Shin was confused and creased his brows deeply while waiting for Old Plum to explain.

Professor Plum looked at Shin from the side of the video call before continuing. "I want you not to join this expedition."

"Eh? What? You want me to drop out of it when everyone in our class is going to be sent there?" repeated Shin. He was very confused right now.

Old Plum nodded his head solemnly. "Yeah. I need you to stay behind and not join them."

"This-... Can you at least explain it to me or at least tell me the reason so that I can understand?" asked Shin, showing that he would not comply unless Professor Plum had explained it to him clearly.

Professor Plum was silent for a couple of moments before finally sighing. "I can't explain that much since we are also not clear about the whole situation. But from the information that we have gathered up until now, there is a high chance that a certain person will appear there."

Shin frowned even deeper when he heard those words. "And what does that person have to do with me?"

Professor Plum was very troubled as he was not sure how to explain it but continued. "Yes. You might not have anything to do with that person, but you will be in great danger when he sees you."

"What is that?" asked Shin.

Old Plum sighed and chose to hide a little of the truth and revealed a part of the truth. "That person is known for their greed when it comes to 'Seeds of Hatred'. Whenever he saw someone is a bearing of one, they would immediately become the main target and do everything they could to seize that 'seed'."

"As someone bearing a 'Seed of Hatred', you should be clear about this. You fully know what will happen to you once that 'seed' is forcefully extracted from your body."

"Moreover, your 'Seed of Hatred' is a little special. It is formed after all three types of 'seeds' that you have merged, giving birth to such an 'abomination'. You will not be safe if he learns about your existence."

Pausing for a moment, Professor Plum continued. "The government and council of elders are planning to set a trap for this person, so we can't let you get near him and screw us over."

Shin fell into a deep thought before asking. "This person... I seem to remember that you have mentioned him to me before. One of the three people who successfully overcome their 'Seeds of Hatred' and make it theirs."

"The 'Great Demon' Jan Mateo," he added as he recalled that name.

Professor Plum nodded. "Yeah. He disappeared in the eyes of the world after Adam and Evangeline had defeated him and wiped out his entire organization with the help of their friends."

"But he recently resurfaces and leads an organization much more powerful than before."

He then gave Shin a meaningful look while silently adding inside his head. 'And he will be seeking revenge on everyone related to his previous defeat. Even those who are related to them will not be safe, particularly their families.'

Chapter 1258 Great Progress

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Even though Shin was quite unwilling, he still nodded his head and agreed with what Professor Plum had said. If the opponent was indeed the 'Great Demon' Jan Mateo, then he would be in grave danger if he showed up there and aroused that man's greed.

Seeing that Shin was now convinced, Professor Plum nodded his head in satisfaction. "That is right. You should also acknowledge your limitations and know when to retreat. Blinding charging toward an opponent that you don't stand a chance is nothing but foolishness."

"Train more and make yourself stronger, if you don't want to be treated as a hindrance ever again," he added and was about to end the call.

But before he could even end it, Shin suddenly asked. "Wait, Old Geezer! Since we are already in this, at least help me with some of my problems!"

Old Plum paused for a moment before giving Shin an interested look. "Oh! You are seeking guidance now, huh? Alright, I will hear it out since my stubborn disciple is asking for it. It has also been a while since I last guided you."

Shin clicked his tongue when he heard that before narrating everything that happened to him recently. The events that he had experienced, the progress that he was making, and the problems and doubts that he was facing – all of these were mentioned by Shin to the old man.

Professor Plum did not say anything and listened to everything that Shin had said and only nodded his head occasionally.

He only opened his mouth when Shin was done talking. "Tsk! Tsk! Your talent in Mentalism surpassed your talent in Martial Arts. This kind of progress greatly surpassed our imagination."

After giving such a casual remark, he gave Shin a mocking look before sneering. "But to think that you will be stuck with such a simple problem. I think I should consider addressing you as my disciple."

"You are usually quite fast to pick up such things, but I guess when you learn more complex things, you tend to deviate from the original path and get a little distracted."

He then gave a strict look before continuing. "Brat! You seem to have forgotten that my Martial Arts is unique. This is also true when it comes to my swordsmanship. And as the center of everything, my Energy Circulation Method should be the same!"

"The Sacred Qi and Demonic Qi are meant for my Yin-Yang Arts and Swordsmanship and nothing else! You, stupid disciple!"

After that, he quickly ended the call, not giving Shin any time to react.

Shin, on the other hand, stared blankly at the dark screen in front of him as he was completely dumbstruck.

Professor Plum seemed to have not answered his question directly, but Shin had already gotten the answer that he was looking for.

Yet again... it was already right in front of him, but he failed to notice.

