

Destiny 1271

Chapter 1271 Academy's Special Assignment (Part 1)

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After logging out of the game and getting out of his Gaming Cabin, Shin quickly did his morning routine before preparing for school.

As usual, he prepared their breakfast since it had already become a daily routine for him. But this time, the three girls – Cloe, Alice, and Lorraine – joined them for the meal before going together to the academy.

During the trip, Arthur and Leonard kept on complaining to Shin because he became ahead of them once again. They kept pestering him not to head over to the Awakened Continent on his own and wait for them. They wanted to explore the new continent together. It would be better if the entire Empyrean Talons headed there together.

During this instance, Shin asked them about their respective progress and the current situation in the Sacred Light Kingdom.

"Since you have already done with your Promotion Quest, there is no way that I will slack off and let you leave us to dust," said Arthur as they walked toward their classroom.

"With the information that you have given us, I think I can finally find a way to proceed with the second part of my quest."

"Tsk! Having a secondary combat class has its drawbacks too," he complained as he knew that one of the reasons why his Promotion Quest was harder than the rest was due to the secondary combat class.

Leonard had just recently gotten his secondary combat class too during his last visit to the Temple of the War God, which made him slightly regret his decision. But he did not complain that much after knowing the growth that he was making during the entire quest.

In the meantime, Alice suddenly injected. "As for the events in the Sacred Light Kingdom, I think the situation is getting a little hopeless."

"There is no way that the 'Withering' can be stopped now. The seeds of corruption spread out in every corner of the kingdom, making it impossible to stop," she added.

"Aside from the Maze Forest, where your teammates have destroyed one of the main corruption seeds, most of the Kingdom is already under serious corruption," said Lorraine, chiming in.

Lorraine headed to the kingdom with her Adventurer Team, the Secret Society, to join the event since she felt like improving their progress before settling in the new city that Shin wanted to build with Shiella.

With the recent progress that her team had made, they were able to put up a good fight there, but she knew that they could barely help due to how large the scale of the corruption was.

"I will try heading there and help once I am done with the matters on my side," said Shin as he nodded his head.

They chatted for a moment before entering the classroom, where they met with Molton and Jillian and sat at their usual spot.

"Brother Shin! I have made a lot of progress on my promotion quest thanks to the information that you have given me!" said Molton after greeting the group.

"I'm glad that it had helped you," nodded Shin as he took a seat.

Everyone in the class was already present and they were only waiting for Professor Kyrie to enter and start the class.

When she arrived, everyone immediately turned silent and paid attention in front of them, especially when they noticed a strange atmosphere surrounding the professor.

Professor Kyrie swept her gaze at everyone before nodding her head when she saw that everyone was present. She then cleared his throat before talking. "I am an important announcement, so I hope everyone will pay attention."

She waited for everyone to adjust themselves before continuing. "The academy will be issuing a special mission for everyone in this class, and they want everyone to cooperate."

"But before I tell you what it is, I want you to know that this is not a compulsory mission. You can refuse and not join the rest of you have other matters that you need to attend or if the professor from your respective departments has a different arrangement for you."

"But still, this is a good opportunity to hone yourselves and gain more experience!"

"Even Sir Lin Huang is strongly supporting this idea. In fact, he is the one who pushes this mission to you and convinces the board to agree."

Hearing her words, the entire class immediately became interested, especially when they heard that it was an arrangement from Martial King Lin Huang. From their understanding of that old monster, they knew that this mission would make them grow stronger and faster.

She paused for another time as she looked at everyone before explaining the details of the special mission. "Recently, the government has excavated an ancient tomb, and it seems to be related to an ancient cultivator with a decent reputation-..."

As she was explaining, the whole class paid extra attention as they were really curious about this mission.

In the meantime, Shin could not help but frown deeply.

He somewhat had an idea of what was going on. His master had already called him about this matter earlier, and he also had deduced it before, so he was not that surprised.

But despite all that, he knew that he could not join this mission due to the warning of his master. He could not afford to risk his life when someone as strong as the 'Great Demon,' Jan Mateo, would be coming there for some reason.

Given that this top expert, a notorious wanted criminal and head of a powerful organization, was coming to the continent, the government would naturally set up multiple traps to catch him.

Even though they did not know why this person was coming to the Soaring Continent, they could not afford to let their guard down.

They were confident that he would not be attacking them, or getting in their way during the exploration of the ancient tomb since that was not his style.

From what the government and the elders' council had deduced, there seemed to be something that piqued his interest in the continent.

Or it was also possible that he would be seeking revenge on Adam's friends for what happened during the incident a dozen years ago.

Either way, Professor Plum and Grandmaster Benn would not dare to let Shin join the exploration team after knowing that Jan Mateo would possibly 'pass' by.

That guy had an insane greed when it came to 'See of Hatred'. If he learned the existence of the seeds within Shin, then the trouble that they would be facing would be beyond their imagination.

They could not take the risk.

After explaining everything, Professor Kyrie swept her gaze at everyone before asking. "So, who among you want to participate? Raise your hands, and I will list your names."

Before anyone could even raise their hands, someone from the class suddenly injected. "Isn't it better to ask who will not be joining the mission? I think that is a more appropriate question."

Hearing his words, the rest of the class laughed. After all, who would want to miss such a rare opportunity? This mission was a special occasion where they could hone their skills and gain practical experience.

Professor Kyrie paused for a moment before joining the laughter of her students. She then nodded her head and asked. "Right. Is there anyone who doesn't want to partake in this mission?"

She had asked that, but she was actually not expecting anyone would say yes. After all, this batch of geniuses would never back down from such a challenge and an opportunity to improve themselves.

At least that was what she thought at first, but she did not expect that there was really someone who would raise their hands.

Moreover, the person who did this was currently ranked number 1 in the class.

She failed to process what was going on as she was caught completely off guard. She remained silent for quite some time as she refused to believe what she was seeing.

The rest of the class was the same. They turned their heads and looked directly at Shin with eyes full of mixed emotions. They were also having some doubts about whether they were seeing the right thing or not.

In their minds – "What the hell is wrong with this dude?" –

It was the same for Shin's friends, especially the ones who were very familiar with him. From their knowledge, there was no way for Shin to refuse to join and let go of such a rare opportunity!

They could not help but look at Shin with weird gazes, seemingly thinking if he was ill or something.

Being at the center of attention and receiving such gazes from everyone, Shin could not feel a little uncomfortable.

He then awkwardly scratched his cheeks before clearing his throat while whispering to his friends. "Ahem! I have my reason."

After that, he smiled at Professor Kyrie and explained. "I am sorry, Professor Kyrie. But my department has some arrangements already. My master and Professor Henry seem to have come to an agreement."

It was only at that moment when Professor Kyrie snapped out of her daze and laughed. "Is that so? Then It can't be helped."

She then paused and asked for another time, making sure that Shin would not regret it. "But are you sure about this? This is such a rare opportunity, and we don't know when it can happen again."

Shin shook his head and said. "I am sorry, Professor Kyrie. But I have already decided."

Seeing that Shin would not be convinced, Professor Kyrie nodded her head and moved on. She then started the class immediately after.

Afternoon, when everyone was done with the training that Old Man Lin had prepared, they were shocked to discover that they had finished way earlier than scheduled.

They were dismissed way earlier than their usual time.

While everyone was catching their breath and lying on the ground, Old Man Lin suddenly stood in front of them and said. "I am sure that you all have heard the special mission already, so I will get straight to the point."

"Starting tomorrow, I don't have you to attend my afternoon class until the day of the mission. I want you to focus on maintaining your forms and preparing yourselves for this mission."

"You have to take this mission seriously not only because it can help you with your growth, but also because there are some risks accompanying it."

He paused for a moment and put his hands behind him before continuing. "There is going to be a serious contest in for this exploration mission. You are not the only ones who will be entering the tomb as the other strong forces within the continent and some foreign forces will be joining too."

"Moreover, our academy's long-time rival, the Top Military School, will be sending their students too. And I must warn you – you can lose to anyone but those guys. Once I hear that you have been beaten by those guys, then I make sure to prepare a new obstacle course for the whole class for your future training."

"Don't try to be cheeky too and avoid any collision against them since I will be one of the overseers who will be guarding the tomb, so I will receive the reports as soon as possible. There is no way you can hide anything from me."

Boom!

Right after he was done with his speech, the entire class suddenly felt a heavy pressure pressing on them.

They felt that a massive mountain was pressing on them, making it hard for them to move and suffocating them greatly. Some of the more exhausted ones lying on the ground started convulsing as if they were about to die.

Fortunately, Old Man Lin knew his limit and stopped when the weakest ones were about to faint and collapse.

Even the brightest and strongest students in the class were sweating profusely due to experiencing such heavy pressure.

Old Man Lin swept his gaze at everyone, before turning to Shin. "Hey, brat! Came with me for a second. I have something to discuss with you."

Chapter 1272 Academy's Special Assignment (Part 2)

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Shin followed behind Old Man Lin with a confused look on his face. He was not sure what the old man wanted to discuss with him, but he could at least guess what it was given the current situation.

After walking away from the rest of the class, Old Man Lin felt that they were far enough before turning around. He then looked at Shin and said. "I heard that you will not be joining this special mission."

Shin had somewhat expected it, so he was not that surprised. He then nodded his head as he responded. "That is right, Senior. My master and Professor Henry have already made some arrangements for me."

Old Man Lin smirked when he heard those words. "You don't have to hide too much, kiddo. I have already heard it from your master, so I have a rough idea of what is happening."

"That Old Monster has done any he can to hide it but given the pieces of information that I have on hand, it is pretty easy to guess what they are planning."

He then squinted his eyes and stared at Shin with a gaze that seemed to be able to peer through any secrets before continuing. "I have already seen some of it before, but I don't expect the seriousness of the situation up until this point."

Old Man Lin closed his right hand and placed its side in front of his mouth before clearing his throat. "Since I owe your master a favor, I will help you a little with your current problem."

Shin was still in the middle of processing the meaning of those words when the old man suddenly extended his left index finger and pointed at the center of Shin's brows.

Swoosh!

A flow of energy suddenly came out from the old man and entered Shin's head.

Shin could not respond to it due to how fast it was. He could only brace himself while waiting for the old man to finish.

He could not move during the entire process, but he could feel that the energy coming from Old Man Lin was flowing gently through his meridians and cleansing them in the process. He also felt that his entire body was getting lighter and full of strength as time went by.

Whoosh!

There was also a black miasma coming out from the pores of his body, making Shin feel relieved. It was as if all the burdens that he was carrying were suddenly lifted altogether. These impurities that had accumulated for quite a long time were quickly erased and ejected from his body.

At the same time, Shin also felt that the flowing energy suddenly moved toward his dantian before forming a spherical barrier around it.

Bang!

Shin felt that he heard a heavy metal door being closed when that mysterious energy from Old Man Lin completely closed off the energy within his dantian.

It was at that moment when the old man retracted his finger and explained. "There is some leakage of Demonic Qi from your dantian, and it was slowly accumulating some damage within your body. It was also gathering quite a lot of impurities over time."

"It may not be able to affect you right now, but it would seriously affect you in the future if you left them unattended."

"I guess Henry can't seal it off completely due to the nature of his energy," he added briefly before continuing. "But it will be fine now."

"You don't have to worry about someone sensing the leaking Demonic Qi from your body for the time being since this seal that I have set up will be more than enough."

He then paused and looked at Shin seriously. "If you want to completely control these powers that you have, then you must work very hard."

Hearing those words, Shin could already guess that there was something going on within his body. If he added the strange behavior that Uno had and the words that his alter ego had told him earlier, then he could already guess that the 'Seed of Hatred' within him was slowly getting out of control.

