

Destiny 1281

Chapter 1281 A Paladin Enthusiast and the Little Shaman (Part 3)

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Inside and inn, Shin was sitting across from Samael and Huahua and contemplating what they just said.

He now understood the overall situation.

From what Samael had said, he had accepted a unique quest from the Church of the Sun and Moon which earned him the current equipment set that he was wearing, a unique full-body armor that could only be granted to a single person. It was a special armor that represented the knight's order of the church, which also indirectly made him an elite member of the order.

With his new title and rank, he could now accept more difficult and special quests, which in turn would raise his reputation within the church and increase his rank accordingly.

But during the completion of his most recent quest, the church had released a summoning order for the members of the church's knight's order. This summoning somewhat concerned the events here in the Sacred Light Kingdom.

The church wanted to lend a hand to this falling kingdom save as many lives as possible and eradicate more corrupted creatures.

The Church of the Sun and Moon also had a branch here since they also have some loyal elven believers. The branch might be relatively small compared to the others, but it still had a solid foundation.

The main task that the church had given out was to save their believers and escort them into a much safer place. It would be better if they even escorted them out of the kingdom if the situation became worse than they had expected.

Samael had brought his younger sister with him since he could bring another person with him during the mission.

They just finished the main task just recently when Huahua stumbled upon a hidden quest. She had gotten the quest when they successfully finished escorting a batch of believers to out of the kingdom.

The quest itself was not that special and quite easy to complete, so this pair of siblings went back to the Sacred Light Kingdom to complete it.

But when they cleared the quest successfully and got their hands on the reward, it created a commotion that attracted the group from the Golden Dawn.

Samael wanted to avoid the group since he did not want any trouble coming their way, so he brought his younger sister to the city intending to use the teleportation hall to return to the Holy City.

He could not carelessly use their return scroll since he was afraid of these people attacking them when they were channeling the teleportation. Instead, he chose the much safer choice and used the formations of the Teleportation Hall.

Unfortunately, the people from the Golden Dawn were quite persistent and started harassing them, wanting to force them to hand over the item that they had gotten from the quest completion, which led them to the earlier situation.

Samael wanted to fight back at first, but knowing his sister and understanding that he was facing the members of a powerful guild, he could not help but hesitate.

Shin did not dwell too much on the situation nor ask for any more details about their quests. After all, that was their business and not his concern.

He just wanted to help these two due to his interest in Samael.

But after knowing that these two were being targeted by some other people, he could not help but feel more interested in them. 'Those people observing them from the dark earlier are not that bad either. If not for my sharp senses, then it is impossible to notice them.'

'They are experts in scouting, and possess high stealth abilities,' he could not shake off the feeling that there was something more in this situation than he could see from the surface.

He then turned to the two while having a deep thought. 'Should I help them more? Or just leave a warning?'

It was at that moment when Huahua suddenly opened her mouth. "Big Brother. I think we should ask for some advice from him. Since he is... what you call a God Expert, then I think... I think he can help us solve the riddle that we have gotten along with that strange item."

Samael turned to his younger sister before falling into a deep thought.

Even though he was confident that Shin would not snatch the item from them, he still could not help but hesitate.

He did not have any problem sharing the information that he had said earlier since it concerned the same faction as Shin. He and Shin were members of the same church. Heck! He even heard from the bishops and templars that the guy was an Evoy of the church, so in a sense, he was a subordinate of Shin.

This was the reason why he shared the earlier quests and his progress in the church.

But it was a different matter when it came to the quest of his younger sister. It was her property, so there was no need to share it with other people.

This was common knowledge or common sense even for the players standing at the peak of the game.

Unless it was someone that they fully trusted or people of the same Adventurer Team, close friends in the guild, or other organizations, there was no need to share it with them.

While Samael was hesitating, Huahua suddenly reassured him. "You don't have to think too much about it, big brother. The quest doesn't seem to be that important anyway."

Samael shook his head when he heard that. He felt that his little sister was more naïve than he thought. If this was just a simple quest, then the earlier events would not create such a commotion that would attract the members of the Golden Dawn.

He had already cleared enough quests under Church of the Sun and Moon, and he knew that some quests would be able to affect some of the questlines from the main scenario. Most of them even started with these kinds of strange phenomena or commotion whenever a certain quest was cleared.

He already had some suspicions earlier, but he was still unsure of it due to those members of the Golden Dawn.

But things would not escalate to this degree once they reached the city. Usually, these people from big groups would back off and let them leave peacefully once they arrived in a safe area.

But those people from Golden Dawn were quite persistent to the point that they followed them inside the city and even harassed them more aggressively. It was as if they were quite anxious to get whatever Huahua had gotten from her previous quests.

Shin remained silent on the side as he watched the pair of siblings discuss this matter. He was quite interested in Samael since he could see some potential in him. He was also quite intrigued by the real intention of the Golden Dawn given that they had sent some lackeys to harass the two when they were supposed to be laying low.

At first, he thought that it was just that those guys were a bunch of idiots who had nothing to do. But after noticing that this pair was being monitored by expert scouts, he could not help but have some suspicions.

When he thought about this, Shin started recalling the recent events here in the Sacred Light Kingdom. He also re-evaluated each event and tried to see if he could find anything.

Based on the information that he had heard from Ithilien and Owen, the three big guilds were looking for a few items that would make them turn the situation around before the withering fully spread in the entire kingdom.

Unfortunately, they had failed, and the situation turned out to be like this before they could have the chance.