"Tsk! So, it is like that! I felt like I was turning stupider these past few days!"

As it turned out, he had already achieved his goal without him knowing. The main problem that prevented him from seeing it was his blindness about the 'higher form' of mana!

He was too focused on looking for a way how he would promote the grade of his Earth and Metal Elemental Mana and match his Fire Elemental Mana, the power of the Brilliant Sun.

But the truth was the three elements were already in an equilibrium. They were already in a balanced state when he gained a certain level of mastery of the 'Golden Immortality and Great Dominator Techniques'.

His Metal and Earth Elemental Mana were already comparable to his Fire Elemental during that time, and he had broken that balance when he insisted on making the previous two reach the same level as the latter.

The Earth, Metal, and Fire Elemental Mana had already formed a certain balance, but he destroyed it when he used the power of the Brilliant Sun.

The powers of the Brilliant Sun and Abyssal Moon were supposedly used as a substitute for his Sacred Qi and Demonic Qi. They were meant to compliment his Yin-Yang Arts and Swordsmanship.

As for the current level of his Elemental Mana, they were already in a desirable stage. They might be a notch lower compared to the Powers of the Brilliant Sun and Abyssal Moon individually, but they would not lose that much if he combined them.

He was just feeling that they were not good enough to match those two higher forms of mana because they were still incomplete. He was still missing the two Elemental Mana that would perfect their form.

He could not do anything about it since he still did not understand the elements of water and wood.

This lack of understanding was the thing that prevented him from completing the full cycle of the five elements. But it did not mean that his current situation was not that good.

His might when using Yin-Yang Swordsmanship might have been stronger compared to when he was using the other fighting style, but it did not mean that it was completely superior.

As long as he utilized the three breathing techniques properly and combined them with his Mentalism Methods flawlessly, then it would be hard to decide which of the styles was better, especially when he added 'Mondi's Style' and 'Regan's Method' to the equation.

Being awakened from his delusions, Shin finally found a way to break through his current situation. He finally found the answer to his current problems.

Having a clearer mind, Shin quickly stood up and started practicing this complex style that he currently had.

Now that he had a clearer look at the situation, countless ideas immediately started entering his head. They were flowing naturally as he absorbed each of them while practicing this new form of swordsmanship.

Not long after, Shin had created a style that would showcase everything that he had heard up until now. This also showcased the unification of all the ideas that he had collected these past couple of days.

The Perfected Four Symbol Scripture and Jade Kirin Scripture that he could summon through 'Reality Manifestation,' his Natural State, the current fighting style created along with the 'Mondi's Style' and the 'Regan's Method,' and the suitable Elemental Mana that could complement all of this – all of these were coming together.

Aside from this, he could also use his Martial Arts, particularly the Yin-Yang Arts, and Swordsmanship when they were needed.

His weapon and equipment were also currently at the peak of the game, so he would not be having much problem right now.

He believed that he now had all the requirements to clear his Tier 3 Class Promotion Quest. All that was left was how well he would perform on this test.

The theory was good and all, but the execution was still a whole different matter.

If he wanted to find the answer, then he had to test everything out.

Swoosh!

Shin found himself standing in the middle of the familiar trail grounds once again.

He would go all out this time. If he did not deliver a good result and could not produce a desirable outcome this time, then he could only blame his incompetence.

With all the tools that he currently had, he believed that he would be able to at least defeat one or two of the clones even if he could not clear this first part of his promotion quest.

If he could not do at least that, then he had to accept that he was not good enough.

...

Looking around, Shin adjusted his mood.

He then turned his eyes in front of him, looking at the four clones standing there.

After staring at them for a couple of moments, he started walking forward while stretching his waist and arms. He was pretty much relaxed as he walked toward them.

This was not his first time here, after all. He was already used to being here after testing himself and trying to clear this promotion quest. Although each experience was different every time, he had already experienced most of them. He was already familiar with the next events that were about to come.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The four clones moved almost simultaneously the moment when he advanced. All of them disappeared as they executed their respective movement techniques.

Shin immediately realized that this try would be different from the rest. He had already suspected that this Trial Ground was responding to his current strength and the performances of the clones reflected his current strength, so he was not surprised.

Now that he had grown once again, he had already expected that these clones would adjust accordingly when the battle started.

He was very calm as he watched them disappear in their respective spots, but that did not mean that he would be letting his guard down.

His senses were already working to the fullest as he activated his sensing techniques one after another. The 'Sensing Circle' spread in every direction while his 'True Sight' read the movements of the mana in the air.

Swoosh!

In an instant, Shin sensed a sword rapidly cutting through the air and approaching him from behind.