Old Man Lin looked at Shin deeply before continuing. "I am not sure how you are able to hold on up until now. I also don't know what that Old Monster, Plum, is planning. But I can at least tell you that your time is slowly running short."

"You have to become stronger as soon as possible to make sure that you will not get out of control. Because once you do, no one will be able to save you aside from yourself."

Hearing that, Shin nodded his head heavily, signifying that he fully understood.

Seeing that, Old Man Lin finally nodded his head in satisfaction before continuing. "Since that is the case, you can't afford to miss this opportunity to gain practical experience."

"Even though you have quite a lot of it already, you will not be losing anything if gain more. You may even benefit from it instead."

He then paused before shaking his head and added. "But since there are some unexpected 'visitors' this time, we can't risk you going there."

"Instead, I will be arranging another mission as your main training instructor," trailing his words for a moment, Old Man Lin continued. "I have already informed Henry of this, so there will be no conflict with his arrangements either."

"This will be a special assignment solely for you since you will not be joining the rest of the class in exploring the tomb of the ancient cultivator."

"This assignment just comes in perfectly since it is about time to test your real capabilities as the rank one student from the special program."

"This is supposedly a monthly exam for the top ranker of the class, but since we have the perfect opportunity on our hands, why not bring the time forward?"

Shin was slightly confused at first, but he still nodded his head regardless and continued to listen.

"I will email you the details of the assignment within two days. I still have to organize it since I am too busy dealing with those old fools from the board."

"You have a whole week to prepare like the class, so make sure to be prepared when the time comes," after that, Old Man Lin turned around and left while signaling Cloe to follow him.

Shin stared at the back of the Old Man for a couple of moments before looking at the clock. It was still too early, so he had plenty of time on his hands.

He then turned to the side and saw the group walking toward him aside from Cloe, who was called by Old Man Lin.

lightsNovel "What is it about?" asked Arthur curiously.

Shin shook his head. "There is nothing too serious about. It is just a special assignment from the academy since I will not be joining the rest of the class for the exploration."

"A separate assignment? Sounds interesting! What kind of mission is it?" asked Arthur again.

Shin shrugged his shoulders. "I don't know yet. The materials will be given to me within the next two days."

"Tsk! Boring," mumbled Arthur before quickly changing the topic. "Alright! Since we still have plenty of time before our usual dismissal time, how about we hang out a little?"

"We can also spar if you want! It has been a while since we exchanged some martial insights!" he added with an excited tone. It was pretty much clear that he was too eager to blow up some accumulated frustrations from the news about the game.

Leonard chuckled and suggested. "But I want to go back now since I want to finish my promotion quest as soon as possible. Now that Shin Bro is freed from his matters, he can head over to the Sacred Light Kingdom and switch places with us."

Shin thought about it for a moment before nodding his head. "That is right. I can also test how strong a Tier 3 can be. This is a perfect time to do it."

Arthur clicked his tongue when he heard but did not refute. He knew that what they said was quite reasonable.

Lorraine, who had been looking at her advanced watch up until now, suddenly raised her head. "Then you brutes can do your thing. I want to go shopping a little!"

After that, she hooked her arms with Alice, who was standing silently beside her and asked. "Do you want to come with me? I see quite a few newly released designer bags just now!"

Alice hesitated for a moment before nodding her head and letting herself get dragged away by Lorraine.

As if the two of them were not enough, Lorraine also dragged Jillian with them, telling the latter it was a good time to get familiar with each other.

"Then I will be heading back too. I still want to do some experiments within the game," said Molton, bidding farewell to the trio.

Shin thought for a moment before turning to the two. "You two can go back first. I want to drop by the Research Department first. I want to ask some advice from my senior regarding my future training."

"I just made a crucial breakthrough with my mentalism swordsmanship inside the game, so I want to see if it is possible to apply it in the real world with my current realm."

Arthur shook his head repeatedly before turning around. He then kept on mumbling some incomprehensible words to himself.

Leonard and Shin exchanged glances with each other before shrugging their shoulders.

After that, they said goodbye to each other before moving to their respective destination.

Somewhere within the campus, Wade Paige was currently taking a stroll to relax.

He had been staying in the Magical Ace Academy for a few days already and he had made quite some progress with everything.

His previous sickly complexion and weak body were already getting better. He was still far from being healthy-looking since it was just a few days since he underwent the special diet and exercise plan that Professor Henry prepared for him. But he felt that he was getting better as time passed.

He also could feel that he could summon an incomparable strength than before. He might still be far from performing some martial arts moves, but he could at least exert some strength that was way above the average person despite his current physique.

He was currently staying at the housing quarters especially prepared for the personnel of the World Research Center and receiving decent treatment that was no different from those researchers and assistants.

He knew that this was a special treatment since he was under the head of the research center. But he had no reason to refuse it since this was the very reason why he was here.

He was also cooperating with the research and tests that they were conducting in exchange for his stay, so there was no need to feel too guilty about it.

He was also given a special ID card that would let him explore some public places within the academy.

He felt a little suffocated inside the research laboratories, so he stepped out a little to breathe some fresh air. The smell of chemicals and solutions inside was making him a little dizzy, so he felt like going outside for the time being.

He was already done with today's tests anyway, so he was free to do whatever he wanted until tomorrow. He could at least explore the academy for the time being.

He had heard about this school even from the Sun-Moon Continent. He knew that this school was one of the most famous schools around the world. It was also one of the best when it came to producing world-class talents and elites, so he was quite curious about it.

He wanted to feel the atmosphere of one of the best world-class schools and see their students' quality.

It was at that moment when he bumped into someone.

Someone that he did not expect to see here.

"Ah! You-...! You-...! What are you doing here!?"

"Eh!? Ah! You are that guy! You are a student at this school!?"

Chapter 1273 Meeting Diablo in Real World

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Shin was walking leisurely toward the Research Department while thinking about the current problem that he was facing. He was quite eager to apply his new mentalism swordsmanship in the real world, but he knew that his current realm was still far from being enough for it.

He had to consult his senior as soon as possible. It would be better if Professor Henry was also around to guide him.

While he was walking, he suddenly caught a glimpse of someone. He wanted to ignore that person at first, but he could not help but get a familiar feeling from the latter.

Curious, Shin decided to walk over and see if it was someone he knew.

But as he got nearer to that person, he could not help but have some doubts since the unfamiliar silhouette was getting clearer. He was sure that he had not seen this person before.

It was at that moment when he got a closer look at the appearance of the person, he could not help but frown deeply as he became sure that he knew them. He dug deeper into his memories, trying to figure out who this person was.

At the same time, the other party seemed to be doing the same.

Then, it suddenly drew into them.

"Ah! You-...! What are you doing here!?"

"Eh!? You are that person! Are you a student here?"

Shin was able to figure out who this person was. He was 'Diablo' – that powerful assassin that he had fought recently during their Empire Quest at the Frozen Kingdom, who was also a former member of the Pandemonium Descendants and had a high position at that.

'Diablo? What is he doing here?' thought Shin as he curiously looked at the latter.

At the same time, the other party, Wade Paige was also thinking the same. 'Isn't this guy one of those from the Empyrean Talons? He is a student here?'

The two went silent for a moment as they observed each other. It took them quite some time to regain their composure.

"Ahem!" Shin cleared his throat before answering. "Yeah, I am a student here. And I belong to the special program."

Shin did not feel like hiding this fact. After all, it would be easy to know which class he belonged to after a little investigation. Aside from that, the students from the special program were also quite famous

within the academy, especially with the recent events that had happened recently. There was no point in hiding it.

In the meantime, Wade tried to find from his memory which class was the special program. He had been staying in this place for just a couple of days, so he was not that familiar with everything yet. But that did not mean that he was oblivious to the special classes, clubs, and other groups within the academy.

He had taken note of the most famous students, especially the ones from the Elite Clubs and other groups.

But despite all of that, he still could not find the information about the 'special program'.

When he realized that he did not know anything about it, he gave up on thinking and just nodded his head. "I see. It is fancy meeting an in-game acquaintance here."

Shin was quite sharp as he was able to pick up a few clues from those words. He knitted and asked. "From your tone, it seems like you are not a student of the academy."

He then looked in the direction where the other party came from and saw the World Research Center in the distance. This gave him a rough idea. "I guess you are a guest of the center?"

Wade was slightly surprised before nodding his head. "Yeah. I am helping with some research as they also assist me."

Shin did not dig deeper into that topic as knew that it concerned the secret of the latter. He just brushed it off before extending his hand and introducing himself. "Since we have met here, we can say that it must be fate. Let's get acquainted then – I am Shin. Shin Kinghad."

Wade hesitated for a moment as he was not quite fond of meeting other people. But since he could not feel any hostility, nor a hidden agenda from the latter, he could not accept the handshake and introduced himself. "Wade. Wade Paige."

Shin smiled and nodded his head. He then shifted to another topic to break off the awkward atmosphere. "It seems like you are taking a stroll. Do you have any destination in mind?"

Shin was not an extrovert himself, but he felt that he needed to get a little closer to this person, especially when he wanted to recruit him to their team. But he could not get straight to the point either since it could result in a negative effect.

He could only build a friendly relationship for the time being.

Wade thought for a moment before nodding his head. "It is quite suffocating inside, so I want to get some fresh air at the moment."

Then an awkward silence quickly fell in between them as they could no longer think of any topic.

Shin could only sigh bitterly and was about to excuse himself and continue with his business. It was better to leave things like this rather than forcing it.

It was at that moment when the two heard a familiar voice from the side.

"Eh! Shin? Wade? What are you two doing here? And you know each other?"

The two quickly turned their heads and looked at the source of that voice.

"Hmm?"

"Eh!?"

When they recognized who it was, they simultaneously greeted back.

"Senior Benedict!"

"Sir Benedict!"

Then they paused and turned their heads at each other while wearing a questioning look. They seemed to be trying to ask if they knew Benedict.

Seeing their reaction, Benedict could not help but laugh at them as he had gotten the answer. "It seems like you really knew each other."

Shin recovered first and nodded his head. "I become acquainted within inside the game. He is quite a strong foe."

"But I still lost in the end," added Wade with a bitter smile.

Benedict nodded his head. "That's good! That's good! Then it will not be hard for me to introduce you to each other."

The two were caught a little off guard by those words before giving Benedict an inquiring look. They seemed to be telling him to continue and explain his words.

Benedict chuckled when he saw their reaction and explained. "Since you know each other, and even fight inside the game, then I am sure that you are aware of the strength of each other."

"It will be better if you are aware of the secret methods that each of you have," he added, implying something.

Shin immediately picked up and realized what Benedict was trying to say. "Are you talking about my 'Reality Manifestation' and his own version of it?"

Benedict smiled and replied. "You can't exactly say that it is his own version since the 'Hyperactive Immersion' was first discovered way before."

He then paused for a moment before nodding his head. "But it is also not wrong to say it that way since his 'Hyperactive Immersion' is indeed a little different from the regular ones. However, it is just a byproduct of that secret method and the personal skill that he has created."

Wade became a little uncomfortable when he heard Benedict disclosing his secret to other people.

But Benedict was not that oblivious either. He knew that this secret was something that Wade wanted to hide from the others, but he also knew that they could not hide it from Shin due to the plans that Professor Henry prepared for him.

Benedict turned to Wade and explained. "You don't have to feel too uncomfortable about it. This secret will be disclosed to this junior sooner or later. After all, Professor Henry is planning to have you spar with each other as a form of your training."

He then paused for a moment as he thought of something before continuing. "This junior is one of the most skilled players that you can find out there, especially since he is the first person to unlock the secret method of 'Reality Manifestation'."

"He is also becoming a master of it, so you can't find any better sparring partner than him."