He did not hesitate as he adjusted his breathing. He quickly used the two new breathing techniques that he had mastered and moved his mana accordingly.

His muscles bulged right after the mana within his body circulated according to the two breathing techniques, reinforcing his strength and the power hidden behind them.

The 'Golden Immortality' and 'Great Dominator' Techniques were both special breathing techniques that would help an individual to increase their battle capabilities by enhancing their physique.

Compared to the 'Solar Breathing Technique' which was centered around enhancing his energy, these two other techniques were body-strengthening techniques that were converted into breathing techniques.

Their main purpose was similar to one another.

Despite the similarities between the two body-strengthening techniques, there were still some differences between them. They focused on different parts of the human body when strengthening.

The 'Great Dominator Technique' focused more on strengthening the flesh, muscles, and skin of an individual while the 'Golden Immortality Technique' focused more on increasing the density and toughness of the bones and enhancing the entirety of the skeletal system.

Both using these two secret techniques together and combining their prowess, the produced result would be surprising.

Clang!

Shin casually turned his body and slightly raised the sheathed sword to the side, blocking the incoming strike.

Behind him, the Sword Phantom had just thrown an ambush by using a sword-drawing strike. The power behind this attack was much heavier than what a normal sword draw could achieve, and it could force anyone to retreat even though they were successful at blocking.

...yet Shin was currently standing firm on his position despite receiving such an attack.

This was the result of the enhancements that the two secret techniques had provided him. Adding the elemental mana of earth and metal covering his body, the strengthening that he had received was not small.

Swoosh!

Shin did not dwell in his thoughts after blocking that ambush. He was already making his next move before the Sword Phantom could even respond.

With a slight push of his sword, the Sword Phantom was forced to retreat.

Earlier, when Shin had blocked its attack, it felt that it hit a huge rock boulder. But this time, when Shin made that simple push, the Sword Phantom felt that a giant metal ball was pressing forward, forcing it to rapidly retreat.

At the same time when he made that push, Shin turned toward the other direction as he twisted his body.

He was already assuming a sword-drawing stance as his right hand was unknowingly placed on the hilt of the sheathed sword.

His stance was firm as his feet were planted on the ground.

Along with his actions, his breathing rhythm slightly changed. The 'Great Dominator Technique' disappeared along with the earthen aura surrounding him. Then the 'Solar Breathing Technique' took its place as the flow of mana within him responded accordingly.

The metallic glow shrouded his body and was joined by fiery embers while the elemental mana of fire and metal gathered on his sheathed sword.

Click!

The subtle sound rang, and Shin pulled the [Yamato] from its sheathe.

Shing!

When the blade was revealed, it released a deep and blinding light similar to a metal when it was being forged.

The flames followed through its path as the sword drew a blazing arc in the air.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Fire and Metal Form) – Blazing Horizon'

Swoosh!

It was a set of familiar movements, and the technique was the same, yet the feeling that Shin had gotten when executing it was completely different.

At this moment, Shin knew that he was on the right path!

Bang!

Strike was thrown and the Eclipse Clone was pushed back as it tried to block the blazing sword.

Shin did not have the time to appreciate that attack and dwell in that amazing feeling since two more attacks were rapidly approaching from each of his sides – one was from the Elemental Clone that was carrying a greatsword while the other was from the Doppel Phantom that rarely approached him from his previous battles.

Shin tossed the sheath on his left hand in the air while controlling it through 'Telekinesis' Elemental Skill. It also transformed into a great sword, clearly indicating that he had used the 'Judgement Form' of the 'Mondi's Style' Legacy Skill.

He then adjusted his breathing once again. But this time, the three breathing techniques came together as he controlled three different elements.

He skillfully controlled the mana flow within his body as he separated them into two groups. One was the combination of the Earth and Metal while the other was the union of Metal and Fire.

Shin was following his instincts when he did this as he continued.

The 'Regan's Method' Legacy Skill immediately followed as the greatsword was infused with Earth and Metal Elements.

Assisted by 'Telekinesis', he caught the greatsword in the air before suddenly swinging it down toward the incoming Elemental Clone.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon Method (Metal Reinforced) – Collapsing Mountain'

Bang!

The heavy strike descended, and the Elemental Clone was forced to kneel on the ground.

Shin did not press further after that strike as he was already proceeding with the next move. He let go of the greatsword and spun toward the other direction while tightly gripping the [Yamato] with his other hand.

Swoosh!

The sword drew an arc in the air and left a melted-metal-like mana on its trajectory while slicing toward the Doppel Phantom.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Scared White Tiger Method (Fire Reinforced) – Savage Strike'

The Doppel Phantom did not dare to face such a ferocious attack head-on and was forced to retreat.

Shin did not give chase and just stood on his spot after executing this move. He also did not care when he saw the Elemental Clone retreated toward the other direction.

Picking up the greatsword and resting it on his shoulder, he swept his gaze at the four clones surrounding him while giving them an inviting gesture by pointing the [Yamato] at them.

"That is just for the initial greeting. We have yet to start the real party, so you better be prepared."

Chapter 1259 Great Progress (Part 2): Polishing the Ever-Changing Fighting Style

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Shin stared at the clones for a couple of moments before deciding to take the initiative this time. Since they did not want to make their moves, he might as well initiate the battle since he was quite itching to test everything that was running inside his head.

.com Bang!

With a strong stomp on the ground, he left a deep footprint as he disappeared along with a strong sonic boom.

He then appeared right in front of the Elemental Clone while raising the greatsword in the air and was about to smash it down.

He had chosen this clone as his first target since from what he had observed up until now, this clone was strong in frontal confrontations due to its unique style of fighting where it could constantly change its sword that would fit any situation. It could also reinforce each of its attacks with the corresponding elemental mana that would complement the skills that it used.

The unification of 'Mondi's Style' and 'Regan's Method' legacy skills along with the other in-game skills under his arsenal could be found in this clone.

But despite it being a powerful technique, it was still far from being perfect. Shin could still spot some glaring mistakes from it after clashing against them multiple times.

The most obvious flaw that he could see from the fighting style of the Elemental Clone was the little gaps that it had when transitioning between each sword transformation.

So long as Shin was able to time it perfectly and seize that moment properly, then he could beat this clone one-sidedly.

It took Shin quite some time to be able to properly read the timing and get used to it. But given his Battle Genius Talent, he was still able to adjust himself and seize the opportunity when it presented itself.

He still could not do this before since he was also facing the same problem as the Elemental Clone. Moreover, the gap that he had when transitioning from each form of 'Mondi's Style' was much more obvious than the clone, so he would only be looking for trouble if he challenged the Elemental Clone on this style.

But after being enlightened earlier, Shin found a way how to cover these flaws.

The answer that he had gotten was the combination of the three special breathing techniques and the circulation methods of the 'Perfected Four Symbol Scripture.'

So long as he was able to apply the necessary elements for each transformation and sword technique during the transition between the sword forms, then he would be able to gain a decent advantage in this kind of confrontation against the Elemental Clone.

Swoosh!

Seeing that Shin shot straight to it and swung that massive greatsword, the Elemental Clone quickly pulled back while trying to raise its own greatsword, trying to block the incoming attack.

Bang!

Due to its lack of proper footing, the Elemental Clone was forced to kneel on the ground once again after receiving the attack from Shin.

Shin quickly retracted the greatsword after forcing the Elemental Clone. He then released the 'Judgement Form' and turned the sword back into its sheath form while putting the [Yamato] inside it.

He took a step back and assumed a sword-drawing stance as his breathing rhythm changed once again. The 'Solar Breathing Technique' and 'Golden Immortality Technique' worked together once again while channeling the elemental mana toward the sheathed sword.

Hu~!

After exhaling loudly, a blazing stream came out of his mouth as he pulled the [Yamato] out of its sheath and horizontally swung the sword, drawing a full circle in the air.

Shing!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Fire and Metal Form): Sunlight Cleaver'

Swoosh!

This was yet another Skill that he had created for his Class-Fighting Style Series. Applying its principles in his sword techniques and combining it with the Jade Kirin Scripture, he produced a much better result.

Bang! Bang!

The blazing ring that he had created extended outward and swept through everything before clashing against the Sword Phantom and the Eclipse Clone that charged at him intending to save their comrade.

The blazing ring barely missed the Elemental Clone due to it kneeling on the ground. It did not hesitate to quickly lower its head further down when it saw Shin's actions.

It was able to save its head from being severed by that attack!

Shin shifted his stance and raised the [Yamato] in the air while maintaining his breathing. But this time, the 'Golden Immortality Technique' had priority compared to the 'Solar Breathing Technique'.

The Metal Element had the dominant position while the Fire Element supported it.

Then Shin drew a straight line in the air, stroking the sword in a strong and domineering manner.

The sword slashed down, threatening to cleave the Elemental Clone in halves, which was still kneeling in front of him.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Sacred White Tiger Method (Fire Reinforced): White Fang'

Swoosh!

As the sword struck down, the Doppel Phantom suddenly materialized in front of Shin and pulled out a sword to block the strike.

The sword was shrouded with dark and shadowy aura. It looked like a black miasma that had multiple forms and transitioning from one to another.

Bang!

Crack! Crack!

The collision between the two sides resulted in a strong impact. The huge cracks appeared on the white floor of the Trial Grounds and spread in every direction as both sides refused to back down.