"Oh! Of course, aside from those monster friends that he has," he added after remembering about Arthur, Leonard, and the rest of the gang.

He then turned back to Shin as he continued. "Professor Henry wants to gather more data about these secret methods and do some research."

"Not only it will help us resolve his problems, especially his health and physical problems," he said while pointing at Wade. "...-but it can also help us improve your state in battle, maximizing your combat capabilities while using it while also minimizing the drawbacks that come with it."

The two fell silent for a couple of moments before nodding their heads.

Seeing that they finally calmed down, Benedict suddenly asked. "So, where are the two of you going?"

"I am just here for a stroll and fresh air," Wade replied instantly.

It was at that moment when Shin remembered his initial plan. "Oh! That is right! I am planning to head to our 'hideout' and consult senior about something."

Benedict nodded to Wade before tuning to Shin. He then squinted his eyes as he activated his ocular technique to observe his junior before shaking his head. "It seems like you have broken through once again."

"You have already mastered the two breathing techniques and the innate attributes under them? Tsk! Tsk! You sure are a monster."

"Let's go to the lab and test your limits again. I feel that you will give the professor a heart attack if you continue growing this fast," he said before turning to Wade and extending an invitation. "Do you want to come with us?"

"You don't have to feel any burden or anything else since the Professor will bring you to our department sooner or later anyway."

"You can't continue staying in the research center since your case is a personal project of the professor and not an official one. He will bring you to our department to avoid any conflicts that may arise in the future," he added, explaining the current situation.

Wade knew about this. He was aware that Professor Henry was only doing this because of the requests of the professor's old friends in the field.

Since it was an individual project of the professor, it would be better to conduct the research and experiments in his personal laboratory rather than using the facilities of the World Research Center.

Thinking about this, Wade could only nod his head and follow the two.

It was at that moment when Benedict suddenly remembered something. "Oh! Yeah, Wade. I just remember. Have you finally found a martial manual that is suited for you?"

lightsNovel Hearing those words, Shin's ears could not help but perk up as he listened attentively.
'Martial manuals?'

Wade hesitated for a moment before shaking his head. "I have yet to find one that perfectly suited my style. Moreover, it is quite hard to find the grade that Professor Henry requires."

He thought for a moment before continuing. "There are quite a few martial manuals available to auction houses and trading channels, but their quality is quite poor. The professor says that it will be a waste to learn those unless they are a full series that can evolve through time."

"There are quite a few high-quality ones that I have found through my special channels, but none of them are for assassination or any style that fits my skill set. Learning them too will be a waste as they can only damage my foundation."

Hearing that, Benedict could only pursed his lips and shook his head. "Forget it. There is no need to rush. I hear that the current stage of the game is already quite high, so those top-quality manuals will appear sooner or later."

"But you must pick the best quality since it can help you develop not only inside the game but also here in the world. It is better to be prudent rather than foolishly picking one."

In the meantime, Shin, who was quietly listening to them, could not help but grin in secret.

This was a perfect opportunity for them to lure Diablo to their side. He had to play his cards right so that everything would be perfect.

Chapter 1274 Finding Clues

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After chatting for a while, Shin was able to get a rough idea of Wade's situation. From what he had heard, it seemed like the latter was suffering from serious malnutrition due to being exposed a little too much to 'Hyperactive Immersion'.

Unlike the 'Reality Manifestation', where the player could just rely on their Martial Arts and Mentalism Attainments from the real world, the person who could use the 'Hyperactive Immersion' needed to adjust their body from the real world and match their slowly evolving minds with it.

If there was a discrepancy between the mind and the body, it could result in a serious conflict. Due to the mind being a little too advanced compared to the body, the latter would consume a lot of nutrition. But if the required nourishment was not met, then the body would instead consume the vitality or lifeforces of the person, which could cause them to die a slow and suffering death.

Usually, it was not as serious as this. But the version of 'Hyperactive Immersion' that Diablo was using was much more advanced compared to the original one. Moreover, he was also using a secret technique that was putting a huge burden on his brain after using it for an extended period of time, so the side effects that he was suffering were much more serious than what they used to be.

lightsNovel Fortunately, Wade arrived here before the situation could even get worse. It was also thanks to an old family friend, who was supporting him up until now, that he was able to live up until this point.

If his situation was mishandled even for a little bit, then he would most likely die from 'hunger'.

But all this suffering was exchanged for some things that positively affected him both in the real world and the virtual world.

After the treatment that he was undergoing, he would be able to steadily grow. As his mind evolved further and his body became stronger through the nourishments of special serums, medicines, and food with a highly concentrated energy, Wade would be able to live the life of an expert.

He would be able to make up for his lack of talent when it came to Martial Arts and Mentalism and became a true expert himself.

These things further fueled Shin's desire to pull Diablo over to their side. It was because all these things were the result of the latter attaining extreme strength that surpassed most of the players within the game.

At the same time, he was also quite eager to fight Diablo right now. It seemed like the guy was also progressing fast while Shin was making his own progress in his fighting style.

"Your future test will be conducted here when everything is handled by the Professor. But it still has to wait for a few days or even a whole week before you can be transferred here-..." explained Benedict while introducing the whole place to Wade. "...-after all, there is still some equipment in the research center that we don't have here."

"You can only come over when all the required tests are done and all the data are recovered properly," he added as he turned toward the two once again.

Benedict thought for a moment before continuing. "Since you are already in a better condition, I suggest that you do some daily exercise during the morning and come here in the afternoon for your strength training."

"We have to make sure that your body has adjusted properly before you can receive more advanced training."

"But before you undergo specialized training from a dedicated instructor, you have to find a suitable Martial Manual in the virtual world and train it. You must reach a certain level of mastery of the art before you can proceed in training it in the real world."

"I understand, Sir Benedict," nodded Wade with full seriousness.

Benedict chuckled when he heard how Wade addressed him before complaining. "How many times do I have to tell you not to call me that? Big Brother or Brother Benedict will be fine. Senior Brother will do as well."

"Our ages are not that far from each other. I am still young to be addressed like that," he added with a helpless tone.

Wade hesitated for a moment since he felt that he was indebted to Benedict. After all, the latter was the one who was always looking after him whenever Professor Henry was absent.

But after a brief hesitation, he still nodded his head and complied. "I understand, Senior Brother."

Seemingly like this attitude, Benedict pointed at Shin and continued. "I also suggest hanging out with this guy more often. He may look younger than you, but there is no doubt about his strength."

"He is already quite an expert himself. Although, he is still a little wet behind his ears."

"But you will surely benefit from hanging out with him and his friends, especially as each of them was a student from the special program of the academy. They are the talents that may represent us in the upcoming 'Empires War' and 'Battle for Supremacy' three years from now."

Benedict did not mind telling such a thing as it was not even a secret. Shin and the rest of the class joined that special program for that very reason anyway, so it was kind of an open secret already.

In the meantime, Wade could not help but give Shin an odd look as he was not sure how to believe such words. But after recalling his experience inside the game when they first fought, he immediately became convinced.

He had to admit that Shin was very powerful inside the game.

And if Shin really commanded the state of 'Reality Manifestation', then it could only mean that Shin had a very strong Martial Arts or Mentalism Method here in the real world.

Wade nodded his head, acknowledging the words that Benedict had said.

Benedict thought for a moment before pointing toward the little gym at the other side of the secret laboratory and instructing. "Since you don't have anything to do, then I suggest you try building muscles for the time being."

"You don't have to start lifting yet since your body is still in the middle of recovery. But I suggest you do some cardio first."

"If you don't know what to do, then you can look around there and wait for me until I am done with Junior Shin," he added before turning around and pulling Shin toward the special energy rooms.

Shin nodded his head to Wade, excusing himself.

Wade returned to nod before turning toward the strength-building gym.

...

Benedict led Shin toward the special training rooms while asking. "So, what do you want to ask me, junior?"

Shin thought for a moment before quickly telling Benedict the purpose of his visit. "Senior Benedict. It is like this. When I was doing my Tier 3 Promotion Quest, I suddenly got inspiration and was able to create a unique fighting style of my own."

"It is a combination of the mentalism swordsmanship from my 'Jade Kirin Scripture' and the special methods of my 'Four Symbol Scripture'."

"And together with the special breathing techniques and energy applications that I have learned from the lessons that Professor Henry has suggested, I am able to create my unique mentalism swordsmanship."

"But the problem is I can't apply it in the real world due to the limitations of my current realm. It will only be possible if I reach the Rulers Realm at the very least, which is way too far from my current realm. I am not even at the peak of the Grandmaster Realm."

Benedict continued to listen before asking. "Can you describe this unique mentalism swordsmanship that you are talking about? I may be able to find a way if I have a clear picture of it."

Shin thought for a moment before suggesting. "How about I show you a recording of my battle? I am sure that it will give a clearer idea."

"That will be better!" nodded Benedict before making a turn and heading toward the little relaxation room adjacent to the energy training rooms.

Shin quickly followed while using his advanced watch to log in to the official website of the game and enter his personal cloud storage account.

He also went straight to the recorded and backup videos before downloading the necessary materials that he needed.

...

Inside the relaxation room, Benedict watched all the battle clips of Shin fighting Lucy. He even replayed a couple of them, trying to get a clearer look at his junior's style.

When everything ended, he could not help but shake his head and click his tongue repeatedly. He had to admit that his junior was indeed talented when it came to mentalism techniques and swordsmanship, especially when it came to sword-drawing style that made him want to go for a quick spar.

His junior might not be fully aware of it, but he could see that this sword-drawing style had great potential in the hands of this junior.

Shin just did not know how to fully utilize it yet. Or to be more precise, he still had not polished it enough to showcase its real strength.

But despite that being the case, Shin seemed to have found another way to fully utilize his multiple attributes and even created such a complex and complicated style of fighting.

"Multiple styles in fighting," mumbled Benedict before laughing bitterly. "This reminds me of that old demon from that great war."

"An old demon?" asked Shin with a confused and curious tone.

Benedict turned to Shin and nodded his head. "Yeah. An old demon. The Thousand-Arms Demon Asura."

"Even though your version of 'multiple styles merge into one' is a little different, the vibe that they gave off and the logic behind the entirety of the style are somewhat similar," he added.

Shin had heard about the 'Great War' before since the old general in their home, Samuel Springfield, Demon-Fist General, was one of the active experts during that time.

But was a very long time ago and Samuel Springfield was still very young at that time. Moreover, the records about that war seemed to have been sealed or controlled due to certain reasons.

But Shin also heard that there were quite a lot of powerful experts that rose and fell during that time, so it would be impossible for him to hear about all of them.

Shin knitted his brows and asked. "It sounds like you have seen that so-called Demon, Senior."

Benedict laughed and waved his hand. "It is not like I have seen it personally. But I indeed saw him fought before. Although, it is only from video records."

"Video recordings?" Shin could not help but feel a little excited when he heard that.

Benedict thought for a moment before explaining. "During the time when the war ended. There is a certain event that makes some of the surviving experts fight against each other."

"I am not clear about the reason behind it, but I only heard that it is because of some 'moral values' or such."

"During that time, there was a huge battle that occurred. Then some people who seem to be documenting the 'victory' of our side happen to witness it and started recording the battle."

"And one of the recordings is a battle that the Thousand-Arms Asura have participated in. That is where he displayed his extremely brute but complicated Martial Arts. He is able to wield multiple types of weapons at once and even shuffle some of them during the entire battle."

"It is really such a mysterious art. It makes him look like a demon with multiple arms."

"I happened to watch his battle against another apex expert through a recording when I was doing my early internship at the World Research Center. We are using it as a study material for a certain subject."