Shin slightly frowned his brows as he found the actions of the Doppel Phantom were much different from what he could remember. This clone was supposedly fighting like an assassin that would constantly ambush him whenever he left an opening, yet here it was fighting very differently.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

While Shin was thinking about what had happened, he suddenly heard a series of swooshing sounds and was forced to retreat.

He then saw the flying daggers and paralyzing needles heading toward him while being shrouded by the dark and shadowy aura of the Doppel Phantom.

Shin adjusted his breathing and transformed the sheath on his left hand into a transparent long sword.

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

Fiery flames and metallic luster covered the swords on each of his hands as he repeatedly swung them to block the incoming daggers and needles.

Swoosh!

While he was busy dealing with those, the Doppel Phantom suddenly disappeared and revealed the Elemental Clone that just recovered behind it.

Looking over, Shin saw the Elemental Clone suddenly charge at him thrusting its version of a transparent longsword forward. This sword was covered with a similar fiery flame and metallic luster that Shin's swords had.

Staring at the incoming Elemental Clone, Shin was able to instantly deduce which in-game skills this clone had combined while executing this move – the 'Sword Rush' and 'Sunlight Movement'.

Shin braced himself and was about to face the incoming opponent when he noticed the sneaky movements of the Sword Phantom.

From the corner of his eyes, he could see that the Sword Phantom assumed a familiar sword-drawing stance while channeling its mana on the sheathed sword. Then it strongly stomped on the ground and propelled itself toward him like a bullet.

During its flight, the Sword Phantom unsheathed the sword and swung it forward while leaving a trail of light in the air.

This was yet another familiar skill that Shin loved to use as his signature move before – 'Moonlight Splitter'!

And as if it was not enough, he also caught a glimpse of the Eclipse Clone making its move from the opposite direction.

The Eclipse Clone also charged at him while dragging its pair of swords behind it. Those words released a pair of opposing mana, leaving a trailing of black and white light in the air.

Then it threw a cross slash at Shin when it reached the ideal distance to attack.

"Tsk!" Shin clicked his thought as he made some adjustments to his stance.

His breathing technique changed once again.

Removing the 'Solar Breathing Technique', the 'Golden Immortality' and 'Great Dominator' Techniques united once again.

The 'Meteor Form' disappeared and was swapped with the 'Judgement Form'.

But instead of holding the greatsword and using it for his next attack, he stabbed it onto the ground while channeling the earth and metal elemental mana.

Shin then activated his in-game skills to reinforce himself and act as a model for his next technique. These skills were the 'Eclipse Pulse', the 'Metal Synergy' Elemental Skill, and the 'Pulse of Earth.'

Runes appeared on the ground underneath his feet and formed a magical formation.

Swoosh!

A transparent barrier quickly appeared hiding Shin within. This barrier was releasing the combined metallic luster and earthen glow of metal and earth elements.

It was a different version of the 'Eclipse Pulse' compared to when he was using it with the 'Solar Breathing Technique' and fire element.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon Method – Immovable Mountain'

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The three attacks landed on the barrier simultaneously and created a huge explosion upon collision. But despite how strong those attacks were, they were not able to break through such a sturdy defense.

Aside from making it shake intensely, their attacks did not do much. Not even a scratch was present.

But Shin was not done yet as he snapped his fingers and detonated the barrier right before the three clones sensed the danger.

It was the 'Eclipse Counter' infused with a different element.

Boom!

Shin was about to continue pressing the three clones with more aggressive attacks, planning to suppress them before they could even adjust to his current self.

But before he could even make his move, he suddenly frowned deeply as he could not feel their presence nearby.

He was sure that the previous explosion was not enough to kill any of them, which was why he wanted to quickly follow it up. But since he could not find them anywhere near him, this could only mean that they were no longer within his 'Sensing Circle.'

We were able to escape in time despite how unexpected his move was.

He somewhat expecting that to happen. But the question remained the same. How did they escape within that brief moment?

The answer was immediately revealed when he saw the three clones standing in the distance while their bodies were currently covered with a cloud of black smoke.

"The Doppel Phantom?" muttered Shin with a hint of uncertainty despite fully knowing the answer.

He knew that the Doppel Phantom had done it, but he did not know how and when it happened.

Regardless, he did not dwell too much on it as he would know the answer eventually as he continued to fight them. As the battle progressed, he would gain more experience of their respective styles and understand them more.

It would not take that much time for him to realize their weakness and beat them in the process.

Having that in mind, Shin pulled the greatsword up from the ground and reverted it to its sheath form before putting the [Yamato] in it once again.

He did not wait even for an instant as he quickly charged forward. He sprinted at full speed and left a series of afterimages behind as he kept on changing his direction with a certain rhythm.

Seeing his actions, the four clones also took their respective stances before charging at him with the same level of aggressiveness.

Shin smirked when he saw their 'welcoming' gestures. He then accelerated his speed even further and transformed into a streak of light that cut through the air.

The air behind him was also lit ablaze as he adjusted his breathing. The 'Solar Breathing' and 'Golden Immortality' Techniques were utilized once again, making the fire meet metal for another time.

Swoosh!

Unsheathing the sword, he suddenly swung it forward and threw a straight stab.

Shing!

The raging flame flowed from the tip of the sword and spread through its blade, creating spiraling movements as he advanced and cut through the formation of the four clones.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Fire and Metal Form) – Blazing Final'

Swoosh!

The four clones quickly scattered in different directions, avoiding the path that Shin was taking.

After separating them from one another and standing in the middle of their ranks, Shin quickly initiated another attack. He picked a random target and charged at Eclipse Clone, which was the nearest.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Intense exchanges immediately took place as the Eclipse Clone tried to fight back.

The sheath on Shin's left hand had taken the 'Meteor Form' once again and become a transparent long sword as he attacked.

Naturally, the other clones would not stay in their respective positions and watch Shin overwhelm the Eclipse Clone one-sidedly.

Making their moves, they charged at Shin from different directions and threw their respective attacks.

Clang! Clang!

Cling!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Despite being surrounded by the close from every direction, Shin remained calm and cool-headed. He kept on responding to each of their attacks, not leaving a single opening.

What was surprising about this was not how he was able to hold himself against them alone without being at any disadvantage. But it was the fact that he kept on transitioning between different breathing techniques and used the corresponding fighting style in the middle of this chaotic battle.

He would always pick the best technique that would fit the situation and act according to this. It could either be a movement technique, a defensive technique, or even an offensive technique – any choice that he made would perfectly fit that situation and help him escape any difficult predicament.

Aside from this, the sheath on his left hand would constantly change its form during the battle.

Sometimes, it was in its original form when he was using those sword-drawing attacks and sword techniques under the 'Jade Kirin Scripture.'

At times, it was taking the form of a greatsword when he was utilizing the 'Divine Yellow Dragon' and 'Sacred White Tiger' Methods of the 'Four Symbol Scripture.'

There were also some instances when it transformed into a longsword or a rapier when he was applying the techniques from the 'Celestial Vermilion Bird Method.'

When he was using these techniques and sword forms, the three special breathing techniques – 'Solar Breathing,' 'Golden Immortality,' and 'Great Dominator' – would always be utilized accordingly.

This fighting style might still be far from being perfect because of the few missing pieces. But Shin was already satisfied with his current progress.

The 'Holy Azure Dragon' and 'Heavenly Black Tortoise' Methods would find their way into the system when the time was right, forming the perfect fighting style for his Mentalism and Swordsmanship.

Moreover, his Battle Genius Talent along with the Natural State fitted for it were constantly adjusting and growing alongside him. It would not take that long for him to reach the height that he was aiming for and perfected this fighting style.

And that time might arrive sooner than what he had expected. Chapter 1260 Myriad Transformation
Swordsmanship (Part 1)

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Bang! Bang!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

In the middle of the four powerful clones, Shin held his ground without being overwhelmed by the opposing side despite being outnumbered and surrounded from every direction.

From the spectator's point of view, Shin was like a little tuna being hunted by four great white sharks. But despite that being the case, he nimbly and skillfully avoided each of their advances. He did not let them touch him, not even a graze.

Shin's mind kept on working as he processed the information that he was getting.

His eyes, which were glowing with a pale golden light after he activated the 'True Sight' skill, read the movements of his enemies and the trajectory of their attacks.

At the same time, his other senses were keeping an eye on the blind spots that he had. His 'Sensing Circle' was able to detect the movements from the surroundings, giving him a rough idea of how the four clones planned to approach him from an unseen angle.

But what helped him greatly in this battle was his Personal Trait, the Ultra Instincts, which helped him dodge all the incoming attacks without a problem.

From a different angle, it felt like he was barely able to avoid those attacks. It seemed like he was barely hanging on. But if people were watching him right now, then they would notice that Shin was, in fact, purposely moving at the very last moment when dodging.

There was only a hair's breadth margin when he was dodging the attacks, making it look like he was struggling during the battle. But upon closer inspection, it would be visible that he was in total control of everything.

And to make it worse for the opposing side, Shin was continuously growing during the battle. He was constantly polishing his current style and thoroughly drilling everything into his system.

He had already used this ever-changing style before and even used it in actual battle. At that time, even someone like Justin could barely be able to hold his ground during their first battle.