He then paused for a moment as he tried to recall something before continuing. "But from what I remember, the recording is originally owned by the government – the Department of Cultural Heritage."

"It is a department that preserves the inheritances of ancient martial arts or cultivation knowledge. I heard that they also major in studying those ancient knowledge that are left behind by past eras."

He then quickly went back to the original topic and continued. "Anyway, I have gotten a rough idea of your style and understand the logic behind it. I think it is not that impossible to achieve, but it will be very difficult to achieve."

"Let me consult the professor about this. I am sure that he can find a way," he added before instructing. "For now, focus on improving your control over your three innate attributes and master the special breathing techniques. The rest will naturally follow."

"You don't have to be too anxious about it. You just must advance at a steady pace, and you will gradually achieve what you are looking for."

Shin nodded his head and quickly thanked Benedict. "Thank you, Senior. I will come back again at the usual schedule."

Benedict nodded his head before sending Shin off. After that, he walked back inside the laboratory to watch over Wade.

"Tsk! Tsk! It is really hard to be a personal assistant of the professor. I have been working my *ss off these past few days. I wonder when Big Sister and the rest will come back. I seriously need their assistance right now."

Chapter 1275 Encounter

.....

Real World.

Soaring Continent, Eastern Sea Region.

Ace City.

An old man wearing a worn-out gentleman's hat partnered with a set of casual clothing entered the city. He had a slouch posture that seemingly told everyone that he was lazy and too tired to do anything.

There was an old-looking but exquisite cane on his hands that he played with while walking. He twirled that cane around his hand while casually looking at the surroundings.

What was surprising about this was that no one seemed to be able to notice his presence despite the oddness of his actions. Even the people who were brushing past him did not notice that the cane was right in front of them and about to hit their heads.

Surprisingly, none of them got hit as the twirling cane turned illusionary and passed through their bodies when it was about to fall on the head of anyone.

It was the same for the old man as he continued to walk in a straight line down the streets. He seemed completely unbothered by the crowded places he went through or the other obstacles blocking his body. He just walked straight and ignored everything else.

Not long after, he arrived in front of the gate of the Magic Ace Academy.

He stopped at the huge gates before staring at the luxurious and majestic arc above them. He squinted his eyes as he stared at the name of the academy before casting his gaze at the tall stone tablet next to the gate.

"Tsk! That Old Fatty told me to head here, but don't inform anyone about my arrival," complained the old man as he heisted where to enter the premises of the academy or not.

Given his attainment and realm, those powerful monsters residing inside the academy would think that he was invading their territory if he blindly stepped through the gates.

He was not afraid of any of them or any kind of trouble, but they would be huge casualties if a fight broke out. Even though those old people had a certain level of rationality not to fight him, there were still some exemptions.

Some of them were his acquaintances, but it was also very reason why knew that they were easy to provoke.

First, there was Martial King Lin Huang, who used to be a battle maniac who wanted to fight anyone as long as it was a strong opponent who could put up a good fight and gave him the thrill of battle. He would dare to fight anywhere so long it was someone worthy of his attention.

Then there was the Undefeatable General, Manuel Morales, the crazy demon of the battlefield. Given the personality of this person, if there was someone powerful with unknown origin dared to enter the

premises of the academy, then this short-tempered old monster would take it as a form of challenge to the academy.

These two alone were more than enough to give the mysterious old man a serious headache.

It had been a while since he had retreated from the battlefield and settled somewhere unknown after his retirement. But after an old acquaintance visited him and told him that it was time to repay the favor that he had owed in the past, he could not refuse their request and come here.

The problem was that old fatty was pretty much unreliable.

He continued to stay outside the academy and stood in front of the gates, completely ignoring the students who were entering and exiting.

No one was able to notice his presence, not even the guards. The cars and other vehicles were also passing through the gates of the academy as their drivers could not even see his existence. They drove naturally and brushed past him as if there was no one there.

Fortunately, no one caused an accident and rammed into the old man, or else the consequences might not be something that he could afford to pay.

It continued this way until something intriguing happened, which piqued the interest of this mysterious old man.

...

Shin just finished consulting his senior about his current problem, so he could only wait for the good news.

He originally wanted to use the energy chambers to train his control over his innate attributes and increase his mastery of the three breathing techniques. But after some consideration, he decided to do it in his room since he only needed to do a simple energy control exercise.

He could do the rest during the scheduled time when he had to use them. He had to follow the training plan that Professor Henry had arranged for him.

Even though he felt that he needed to increase his pace a little due to the words that Uno had said to him inside the game and the warning that Old Man Lin had given him, he could not rush everything just because of this.

He had to be careful and steadily build his foundation to avoid encountering some accidents in the future.

Having a steady pace did not mean that he was slow, he had to trust the arrangements of the professor and not feel too anxious or crumble due to the pressure.

"One step at a time, steadily and firmly," he mumbled as he drove his Black Panther toward the gates of the academy.

It was at that moment that he noticed an old man standing in front of the academy gates. This old man in a casual set of clothes with a worn-out gentleman's hat over his head was giving a mysterious feeling despite how ordinary he looked.

He squinted his eyes and focused his gaze to get a clearer look at the old man, but he could not find anything strange from the latter. He felt that the old man was just an ordinary person.

But at the same time, Shin could not shake off the strange feeling that he was getting due to the mysterious air surrounding the old man.

Shin observed the old man as drove. The latter continued to stare at the academy with his mystifying gaze while having his hands crossed behind him while holding the black cane.

That was when the old man sensed the gaze from Shin.

The old man lowered his gaze and stared straight at the young man as the black car drove by. The moment his eyes met Shin, the latter suddenly felt an intense shudder of his entire body.

That simple gaze made Shin feel a heavy pressure that came out of nowhere. At the same time, he also felt that his consciousness was getting dragged toward the depths of an abyss.

That feeling only lasted for an instant before his 'vision' suddenly changed. He found himself in the middle of a chaotic battlefield where experts beyond his imagination could be found fighting against each other. Then in the center of that battle stood a lone silhouette that resembled a demon.

Casting his gaze at that demon, Shin was immediately crushed by a pressure that he could never imagine. Along with it, the demon slowly grew larger as it 'walked' toward him.

The demon was growing larger with every passing second before it became a towering giant that reached the sky.

Throb! Throb!

Shin was about to get crushed by that pressure thoroughly when he felt a pair of soft throbbing inside him.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then a pair of silhouettes stood behind Shin without him knowing.

On the left was a beautiful woman with an appearance that could topple the kingdoms. She was so beautiful that she could be mistaken as a goddess descending from heaven. Her silhouette might only be made from mental energy and looked illusionary, but the pressure that she was giving off could rival the towering demon in front of her.

She possessed a divine aura that could make the surroundings bathed in sacred and holy light. She easily offset the powerful pressure that was crushing Shin just by her appearance.

Standing on the right was a man with handsome features. He had a pair of purple eyes with a sharp gaze. His long silver hair was hanging on his back while fluttering along with the wind.

This man had an appearance that could rival the beauty beside him, but he had that masculine air that indicated their differences. He was also wearing an evil grin that would make the people looking at him think twice before approaching him.

And unlike the holy and divine aura that the woman beside him had, he possessed an evil and eerie air that signified that he was not an ordinary person.

The crushing pressure that was coming from the towering demon was instantly nullified right after his appearance before he looked at the latter.

Swoosh!

Boom!

Then there was a silent explosion inside Shin's head, waking him from that dreamy state. He also subconsciously hit the brakes of the car right after waking up.

Huff~! Huff~!

He was breathing heavily and sweating profusely as he stared at the old man in fear and anxiousness. He was not sure what exactly happened, but he guessed that he accidentally fell into the illusion made by the 'little' pressure that the old man was passively emitting.

If it was any other people, then they would not fall into it and be pulled into it just like what happened to him. But because of his sharp and powerful Spiritual Sense that was enhanced by his Divinity Grade Mental Energy, he accidentally peered through the old man.

The 'True Sight' skill that he had created and incorporated into the real world was also activated through his subconsciousness due to his 'wanting' to see through the old man.

If not for whatever phenomena that occurred as a defensive measure that he had, then he would most likely get 'drowned' inside the old man's spiritual world and become a cripple.

He would be in his vegetative state right now.

"Just who is this old man and how strong is he?" he mumbled while trying to compare the old man with the old monsters that he knew.

But since the old monsters around him were not taking him seriously and always holding back during their training or other circumstances, he could not fully grasp the difference between them and this old man.

...

While Shin was trying to calm himself down and observing the old man, the latter was also scrutinizing him.

"Hoh~!"

The old man could not help but become amazed at this young man. He became very interested.

Not only did Shin see through the illusionary barrier that he passively emitted, which prevented the other people from seeing or noticing him, but the young man also subconsciously pulled his bloodlust and peer through his spiritual realm.

What was even more surprising about it was Shin escaping from that inner world by 'himself' without the old man ejecting him to prevent the accidents.

Everything only lasted for an instant, but it was already a very long time for an absolute expert like him, especially with the huge gap that they had.

And the more serious thing about that was even the old man himself did not know how Shin had done it.

"This youngun has quite a background," commented the old man as he immediately got a rough guess of what had happened.

Having a defensive measure that could protect their younger generation from suffering a spiritual attack was quite common in powerful families or huge organizations.

It was a special means to protect the young talents of their families or organizations.

After all, absolute and apex experts such as himself could easily kill someone way weaker than them through spiritual attacks.

It was easier than killing a bug or an ant.

But to be able to offset his spiritual pressure and even escape from the inner world of an expert of his level within that instant, especially with such ease, was not something normal.

Even if he was away and isolated from the rest of the world for such a long time, he was confident that no one could easily do such a feat that he could not recognize.

With all that, the old man looked at the black car a few meters away from him, staring at the young man driving with full amusement and curiosity.

"What an interesting fellow."

Chapter 1276 Swordsmanship Instructor

.....

Shin continued to stare at the mysterious old man without knowing what to do next. Even though he was confident that the old man did not mean any harm about what just happened, he still could not help but become a little cautious.

After all, what he just experienced was not something pleasant.

Moreover, it seemed like he was the only person who could see the old man. He observed the surroundings and paid extra attention to the security personnel guarding the gates and overseeing the vehicles entering and exiting the academy.

It looked like no one noticed this old man at all despite him standing in the middle of the road.

The old man was not particularly blocking the road, it was still strange for such a person to stand in that place.

It was impossible to overlook someone standing in the middle of the road!

Beep! Beep!

Shin had only woken up from his daze state when he heard the car behind honking at him. He also saw the security guard urging him to move the car and not block the road, yet they still did not notice that old man.

Sighing deeply, Shin started the car and drove out of the academy.

He also did not forget to nod at the old man as he drove by before continuing on.

The old man stared at the Black Panther and got away until its silhouette completely disappeared from his vision. He then chuckled and repeated himself. "What an interesting fellow. I hope I see him again later so that I can see what he is capable of."

"His foundation is not bad. His senses are also sharp. Even his Spiritual Sense is quite surprising – it has some characteristics similar to the Divine Senses of Venerable Realm Mentalists."

"I wonder which disciple he is, and which organization has managed to nurture such a good talent."

It was only at that moment when he turned his attention back to the Magical Ace Academy.

"Now, how should invite those old foxes to come out without causing any conflict?"

At times being too old and isolated from the civilization was not a good thing. He did not even have an old phone that could contact anyone.

In the hotel, Shin had just finished parking his car when his advanced watch started vibrating. His mind was still occupied with the mysterious old man standing in front of the academy, so he failed to respond to it.

It took him quite a few rings before he answered the call a little absentmindedly.

Click!

When he answered, there was a flash of light before a virtual screen was projected in front of it. It was only at that moment that he realized that it was a video call.