But this time, the overall style was thoroughly polished. It now covered all the weaknesses that it had before and reinforced everything with elemental enhancements and strengthening.

Even though it was still a little far from being perfect due to the absence of the 'Holy Azure Dragon' and 'Heavenly Black Tortoise' Methods in the system. He also lacked the breathing techniques that could be used alongside them, so it could be said that he still had a lot of room for improvement.

The 'Jade Kirin Scripture' was also not fully in the system, so there were still a couple of holes that he needed to patch up. Fortunately, the Ultra Instincts Personal Trait was able to fill up the gaps in his style during the battle.

Whenever he was able to successfully dodge an attack, he would gain enough space that he could use to change his swordplay and the transition between different forms of his sword or switch from the sword techniques that complement the 'Four Symbol Scripture' to quick draw and sword movements from the 'Jade Kirin Scripture.'

Despite having these small problems, he was still able to showcase a powerful performance and fought against these four strong clones without being at a disadvantage.

The Battle IQ of the four clones could be considered as one of the highest AI that could be found in the current stage of the game. But despite that being the case, Shin was still able to fight them on an equal footing alone.

This indicated that Shin's current strength already reached the peak of the game – at least in the First Continent, the Aurora Continent.

The same could not be said when he reached the Second Continent, the Awakened Continent.

...

During the battle, Shin discovered something that surprised him greatly. He realized that his Battle Genius Talent, the Natural State that complimented it, and the Ultra Instincts Personal Trait seemed to be coming together. They seemed to be merging into one and creating a new 'entity.'

Shin was not sure what it was, but he could feel that something within him was changing. Or more like 'awakening' in some sense.

But he did not put too much thought into it since he was too busy combining the 'Four Symbol Scripture' and the 'Jade Kirin Scripture' into a whole new system and polishing his current battle style.

Bang! Bang!

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Shin was able to ward off yet another series of coordinated attacks from the four clones with ease.

He exchanged blows with the Elemental Clone and sent the latter flying with a powerful strike. Then he swayed his body side to side and side-stepped from left to right, dodging a sneak attack from the Sword Phantom, before blocking the sword strikes that were thrown by the Eclipse Clone that welcomed him from that side.

Everything happened within a couple of seconds, showcasing how fast the trades were. But despite that being the case, Shin was still able to respond to each attack with a calm and collected look on his face.

Shin's left hand trembled a little as the greatsword that he was holding turned into a rapier.

After charging from 'Judgement Form' to 'Conviction Form' of 'Mondi's Style' legacy skill, Shin suddenly twisted his waist and swiftly threw a series of stabs toward the Eclipse Clone.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The tip of the rapier was covered with a raging flame as he threw those stabs. Then his arms turned into blurs as a series of fiery flashes enveloped the Eclipse Clone from the front.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Celestial Vermillion Bird – Pheonix Nest'

Eclipse Clone swiftly responded and swung the pair of katana that it was holding and threw a series of slashes to ward off the attack.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

The Eclipse Clone was doing relatively well in blocking those attacks. But after a couple of exchanges, a small gap was suddenly revealed in its defense, which Shin instantly seized.

There was a brief pause in Shin's movements when that gap was revealed. His left arm, which just turned into blurs when throwing the blazing stabs, also 'materialized' for an instant before disappearing once again.

The 'Multiple Stabs' skill that he used as the model from the previous attack was switched with another in-game skill. It was another stabbing attack, but with a much higher priority when being used, the 'Heart Seeker' skill.

Swoosh!

The flame dancing on the blade of the rapier created a spiral movement as Shin twisted his arms a little when stabbing forward.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Celestial Vermillion Bird – Pheonix Talon'

Puchi!

There was a soft and subtle sound when the rapier flew past the gap between the defense of the Eclipse Clone and reached its target.

The rapier penetrated the chest of the clone, hitting its heart before piercing through its back.

There was no blood but there was a huge number painted in blood-red color floating above the head of the Eclipse Clone after getting hit by that fast and ruthless attack.

Shin did not even bother to look at those numbers as he quickly pulled the rapier back while simultaneously swinging the sword on his other hand.

Unlike the rapier, which was covered with blazing flame, the [Yamato] was currently shrouded by a metallic luster. The glittering dust surrounding the sword indicated that he was using a completely different element for this attack.

Adjusting his breathing and using the 'Golden Immortality Technique', Shin swung the [Yamato] in full force.

The tip of the sword left a golden light in the air, following the trajectory of the sword.

He then drew a straight line in the air as if he were stroking on a clean sheet of paper. This horizontal line passed through the neck of the Eclipse Clone without any hint of resistance, scoring him a clean and unhindered stroke.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Sacred White Tiger – Severing Stroke'

Everything happened a little too fast!