Moreover, the person who had called him was his Mentalism Teacher, Grandmaster Benn, who was also missing in action and could not be contacted along with Professor Plum.

"Tsk! Tsk! What took you so long to answer, little brat? Don't tell me you are too focused on playing that game of yours."

"Let me tell you. Even if it can help grow faster, you still can't neglect your training in the real world!"

"And even if you have gained a certain level of mastery over your skills and techniques, you can't become too confident and complacent! You still have to polish everything!"

"You also have to pay more attention to your Rune Mastery and Array Formations! You can't neglect them no matter what! That is one of the bread and butter of my Mentalism Method!"

Shin sighed as he listened to the sermon of his Mentalism Teacher while thinking to himself. 'Yep. That's right. This is my Mentalism Teacher, he immediately started nagging right after the call connected just like a mother at home.'

"Don't worry, teacher. I understand," nodded Shin helplessly.

"It is good that you understand," said Grandmaster Benn repeatedly along with the nods of his head.

Then, he suddenly said. "I heard from Old Henry and Old Plum that you have perfected the chapters of the 'Four Symbol Scripture'."

Shin immediately nodded and suddenly became a little excited, wanting to brag a little. "That's right, teacher!"

"Even though I am not exactly the one who completed and perfected it, I am still the one who polished it!"

Grandmaster Benn squinted his eyes a little before asking. "What do you mean by that? Explain it to me in detail."

Shin immediately complied as he could now consult his Mentalism Teacher about some things that had been troubling him recently.

Even though Professor Henry and Benedict were helping him greatly, it was still different when he was consulting his real Mentalism Teacher, especially when Grandmaster Benn was the original creator of the Mentalism Methods that he was practicing.

He started narrating everything and shared all his experiences that he had since the time he left the special training in the mountains and entered the academy.

He even told the old fatty about the Mentalism Swordsmanship that he had created inside the game to complement the new mentalism path that he was taking.

Grandmaster Benn could not hide his surprise while listening. But he did not find it strange, especially when he heard about Shin's enlightenment during the crucial conjecture of his Mentalism Training.

He kind of expected that the special method that David had given to Shin had some mysteriousness in it and even perfected the Mentalism Method that he had created.

He knew where that special method, the Jade Kirin Scripture, had come from. And he was also aware that they might have expected that Shin was learning under him.

After all, his mother was almost half of a disciple of him.

Moreover, he also knew that that monstrous couple might have already foreseen Shin studying Mentalism under his tutelage given Evangeline's gift in divination and Adam's ability to read the fate from the stars.

Thus, Grandmaster Benn and Professor Plum had suspected that the 'Jade Kirin Scripture' had some secrets aside from using it to control one's 'Seed of Hatred' when they learned that David was Evangeline's disciple.

This was one of the reasons why they were confident of Shin being able to complete this complicated Mentalism Method.

Especially when Professor Plum received a version of a special training method to utilize the full capabilities of Demonic Qi and showed him a glimpse of the completion of his 'Yin-Yang Arts'.

What shocked Grandmaster Benn was the fact that Shin had even created a mentalism swordsmanship that completely complemented the perfected version of the 'Four Symbol Scripture'.

'This kid's talent in mentalism sure surpassed our imagination,' thought Grandmaster Benn after listening.

Then, he cleared his throat and said. "Cough. Kid. don't forget to send me your revised and perfected version of the 'Four Symbol Scripture'. I don't care about the swordsmanship since it is not my style."

"You should help me, your teacher, fulfill my dream, and I will show you the full extent of this Mentalism Method when it reaches its peak."

Shin chuckled a little when he heard those words and saw the slightly embarrassed look of his teacher. "Don't worry, teacher. I will not forget you and the old geezer (Professor Plum)."

After that, Grandmaster Benn started guiding Shin and answering his student's questions, clearing the doubts that the young man had.

It was only at the end when Grandmaster Benn had remembered his real purpose for this call. "Oh, right! Before I forget. I call you because I finally found a good teacher for your swordsmanship, particularly in sword-drawing style."

"He is not as good as the person who is the best with that mentalism sword style, but he will not lag too far behind her when it comes to it. Although, he is not a Mentalist."

He then paused for a moment before suddenly continuing. "But since you have created that unique mentalism swordsmanship of yours, I can now say that he is the perfect swordsmanship teacher that you can have."

'There is no doubt about it. If it is that old demon, then it will definitely be possible. He can even perfect it and reach a height that is beyond anyone's imagination,' he thought to himself.

Grandmaster Benn might not be able to help his student when it came to this swordsmanship that Shin had created, the Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship, since it was not his area of expertise. But he was confident that the swordsmanship teacher that he had found would be able to do it.

'An ever-changing style with multiple secret methods mixed in it. What a familiar style. That old demon will surely become interested,' thought the old fatty as he smiled mysteriously.

Grandmaster Benn gave Shin a few more instructions before ending the call.

...

Somewhere in the wilderness of the Soaring Continent, Grandmaster Benn was sitting at the edge of a cliff.

Right after he had ended the call, he suddenly remembered something. "Wait! I think I have not given that Old Demon any picture of Shin so that he can recognize him."

"I also have forgotten to mention his name to that child," he immediately realized his stupidity at this point.

Old Benn even started to think that he was becoming senile.

But thoughts only lasted for an instant as he brushed off the matter and threw it at the back of his mind. "Forget it. They will meet each other sooner or later anyway. And I am sure that Old Henry will take care of it."

He repeatedly nodded his head before casting his gaze upfront.

Before him was a vast forest filled with tall and towering trees. Then above it was a huge fracture in the air that was slowly getting bigger as time went by.

Fragments of space could be visibly seen falling from that huge fracture like pieces of broken glass while spreading in every direction.

There was a golden sphere made of magical circles and mentalism runes entrapping that huge fracture in the air and trying to suppress it.

Seeing that the situation did not look well, Grandmaster Benn clicked his tongue repeatedly while complaining. "Tsk! Tsk! Those people from the Black Serpent Mafia have really done it this time. They have crossed the line."

"I guess that couple may be right. Those 'people' may have infiltrated our ranks. Maybe 'Snake Head' is among them," he mumbled before standing and dusting his Taoist robe.

"Since Old Monster Plum is no longer around, I just have to get serious now and do a better job. Once I am done with this, I will make sure to take a look at the revised and perfected version of the 'Four Symbol Scripture' that little rascal has."

Then he spread his hands wide and started drawing series after series of mentalism runes in the air while chanting verses of mantras.

Responding to his actions, the huge spherical formation in the air suddenly compressed. It then started suppressing the huge spatial fracture, preventing it from spreading further.

...

Back in the hotel, Shin entered his room and quickly went to its center to meditate. He wanted to digest all the guidance that Grandmaster Benn had given him as soon as possible.

Since most of his questions were answered and doubts had been cleared, he could not help but feel a little enlightened. He had felt that he would be able to polish his Mentalism Path even further after this.

Right after he sat on the floor cross-legged and entered the meditation, he instantly entered the state of Solemn Silence.

Swoosh!

Right after that, his flashes of thoughts flooded his thoughts all of a sudden, making him a little overwhelmed. But he was able to quickly gather those thoughts and regain himself, digesting everything and further consolidating his foundation and knowledge.

Along with this, the Divinity Grade Mental Energy within him was subconsciously released, moving with a gentle flow and circling around him.

A few moments later, the whole room was filled with his Mental Energy. It was showing some minuscule but steady changes in them. It was improving and evolving while purifying the body of its host.

Among the changes that it had, three distinct properties could be seen, which also represented the current innate attributes that Shin had already awakened.

Chapter 1277 Entering the Hall of Fame

.....

After meditating, digesting the knowledge that he had just gotten, and consolidating his foundation, Shin slowly opened his eyes.

Crackle! Crackle!

There was an electric spark at the corner of his eyes while they were releasing a pale and gentle glow.

At the same time, the air within the room seemed to be mixed with a golden mist, which indicated the denseness of the residual Mental Energy filling the room.

Hu~!

When he inhaled and exhaled deeply, the remaining Mental Energy filling the room was suddenly sucked by him before golden steam came out from his mouth.

He stayed still for a couple of moments, savoring his current state.

After digesting all the guidance that Grandmaster Benn had given him, he had gotten a new level of understanding of his Mentalism Method. Then, when he added everything to his current knowledge and consolidated his foundation, his Mentalism reached a whole new level.

However, he did not expect that his body constitution would immediately undergo a certain transformation when his control over his three innate attributes became stronger due to the improvements that he made.

Professor Henry wanted him to create a plan for the creation of a Spiritual Vessel that would host his mentalism. It was said to be the Five Elemental Body.

All the exercises that he was doing and training that he had been targeting all the conditions that would lead him to achieve that Spiritual Vessel, but he never had expected that his progress would be this fast.

He betted that even Professor Henry would never expect this either.

Looking at his hands, Shin opened and closed them, feeling the changes that his body had. He felt an overwhelming strength flowing through his body while it was being reinforced by the three elemental attributes that he had.

Tougher skin, stronger muscles, thicker veins and meridians, and denser bones – Shin felt the immediate effects that the awakening of the three innate attributes had. He now possessed a much more powerful physical strength than he previously had.

He could tell that some of these changes must also be due to the baptism of his Divinity Grade Mental Energy.

Along with the changes in his physique and constitution, he could also feel that the Mental Energy that he had was much purer and denser than before.

He was not sure about this, but he suspected that he must have digested more of the seal powers within his body – or to be more precise, he might have converted them to become his real powers.

After that, he stood up and did a series of stance training. Then he did a slow and steady execution of moves to familiarize himself with the current state of his body. He also did a set of simple exercises for his Mental Energy control before going to the bathroom for a quick shower.

When he got out with a set of comfortable clothes, Shin looked at the clock and saw that it was just a little over seven o'clock in the evening. He still had a lot of time before his usual schedule when entering the game.

Thinking for a moment, he decided to cook a simple meal for dinner. He wanted to invite Arthur and the others to join him, but all of them told him that they were already inside the game and doing their respective business.

Shrugging his shoulders, he prepared a meal for himself and ate alone before washing the dishes quickly after.

He then browsed on the forums for a couple of minutes while resting before logging back in the game.

...

Swoosh!

When he logged back into the game, he found himself inside the inn where he logged out.

After adjusting himself for a few moments, he browsed through the messages in his inbox and replied to the most important ones one by one.

When he was done, he thought of what he was going to do next. After dealing with the urgent business that he needed to deal with, he now had a new set of tasks on his hands.

Now that he had successfully promoted to Tier 3 Class, he had already broken through the current level cap of the game.

He could now convert all the special points that he had gotten back to experience points and level up. But after a few moments of consideration, he decided to save them up and use them later when he arrived at the second continent, the Awakened Continent.

He knew that there would be special items that could be helpful for him and the Empyrean Talons in the future, so it would be better to save these special points. After all, there would be no other way to earn them now, especially when he could now continue gaining regular experience points and level up.

These special points would be a limited currency that could no longer be earned.

Setting that aside, Shin could now think of his next course of action. He then thought of the current tasks that he had.

He could forget about the relocation of Calderock Town and promote it into a city since Shiella had not given him the signal yet. It was the same for the opening of his territory in the Sky Deceiving Valley. The new city was yet to be fully built, so it had to wait for a couple of days.

Even though the Monster Invasion Event in the neighboring kingdoms and empires around the Frozen Kingdom was about to end, he was confident that they still had enough time.

He could trust that side to Shiella since he promised to deal with everything. All he had to do was to 'attend' the 'opening ceremony' when everything was ready.

This left him with the three most urgent businesses that were waiting to be dealt with. But after a few moments of consideration, he decided to head over to the Church of the Sun and Moon first to receive the new blessings along with the set of Tier 3 Skills of his class.

After that, he would head over to the Sacred Light Kingdom to lend a hand to Owen, Ithilien, and the rest.

He would only meet the Head of the Mysterious Instructors after all that.

After drawing up the plan, Shin nodded his head and quickly used the return scroll to the Holy City. He had to move fast so that the rest of his friends could focus on clearing their respective class promotion quests.

...

He just stepped out of the Teleportation Hall of the Holy City when a series of system announcements rank in his ears one after another with a few minutes in between.

Ding

World System Announcement: Congratulations to Player 'Ashura' for completing his Tier 3 Class Promotion Quest, being the second player to enter the Hall of Fame!

World System Announcement: Congratulations to Player 'Lucifer' for completing his Tier 3 Class Promotion Quest, being the third player to enter the Hall of Fame!

...

World System Announcement: Congratulations to Player 'Serpent' for completing his Tier 3 Class Promotion Quest, being the fourth player to enter the Hall of Fame!

World System Announcement: Congratulations to Player 'Yuan' for completing his Tier 3 Class Promotion Quest, being the fifth player to enter the Hall of Fame!

...

Shin could not help but halt his steps when he heard the first notification. He knew that it would not take that long before the rest of the top players cleared their respective quests due to the recent clues that the gaming company had released.

Even though those clues were quite vague and did not directly inform the public about the real key to clearing the Tier 3 Promotion Quest, players with keen eyes and rich gaming experience would still be able to notice those hidden clues.

But despite knowing that this was going to happen sooner or later, he still did not expect that there were players, who would clear their respective Tier 3 Promotion Quests this early.

It was way beyond his expectations!

He was expecting that Arthur and Leonard would be the first ones to clear their promotion quests before the rest. After all, these two had already met most of the conditions to clear their respective quests.

But contrary to his expectations, some players were faster than them.

"Who are these people?" mumbled as he quickly searched for the information about these three people.

He did not log in to the online forums this time and instead decided to log in to the secret information channel desiccated for top players. It was a circle of top-ranked players, particularly the Godlike Players and Maverick Gods of the game.

It was a special channel that was created for a long time and created by the top gods of the virtual world.

Arthur and Leonard had invited Shin when he earned his Godlike Title.

Browsing the information there, Shin discovered that 'Ashura', 'Serpent', and 'Yuan' were pretty much famous people. They were a kind of celebrity even among the top gods of the game.

'Serpent' and 'Yuan' were the guild leaders of the 'Hydra Guild' and 'Dragon Pavilion' respectively. They were also known as one of the greatest rivals in the game.

Shin was not sure how strong these two but given that they had also cleared their promotion quest before Arthur and Leonard, it was pretty much obvious that they were not simple people. Their strength could also not be underestimated.

As for 'Ashura', Shin discovered that this person was the commander of the famous adventure team, which was also known as the current number one adventurer team before the emergence of Empyrean Talons and the other ones with an insane lineup of members.

From the basic information that could be found in the secret channel, this player was a very powerful expert. The proof of his strength was the current title that he had, 'Martial God Ashura'.

Moreover, Shin also saw that this person was the current title holder of the 'Hegemon Cup' – he was the current champion of the Hegemon Cup!

This information was more than enough to tell Shin how strong this person was. To become the best among all the Godlike Players in the game was an achievement that no one would dare to overlook.

This person instantly piqued Shin's interest and gave him an urge to use his final 'Godly Challenge Rights' to this person.

He had gotten three challenge rights when he became the champion of the 'Shadow Ranking Cup', and he used two of them to 'Lich God Immortal' and 'Demon God Justin' respectively, which earned him the current title that he had.

He still had the last challenge right and wanted to use it to this so-called 'Martial God'. Unfortunately, he could not issue the challenge unless he came in contact with the players or came face to face with them.

As for the other name, Lucifer, Shin was not sure whose expert that was. There was little record or any news about him in the secret channel.

Aside from the simple note that Zero had added. – "Lucifer, Guild Leader of the Pandemonium Descendants and supreme commander of Pandemonium Troupe."

While he was lost in thought, the next series of world announcements came and told everyone the next batch of the players who cleared their respective promotion quests.

Ding

World System Announcement: Congratulations to Player 'Sigfried' for completing his Tier 3 Class Promotion Quest, being the sixth player to enter the Hall of Fame!

World System Announcement: Congratulations to Player 'Simba' for completing his Tier 3 Class Promotion Quest, being the seventh player to enter the Hall of Fame!

The names of the two came almost at the same time, showing how close their clear time was.

Seeing that the names of his brothers just came in, Shin could not help but mischievously mock the two and send a message on their group chat. He sent a grinning emoji, showing his 'contempt.'

Seeing that, Arthur's reply immediately came.

Sigfried: F*ck! I was so close to clearing it ahead of them, but that stupid dragon exploded in a last-ditch effort and exploded in a series of explosive attacks, forcing me to defend for a whole minute!

Sigfried: I should be ahead of the rest not for that!

Then Leonard's reply also followed.

Simba: I also encounter an accident in the end. What a pity.

Seeing their reply, Shin could not help but recall the final moments of this 'own' promotion quest. He also saw that the Fallen was about to do something at the end, but Uno instantly killed him before it could even happen.

While they were chatting, another name followed the two, which was immediately followed by two more names.

Ding

World System Announcement: Congratulations to Player 'Immortal' for completing his Tier 3 Class Promotion Quest, being the eighth player to enter the Hall of Fame!

World System Announcement: Congratulations to Player 'Susanoo' for completing his Tier 3 Class Promotion Quest, being the ninth player to enter the Hall of Fame!

World System Announcement: Congratulations to Player 'Kallavan' for completing his Tier 3 Class Promotion Quest, being the tenth player to enter the Hall of Fame!

...

Seeing the next three names, Shin could not help but knit his brows deeply.

"Immortal? It seems like that guy still hasn't given up yet. He is also growing stronger," he mumbled as he saw an old 'friend' on the list.

Turning his eyes toward the last two names on the list, he became even more interested in the number one adventurer team of the game, God's Paradise.

Those two were members of that group of players.

This signified that the adventurer team was not as simple as they seemed to be.

After seeing their names, Shin could not help but frown a little since after waiting for a few more moments, he still had not heard the name of Zero or other top Godlike Players that he was familiar with, which were also much more powerful than anyone he had seen.

He could understand Lawless, Faker, Khing, and Snow White not being on the list.

The first three rarely got online these last few days due to them being in the middle of a special mission in the real world. This must be the reason why they could not actively clear their promotion quest.

As for Snow White (Shiella), this big sister was very busy with the other businesses at hand, so it was pretty much understandable that she did not have the time to deal with her promotion quest either.

Realizing this, Shin understood that the so-called Hall of Fame would not be in its accurate state until all the most influential and strongest players entered it.

He could see that the list was constantly adjusting and reorganizing itself as it updated the reputation points and all the achievements of the players that appeared on it, which indicated that the final ranking of these players was yet to be finalized.

"I guess we still have to wait until everyone enters the list to see the new Godly Ranking List," mumbled Shin before closing the virtual screen.

"Let's wait until then and see my actual ranking when the time comes."

Chapter 1278 Tier 3 Skills

...

Shin walked out of the Church of Sun and Moon with a frown on his face. He felt that something strange was going on.

He came here to accept the blessing of the church and for him to officially get promoted to tier 3.

He was expecting that he would meet Archbishop Ronald, who would conduct the ceremony once again for the inheritance process and the bestowal of the powers of the Nephilim Race. But to his surprise, not only he did not meet the archbishop, but he had also been instructed to conduct the ceremony himself.

This surprised him greatly as he was not expecting such a thing to happen.

There was a bishop that seemed to have been expecting him. He was greeted by the bishop at the front door of the church who welcomed him with his arrival.

Shin had not even voiced out the purpose of his arrival when the bishop had told him that Archbishop Ronald was currently not present due to important business that had to be dealt with. The bishop had also informed him that the archbishop would not be able to come back for quite a long time, especially when an important ceremony was about to be conducted in the headquarters of the church.

That ceremony was for Archbishop Ronald to be promoted to a cardinal.

This news surprised Shin a little but he somehow expected it since he was somewhat aware of the true strength of Archbishop Ronald. He could also guess the amount of contributions that the archbishop had, so it was not that surprising for the old man to be promoted.

For him, it was just a matter of time.

But he still did not expect that it would come this soon. Moreover, at the time when he just reached the third tier of his class.

Then the Bishop had led him to the ceremonial room where he received his first two blessings. The Bishop had told Shin that he was already strong enough to communicate with the ancestors of the Nephilim Race and could now conduct the ceremony alone before leaving.

Shin was at a loss for quite some time before he stood at the center of the room and 'prayed' just like how he remembered.

...

After accepting the blessing, Shin walked out of the room and closed it carefully before leaving the church.

Standing outside the church, Shin knitted his brow a little before he looked back. He felt that this might be his last visit to this branch, and he would not be able to come back here again in a long time since he would be heading to the Awakened Continent next.

Of course, he would not forget the branch that he wanted to build in the city that they were building in his territory.

After shaking off that feeling, Shin went straight to the Teleportation Hall, intending to head to the Sacred Light Kingdom as soon as possible.

While walking, he also used that time to check on the new skills that he had received. However, he was not sure when will be the chance he would be able to use them.

Even his tier 2 skills were rarely used now as he was mainly relying on his Class Fighting Style Skills and the others that could be used as a model for his sword techniques from the real world.

Although, he was suspecting that Uno had used them during the previous battle against Lucy, the Fallen in his Class Promotion Quest, particularly that move where the world turned black and white for an instant before annihilating everything around him.

He suspected that Uno must have used the 'Monochrome Field', a domain skill, as the main model to use that incredibly powerful move.

Moving on, Shin opened his skill window and directly looked at the tier 3 skill panel. He then saw that there were only two skills under it.

Class Specific Skill: Grim Reaper

Skill Name: Hell's Inferno and Heaven's Paradise

Skill Level: Tier 3

Skill Rank: Epic

Description:

- Hell's Inferno: Call upon the power from the depths of hell and summon it into the physical realm, creating a domain filled with its powers.

Everyone in this field would randomly suffer different random crowd control effects such as charm, stun, paralyze, dizzy, shock, slow, fear, etc., which would last for at least 2 seconds.

These effects would cycle through each other every five seconds.

The affected opponents would receive a curse status that would earn stocks that would be detonated once the domain was released.

The damage that the affected opponents would receive would be multiplied according to the stocks that they received during their presence within the domain.

Base Detonation Damage: 0.05% of the total HP of the targets.

- Heaven's Paradise: Call upon the power from the highest Heaven and summon it to the physical realm, creating a domain filled with its powers.

Every ally who was within the domain would be able to receive random blessings such as boosts in attack speed, movement speed, casting speed, skill cooldown reduction, physical and magical power, defensive power, healing power boost, and health and mana regeneration depending on their classes.

Every ally could only receive random buffs at most that would last for the entire duration of the skill as long as they stood with the effect range of the domain.

Domain Range: 100 Meters

Duration: 30 Minutes

Mana Cost: 50,000

Cooldown: 6 hours

Note: Only one of these two domains could be used upon activation. Once used, the other domain could not be used until the next activation of the skill.

Class Specific Skill: Grim Reaper

Skill Name: Doom Blade and Aegis Shield

Skill level: Tier 3

Skill Rank: Epic

Description:

- Doom Blade: Activating this skill would enfold the sword of the user with divine and demonic flames, converting all kinds of attacks into 'True Chaos Damage' that would bypass any kind of deference and cut through anything.