The movements were way too clean and too smooth, not giving the Eclipse Clone a chance to respond. If it could not respond to it, then what more than the others that were still a step away from the exchange?

They could only watch from a distance without being able to stop the inevitable.

The head of the Eclipse Clone then flew in the air, rolling and spinning rapidly after being separated from its body.

Shin did not even bother to look at it as his spinning body was already preparing for the next move.

He faced the Doppel Phantom that suddenly appeared behind him while he was busy dealing with the Eclipse Clone.

But since he was a little too fast and decisive with his previous actions, the Doppel Phantom was unable to stop him from finishing off the Eclipse Clone.

Stunned, the Doppel Phantom paused its movements for a moment before quickly retreating.

It could sense the overwhelming pressure coming from Shin upon turning around. It might not have the ability to think rationally unlike the NPCs and intelligent monsters in the game, but it could at least understand that the current Shin in front of it was a very dangerous being.

These clones only had their good senses in battle since that was how they were programmed. Other than thinking of how to defeat Shin and protect itself, it could not think of any other thing.

But at this very moment, it seemed to have understood what 'fear' felt like. It instinctively wanted to retreat and get away from Shin as soon as possible!

Unfortunately, it was already too late at that moment. Its body seemed to be frozen by fear right after Shin's eyes landed on it.

From its perspective, Shin seemed to have transformed into a huge and majestic tiger. This ferocious beast was glaring at it with a pair of savage eyes.

At the same time, the rapier on Shin's left hand had already become a longsword.

After transforming from 'Conviction Form' to 'Meteor Form,' Shin quickly channeled his elemental mana on each of the swords maintaining the 'Golden Immortality Technique.'

Within the next instant, his arms seemed to have disappeared as he threw a series of ferocious slashes in front of him.

Sword lights and flashes intervened in the air as he threw those multiple slashes.

The light filled the vision of the Doppel Phantom as it tried its best to ward off the attacks. It even summed a large number of flying daggers and paralyzing needles at Shin as a form of counterattack.

Unfortunately, all of them were smashed into pieces and shattered like broken glasses in front of the ferocious barrage of attacks from Shin.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Sacred White Tiger – Fangs of Insanity'

Swoosh!

While Shin was busy dealing with the two clones, the Sword Phantom suddenly charged at him from a tricky angle and launched a ruthless sneak attack.

Shin had already sensed that incoming attack, so he did not panic despite being in the middle of finishing off the Doppel Phantom.

He calmly took a step back while waiting for the Sword Phantom to arrive. Then he took a step forward, facing the incoming opponent, while twisting his waist toward the left and holding the air of swords over his shoulder.

The breathing rhythm that he had also changed along with the elemental mana covering his body; an earthen glow was released from his body and formed an extra layer over his skin and armor.

His feet were firmly planted on the ground as he adjusted his posture and braced himself for the incoming collision.

Swoosh!

The Sword Phantom reached him not long after and unsheathed its sword at that very moment. It swung the sword horizontally while carrying the momentum that it had during the initial charge.

Shing!

Shin, on the other hand, inhaled deeply as his muscles expanded a little during the process. He then re-twisted his waist toward the other direction while swinging a pair of swords over his shoulder down to meet the attack of his opponent.

Swoosh!

'Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon – Mountain Cleaver'

Boom!

The collision quickly erupted with a powerful explosion. The shockwave spread in every direction, sweeping the white dust and dirt from the snow-white floor of the Trial Ground.

Shin skidded back upon the collision. His feet, which remained planted on the ground, drew long and deep marks during the process.

In the meantime, the Sword Phantom barely moved from the point of collision. Aside from the deep footprints in front of it, indicating that it had taken a couple of steps before halting its tracks.

Raising his head, Shin noticed a flow of mana gathering around the Sword Phantom.

He then squinted his eyes and noticed that this continuous flow of mana was from the corpses of the Eclipse Clone and Doppel Phantom that he had just killed earlier.

Seeing such a familiar scene, Shin could not help but click his tongue while muttering to himself. "Why do I feel a sudden sense of *déjà vu*?"

Nevertheless, he still released the 'Meteor Form' of the sword on his left and turned it back to its sheath form before putting the [Yamato] in it.

Seeing that the Sword Phantom was already getting ready for the next round, Shin also assumed a sword-drawing stance to prepare for the next collision.

This time, he was planning to end this part of the promotion quest if possible. Since he had already taken down both the Eclipse Phantom and the Doppel Phantom after a prolonged battle, he was not willing to end everything with just that.

"At least let me proceed to the next part before calling it a day."