Duration: 10 seconds

- Aegis Shield: This skill would summon a spherical barrier that would block all kinds of attacks directed at the user. The barrier had an absolute defense that could block anything during the entire duration.

Duration: 1 minute

Cooldown: 3 hours/ 6 hours

Note: These skill effects could be used together but the duration would be doubled once they were used.

Using just one of them would only result in the regular cooldown time that they shared.

There might be just two skills under his Tier 3 Skill panel of Grim Reaper Class, but the effects that they had were much crazier than any skill that he had ever seen.

The first tier 3 skill was a domain skill that could either be used offensively or supportively.

The first effect, the 'Hell's Inferno', could be used as a form of annihilation skill that would make all his enemies tremble in terror. With such an overpowered domain, anyone who was trapped there would surely be in utter despair.

This was a perfect skill for large-scale offensive, especially when he entered a huge number of opponents, particularly an army.

As for the second effect, the 'Heaven's Paradise', was a large-scale domain that would buff his allies. This alone would make his side invisible during any battle.

Both effects could be used in war or large-scale battles, but this particular effect was more perfect when his team was fighting a powerful enemy, more specifically a powerful boss monster.

The former effect was perfect for one-against-many battle while the latter one was more fitted for a many-against-one battle.

And with such a large range of this domain skill, it was not an overestimation to call it a broken skill.

As for the second tier 3 skill, it was rather plain and simple given the description that it had. But those two effects were as broken as the domain skill to a certain degree.

One was meant for an impossible-to-block attack while the other was an absolute defense that could not be penetrated – both effects were crazy. But what was even crazier was he could use them together if he wanted to.

Just imagine how scary it was when he could attack freely for the whole ten seconds without worrying about his safety and focus only on offense.

That was way too scary!

And given how fast he could attack with his current attack speed along with the Reality Manifestation, he was like a walking disaster when used this skill.

The cooldown might be long, but if he used the skill at the right moment, it would not be a problem.

"Tsk! Tsk!" Shin could only click his tongue repeatedly as he could not say anything about these skills.

He was too speechless to comment on anything. He was pretty much satisfied with these two new skills that he had gotten. Even if he could not use them as a model for a real-life skill or technique, he would

still use them in the battle regardless of whether he was in the state of Reality Manifestation or not. They were too useful to be neglected.

Aside from these skills, another skill astonished Shin greatly.

It was another Tier 3 Skill, but it was not Grim Reaper Skills. Instead, it was from his secondary combat class, the Phantom Swordsman Class.

He was surprised since he had not gotten any tier 2 skills from this class when he got promoted at that time. But the moment he received his blessing after reaching the third tier of his skills, he surprisingly received a skill as broken as the other two.

Or it was even more broken than them.

Class Specific Skill: Phantom Swordsman

Skill Name: True Phantom

Skill level: Tier 3

Skill Rank: Transcendent Legendary

Description: Create a clone that can be summoned permanently.

- This permanent clone would start from level upon creation, but it could level up and grow infinitely along with the main body.

- This clone could live on its own and had its own 'consciousness' (AI) matching the level of the main body after meeting certain conditions and could level up and grow on its own.

Note: If the clone's rank is 'Perfect', then it could bypass the rest of the conditions and have a 'soul' of its own.

- This clone could wield and wear its own weapon and armor.

- The main body could transfer some of its skills to the True Phantom.

Note: The transferred skills would be considered as 'transferred items' and would disappear from the main body's skillset unless it was returned.

Skill overall note 1: You can only have a single 'True Phantom' at a time.

Skill overall note 2: Once the 'True Phantom' died, all the skills that transferred to it would return to its main body along with all the experience points, achievement points, and reputation points that it earned, but all the items and equipment that it had would be dropped.

Skill overall note 3: The 'True Phantom' could only be revived through 'Phantom Ceremony'.

When the 'Phantom Ceremony' was conducted, everything that the 'True Phantom' earned could be transferred back by the main body aside from the dropped items, returning it to its previous state and level.

When Shin first saw this skill, his mind turned blank. He could not believe that such a skill existed. But he quickly recovered himself when he recalled the time when Kentas showed him that powerful clone during their last meeting.

According to Kentas, Shin had yet to touch the real strength of the 'Phantom Swordsman Class', which was quickly proven when he saw this particular skill.

It was a skill that went beyond being broken. It was a complete cheat!

When Shin tried to recall more of Kentas' words, he seemed to remember that the latter had mentioned that he had multiple phantoms scattered all over the world. Although Shin doubted that all of them were 'True Phantoms' given the final notes that the skill had in its description.

Moreover, creating a phantom clone would never been easy.

Looking at the conditions of how to create it, Shin realized that it was like forging a piece of overpowered equipment since the materials needed for it were of the same quality as some of the materials that he needed for the 'living armor' that Berlin had mentioned.

True Phantom Creation

Materials needed:

0/1 Black Heart

0/1 Soul Stone

0/1 A liter of Dragon's Blood (Best Choice, Green Dragon)

0/1 Essence of Nine Constellations

0/1 A hundred grams of Star Dust

Note: The grade of the True Phantom is dependent on the quality and quantity of the materials collected.

Looking at the list, Shin quickly noted all of them as it would be one of his priorities in the future.

He felt that something mysterious was going to happen once he had collected them and created his 'True Phantom.'

Chapter 1279 A Paladin Enthusiast and the Little Shaman (Part 1)

.....

Shin appeared in the Teleportation Hall of an isolated town on the outskirts of the Sacred Light Kingdom.

Due to the recent event that was currently happening in the kingdom, most of the villages, towns, and cities were currently under siege by the corrupted creatures or had already fallen. Even the main capital city of the kingdom, the Whitestone City, was currently not in a good situation.

The city was where the king of the kingdom had been assassinated, throwing it into utter chaos. However, since there were quite a few competent people and skilled NPCs residing there, they were able to temporarily hold the reigns of the city.

But it did not last long since the corrupted creatures from the forest started relentlessly sieging the city. Even with the help of the powerful NPCs guarding the city and the skilled players residing in it, they were still overwhelmed by the seemingly unlimited number of enemies.

They only managed to hold out until the civilians and noble families had successfully evacuated from the city. Then everyone who was left to defend the city started retreating to the best of their abilities.

It did not take long before the entire city was overturned and became a nest of the corrupted monsters.

Similar events were happening all over the kingdom, which led to a much more serious outcome than the disaster that the Saint Heaven Kingdom had before.

The Sacred Light Kingdom had suffered greatly due to the combined attack of the Corrupted Cult and Demonic Churches.

The Corrupted Cult spread their corruption through withering while the Demonic Churches started conquering the cities, particularly the largest ones such as the cities that were promoted into a capital city.

The Corrupted Cult had managed to snatch some and turned those cities into a corrupted nest, but the majority of the cities were under the control of the Demonic Churches.

After a long struggle, the remaining NPCs that managed to survive the initial attack of the two evil factions decided to work together and gather at the safest place that the Sacred Light Kingdom currently had, which was the entirety of the Maze Forest.

These NPCs were quite confused about how the Maze Forest managed to remain unaffected by the withering despite the surrounding regions it had already been corrupted. Not only did it remain in its usual form, but it also released a sacred aura that warded off the corruption caused by the withering.

The citizens of the Sacred Light Kingdom, both players, and NPCs, were quite hesitant to head over to that place since the Maze Forest was known for its unsolvable maze. Once trapped there, no one would be able to leave it, unless the players used their return scroll to teleport themselves out of the maze or the NPCs used unconventional methods to return to where they entered the forest.

But when they came to the Maze Region, they realized that it was not the case. Arriving there, they saw that the Maze Forest was someone different from before. Moreover, there were people on standby at the entrance that would guide anyone who was seeking shelter.

That was how a base was built in the Maze Forest, and how it became the core base within the current Sacred Light Kingdom.

Most of the kingdom had already been corrupted by the withering, but the Maze Forest stood strong. One of the main reasons was because of the concentration of elite forces that were gathered in this place. The most elite and strongest powers within the kingdom were now stationed here.

But ironically, the three top guilds on the player's side – the Mythical Guild, the Golden Dawn, and the Clear Water Guild – were not in this place. Or more specifically, they were banned from entering the Maze Forest.

Naturally, these three tyrannical guilds could not accept that and started to make a fuss. They raised their complaints, unable to understand why they could not enter the Maze Forest.

They were quite desperate at the moment due to the current state of the Sacred Light Kingdom. Not only they were deeply rooted in this kingdom, but most of their forces were also stationed there. Their base of operations was mostly in this kingdom, so the current situation greatly affected them.

With the unexpected event, all their operations and business were instantly shut down. And as if that was not enough, the majority of their elites were caught in the war and died in the process, crippling most of their forces.

With all their bases being besieged by the corrupted creatures, they could not protect everything and were forced to focus on the few important ones. But they still did not expect that the forces of the evil faction would be that relentless. They were forced to abandon their bases and join the tide of people that were gathering in the Maze Forest.

Given their influence and the power of their guilds, they believed that they could at least get a decent position in the council that was currently situated on that map.

The Maze Forest was currently the safe haven for most of the citizens in the Sacred Light Kingdom, and the three guilds wanted to rebuild their footing in this place as a starting point.

But to their surprise, not only they were kicked out of that place, but they were also banned from entering the premises around the region.

They initially wanted to retaliate and demand an explanation, but when they learned who was currently leading the council, they immediately understood what was happening.

Owen and Ithilien were the ones who saved the Maze Forest along with the mysterious elder residing there. With the relationship that the two had built with this elven elder, they became the representatives of the elder in the council, who was also the leader.

This mysterious elder seemed to have a very important standing within the Sacred Light Kingdom as all the powerful NPCs and elven nobles were very respectful to him. None of them dared to question his decisions and followed everything truthfully.

It was at that moment when the guild leaders of the three powerhouse guilds realized that Ithilien had successfully cleared the main scenario quest that they were chasing.

Knowing that would not be able to do anything, they could only swallow their anger and head to the outskirts of the kingdom that were not yet affected by the withering.

Shin was currently in one of the towns that were far away from the center of the event. This place was too isolated from the main regions of the Sacred Light Kingdom, which was why it was yet to be invaded by the corrupted creatures nor reached by the withering.

As for why Shin chose to teleport here rather than the other places near his destination, it was because this was the only town that had a teleportation hall that was capable of long-distance transport.

Looking around, he noticed that the place was quite bursting. The teleportation hall was currently suffering serious traffic of players due to the experts that were rushing here to join such a major event.

Walking outside, he also saw a quite busy street. It now became a mixture of a marketplace and a team-formation hub. It now became a place where the players were recruiting members for the monster extermination teams and scout-and-exploration teams to join the event.

Shouts of the players could be heard chaotically due to the huge number of players gathered there.

Shin could not help but pursed his lips a little as he was reminded of the first time, he visited the Holy City. If they were following the regular script, then he would most likely find some arrogant people from the big guilds who started bullying some people.

But given the current situation of the kingdom and the information that he had gotten from Lorraine, he doubted that those big guilds would create some trouble.

Given that their current reputation within the kingdom was at its lowest, Shin doubted that their guild leaders were foolish enough to ruin it even further. If they tried to trouble these people, then they would have to prepare themselves to face the rage of the masses.

After walking around for a couple of moments and observing the current atmosphere, Shin decided to contact Owen and Ithilien.

Sickarius: Where are you two? I am already here.

He used their Adventurer Team Channel to send the message, so the others also replied aside from the two that he was referring to.

Sigfried: You do your job there while I will meet the Alliance Leader of the Wing's Alliance and discuss the business that we have been delaying up until now. I now have more leverage since I have one of the few with Tier 3 Class.

Arielle: I am about to finish my promotion quest too. Please wait for me if you are doing an important mission.

Simba: I will be meeting those two that are kicked from the Central Order and see if they are willing to settle on our territory. I don't think that there will be a problem given the current strength that we have.

Chaotic Luck: Big Brother, I finally found the ceremonial altar for my class advancement. Please, thank that Sister Goddess for me!

Akailu: Brother Sickarius, I am in the middle of the errand quest. I am quite lucky to find another.

Alucard: I think I will pass on this one. I still have to study the Legacy Skill Tree that Dracula has left behind and digest most of it. Then I will proceed to meet a mysterious instructor before continuing to challenge my promotion quest.

Archimedes: ...

Daulla: Dad wants to say that we will try to look for clues about the mysterious instructors and try to find the secret method that suits us.

Charlotte: Then I can now leave and try challenging my promotion quest.

The string of messages immediately flooded Shin's eyes right after sending the message. The replies came almost instantaneously and simultaneously, surprising him a little. These people were mostly busy with their respective businesses and could not be contacted after they separated, but they were surprisingly free to reply right now.

It was only at this point that the two that he was referring to responded.

Owen: Brother Swordsman, you can directly head to the Maze Forest. I will personally receive you when you arrive. I don't think that we still have anything to do here, though.

Ithilien: You don't have to be in a rush, Vice Commander. Most of our jobs here have already been dealt with, so I don't think that there is much we can do.

Reading their reply, Shin could not help but frown a little bit. He came here mainly because of these two and to help them clear the most crucial part of their main scenario quest. But from their words, it seemed like he would be wasting his time here.

With a slight twitch of his mouth, he suddenly sent and reply.

Sickarius: You two better make sure that I am not wasting my time here, or else I will increase the difficulty of your training later in our sparring session.

After that, he closed the chat window and prepared to leave the city. But before he could even make his move, the corner of his eyes suddenly caught a glimpse of something.

On a secluded ally, he saw a group of people gathered together. They were surrounding a person and seemingly demanding him to give them something.

Shin wanted to ignore it at first, but after seeing the person who was surrounded by the group, he couldn't help but become a little curious.

It was because that lone person was somewhat familiar to him. Even though he had only seen that person once before, he had gotten quite an impression.

It was the paladin that he had encountered in the Church of the Sun and Moon in the Holy City.

"What is he doing here? Is it for a quest? But this is quite far from his main base of operation and outside of the area of jurisdiction of the church," mumbled Shin as he walked toward the group with a curious look on his face.

Chapter 1280 A Paladin Enthusiast and the Little Shaman (Part 2)

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Walking over, Shin noticed that this little group of players was surrounding a pair of players instead of one, a paladin and a shaman. He just could not see the latter one earlier because of her short height.

Shin slightly knitted his brows when he saw the little shaman. Based on the basic rule of the gaming company, only kids that reached the thirteenth age and above could play the game. Anyone younger than it was banned from joining the game.

Based on this, he could at least guess that this little shaman who looked like someone from a junior high school was around their age.

"She is just short," he mumbled as he realized about this. But he quickly stopped himself from commenting further because he was suddenly reminded of his Senior Sister in the Research Department, Benedict's big sister, Dayna Reinhart.

He could not help but shudder whenever he was reminded of that senior sister because he also remembered how he was beaten badly by that 'midget' during their first meeting. That little 'welcome party' of the department had given him some traumatic experience.

Starting that time, he promised himself to never underestimate someone who had such a small body stature.

When he reached a certain distance away from the group, he started hearing what they were saying.

"If you want to leave here unscratched give it to us, kid," said an elven knight in a deep and threatening tone.

From the look of it, he wanted to intimidate the Human Paladin and the little Beastman Shaman. Shin was not sure what they wanted, but he could at least tell that these guys were trying to 'rob' the pair or something.

Then he saw the paladin, whom he had encountered in the church of the sun and moon, step forward courageously and protect the little shaman behind him.

"Don't be unreasonable. That quest is found by us, so it should be ours."

The elven knight suddenly smirked. "Kid, you don't understand a thing. In this world, if you don't have enough strength, then nothing can be yours."

"You are on our turf, so what you find here is not yours but ours," he laughed while wearing a mocking expression on his face.

Hearing that, the others in his group also laughed while giving the pair an evil look.

The little shaman seemed to be a timid one, so she quickly hid herself behind the paladin while tightly clutching the wooden staff in her hands.

Paladin, on the other hand, wore a solemn expression on his face as he stood courageously in front of her. He was guarding her like a hen protecting her little chicks. His determined look along with the aura quickly nullified the intimidation that the group was giving off.

He might not be aware of it, but he was subconsciously releasing an aura that could almost reach the level of Aura Manifestation.

Sensing that heavy aura, the group quickly took a step back as their instincts were warning them about the immense threat coming for this paladin.

But it only lasted for a few moments when that aura suddenly disappeared. It was as if what they had felt was nothing but an illusion. That brief burst of aura was just an imagination that their minds had projected when they saw the determined look of the paladin.

Meanwhile, Shin, who saw everything a few distance away, suddenly raised his brows. "Hoh! Someone with innate control of aura? Or is he someone who trained in the real world but doesn't reach high attainment due to his lack of talent?"

His interest was piqued further when he saw that. Even though it was not that impressive given the age of the latter along with the insane talents of the people around him, Shin still felt that this guy might be able to show him something.

He already noticed this guy during their first encounter in the Church of the Sun and Moon, but it looked like he now had more reason to get to know this paladin.

Thinking about this, he decided to undo his stealth and step forward to attract the attention of the group.

Turning their head at him, the group surrounding the paladin and the shaman could not help but shudder when they saw him walk out of the shadows. They could not even sense his presence until he had shown himself, which was a clear indication of the gap in their powers.

If this guy wanted to kill all of them through an ambush, then none of them would be able to survive.

But never underestimate the idiocy of third-rate villains as it goes beyond your imagination.

"What do you want? If you want to act as a hero, then go somewhere else and don't bother us," said the elven knight, who seemed to be the group's leader.

The player standing nearest to him even walked forward aggressively while unsheathing his weapon.
"Hey! This is not your business, so you better get out of our sight before things get ugly."

Shin could not help but shake his head when he saw the emblem attached to the chests of these people. He started to understand why they were acting this way. He fully understood why they treated this place as their territory.

"Golden Dawn, huh? Instead of laying low due to the recent events, they still chose to act like tyrants. There is no chance of saving their faces at this rate," he mumbled along with a bitter smile.

He then ignored the words of these foolish people and looked over the shoulders of the player standing in front of him and called out to the paladin. "Yoh! Fellow believer of the Church of the Sun and Moon!"

"Are you in trouble? Do you want me to help you, or you can deal with this on your own?" he asked as he saw the current level of the paladin.

He was quite surprised that this paladin was already level 149; just a level away from reaching the current cap for the players below Tier 3 Classes.

From what he could remember, this guy was still quite far from reaching the current level cap. Leveling up when a player reached the high levels was stupidly hard unless they were someone like Shin and the others, who stood at the top. The leveling speed of these people was clearly out of the world.

But for ordinary players, leveling up even a single level would take them days, if not weeks, to level up. Some people even took a whole month just to level up if they were too busy in the real world – that was unless they were clearing a high-ranking quest that granted a guaranteed level once it was cleared.

But even then, those players that had access to high-ranking quests were not your average players either since just getting their hands on such a quest required skill. That was unless they were lucky enough to stumble upon them.

Shin knew even knew someone, who was so lucky that he could pick up such quests on the ground by casually walking down the street.

Chaotic Luck was stupidly lucky to the point that he earned a broken class such as the 'Solaris Lich' just by falling on a random place when he was being hunted.

Moreover, that luck could also be used during the battle.

Casting his gaze at the paladin, Shin squinted his eyes and closely observed the latter. "His current set of equipment drastically improved too. But even more surprising is that this equipment set is also issued by the Church of the Sun and Moon."

"Don't tell me he is one of those players who likes to collect the special and unique items and equipment from the organization that they belong."

"A complete unique equipment set from the Church of the Sun and Moon, and the special sword and one-of-a-kind cape granted by the church to high-ranking members, this may be one of those people."

The person standing in front of Shin suddenly frowned deeply when he heard this guy mumbling to himself. Being completely ignored like this was very humiliating!

He was an elite member of Golden Dawn!

Raising the huge axe in his hands, he suddenly shouted at Shin. "That's it! There is no saving you now!"

In the meantime, the Paladin was slightly confused when the newcomer suddenly started talking to him. It took him quite some time to process the words that were said to him before he realized what the other party wanted.

He wanted to reject the offer at first since he did not want to involve innocent people in their business. He wanted to be a chivalrous paladin who believed in his beliefs and became strong enough to stick to them until the end.

It was not until he recognized the person who was trying to help them.

His brain suddenly short-circuited as he remembered who this person was. He suddenly felt a little stupid when he thought that he would implicate this person with his business.

With the strength of this person, this troublesome situation was nothing but a trivial thing.

He was about to reply to Shin when he saw that the player standing in front of the latter raised the battle axe and was about to slam it down.

His instincts were to warn Shin. It was the same for the little shaman behind him, who could see what was happening.

The two of them instinctively opened their mouth and about to give out a warning. But before their voices could even come out of their mouths, they suddenly heard Shin's voice standing behind them.

"Now, it is you guys, who have started it."

"Eh!?" everyone simultaneously turned toward the source of the voice and could not help but tremble, particularly the members of the Golden Dawn.

Shin had unknowingly appeared in the middle of their ranks like a ghost!

And before they could even do anything, there was a flash of light that followed his words, which instantly silenced everyone.

The elven knight, who was the leader of the group, opened and closed his mouth as if he wanted to say anything. Unfortunately, no sounds came out before the heads of everyone on their side simultaneously flew in the air.

Since all the members of their group died, the system judged that they could not be revived, so their bodies immediately turned into specks of light which dissipated in the air.

Samael, the Paladin, and Huahua, the 'little' shaman behind him, were staring at the scene with wide-open eyes and fully agape.

Samael was somewhat expecting that such a thing could happen as he was aware of Shin's identity, especially when the latter had added him previously. But he was still not expecting that someone at the peak of the gaming world would be this strong.

It felt like a breeze when he looked at what just happened.

On the other hand, Huahua, who did not know who this mysterious person was, could not help but stare blankly into the air unable to recover herself. She might not be new in the game and somewhat of an expert herself. But due to her timid personality, she did not want to fight other people, much less kill them.

She was also aware of how strong the peak experts of the game were, but this was her first time witnessing something like this personally.

She believed that even this big brother of hers could not achieve a similar feat despite claiming that he was a strong expert himself.

It took a while for Samael to recover himself before quickly turning to Shin and bowing his head. "Thank you... uhm... God Expert for helping us."

He did not know how to address Shin properly, so he just used the words that first came out of his head.

Shin chuckled when he saw those actions before waving his head. "It is nothing. It is not a big deal."

He then paused for a moment and observed the paladin a little before continuing. "And I doubt that you will not be able to hold your ground. You're not bad yourself."

He could feel that this guy had improved greatly since the first time they encountered each other. Such an insane growth shocked even someone like Shin.

He then squinted his eyes and looked at the other end of the alley, staring straight at the nothingness. He stayed like that for a couple of moments until he sensed that there was no longer anyone standing there.

'Hmm? People are spying on these two, huh? I guess this is not that simple,' he retrieved his gaze and turned to the pair before saying. "This is not a good place to talk. How about we look for a more suitable one?"

Samael did not want to trouble this god any further, but since the latter had already offered, how he could refuse?

He could only nod his head and comply. "Alright, God Expert. We will follow you."

After that, he turned to his younger sister, who was looking at them confusedly, before urging her to follow Shin.