Then they learned that Ithilien and Owen had already cleared the main scenario quest, which was why they were not in control of the whole Maze Forest. It seemed like the two seemed to be missing a single piece of the puzzle before their jobs here were completed.

Thinking about that, Shin immediately contacted Ithilien.

Sickarius: Ithilien, what are the other things that you need to deal with?

It took Ithilien some time to reply as she seemed to be thinking why Shin was asking about it now. Regardless, she still replied.

Ithilien: We are tasked to find some ancient relics that are scattered within the whole kingdom, Vice Commander. They can be used to purify the withering once all of them have been collected.

Ithilien: Owen and I have brought two of them, the branch of the World Tree and the water from the spring of life. We brought it here earlier when we were doing the main scenario quest.

Ithilien: Then we found the third one just recently when the Withering Event broke out – the Seed of the Tree of Life.

There was a brief pause before she continued.

Ithilien: Right now, we are only lacking two relics from the list. One of them is the Crown of a Ruler, which was supposedly the crown of the king of the Sacred Light Kingdom.

We suspect that it is in the hands of the Evil Faction since they have assassinated the king.

Ithilien: As for the final relic – it is called the Moonlight Chalice of Purity. We still don't have any solid clues of its whereabouts, but we have a rough idea of the general location.

It was at this moment that she remembered the question that she had earlier and finally asked.

Ithilien: Why do you want to know about it, Vice Commander?

Shin did not immediately respond to it as he suddenly turned to the pair of siblings and asked. "Can I know if that item that you have in your possession is a chalice?"

"Eh!?"

"Huh!?"

The pair of brother and sister quickly stopped what they were doing and turned to Shin with wide-opened eyes. They were looking at him with surprised expressions along with a little caution.

Samael might be confident about his judgment about Shin, but he still could not help but be a little wary of the latter after hearing that question. He felt that Shin might have approached him just for this reason, especially when the quest item that they had was indeed a chalice.

Huahua was also feeling the same. She felt that Shin had a hidden agenda for approaching them. She could not help but feel a little afraid, especially when she knew how powerful Shin was. If he wanted to rob that item from them, then the two of them would not be able to fight back in the slightest.

Seeing the reaction on their face, Shin immediately realized that they had misunderstood his question. He then quickly cleared his throat and explained himself. "It is not what you are thinking..."

He then explained the current situation of the Sacred Light Kingdom to the two and even told them about the involvement of powerful guilds and organizations in it.

He was not afraid to share this information with the siblings since it was somewhat of an open secret anyway. Players who joined the event had a rough idea of what was happening and even chose which side they were going to work with.

Naturally, most of the players arriving here were siding with Ithilien and Owen since they were the current major contributors to the current event while the so-called 'Big Three' were far behind them.

Shin also explained to the pair that the item that they were holding was one of the ancient relics that everyone was looking for, which also explained why the members of the Golden Dawn were harassing them very aggressively.

"So, what do you think about how we are going to deal with this quest, God Expert?" Samael had regained his confidence in Shin and immediately asked for his opinion.

Huahua also nodded her head repeatedly, waiting for Shin to arrange a plan for them.

Shin thought for a moment before continuing. "This is your quest, so I will not ask you to share it with me or anything. But I must ask you to side with my friends who are the main contributors to this event."

"That goes without question, God Expert," answered Samael instantaneously.

"I will escort you to the Maze Forest and make sure that there is no one who will snatch it from you. I am going there too anyway," said Shin before warning the pair with a serious tone. "There are other forces that are monitoring you since earlier, so I must ask you to be extra careful."

"We don't know if the Evil Faction have set their eyes on you too since they also want to have their hands on that quest item."

"I will be asking my friends to send some assistance to make sure that we can avoid as many accidents as possible."

He waited for the brother-sister duo to understand the gravity of their situation before adding. "If you are ready, then we will be heading out as soon as possible."

"We have to move as fast as we can so that the other side will not be able to respond."

Chapter 1282 Paimon, the Manipulative Demon of Truth and Lies

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The moment Shin and the pair of siblings came out of the inn, the scouts who were keeping an eye on them immediately reported to their superiors when they saw the trio coming out.

The news quickly spread in their ranks and the four powers monitoring this small group quickly noticed the movements of the three.

They did not make their move immediately since they knew that this certain newcomer was someone that they could not defeat. They did not know who he was, but they understood that he was someone that they could easily provoke after seeing how he dealt with the elite group from the Golden Dawn earlier.

They fully understood the gap in their strength, so they could only wait for the experts of their group to arrive before they could make a move.

Their task right now was to keep an eye on this group and ensure they would not leave their sight.

But they had to also be wary of the other parties waiting in the dark. Even though they were currently allied, they still could not fully trust one another.

They might be allies but there was only a single item that they needed to snatch, so there was still competition among them. The one who secured the item first would take the priority on choosing the person who would represent them in the 'council' in the Maze Forest.

The others were even from the opposing faction, so it would not be strange for them to compete.

But that was only if they managed to snatch it.

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Shin quickly noticed the people following and observing them from the dark the moment they stepped out of the inn.

He raised his brows and mumbled. "That's quite a lot of them."

He immediately spotted several scouts keeping an eye on them, but he could not accurately guess where they belonged; he still did not know which people belonged to which power.

He was confident in dealing with any of them, but it would be hard to fight if he had to protect Samael and Huahua in the process, especially if he would be facing the Sweepers from the Pandemonium Descendants.

The incident here was caused by the combined forces of the Corrupted Cult and the Demonic Churches once again, so it would not be strange if that organization was involved once again.

It would be even more troublesome if they sent a member of the Pandemonium Troupe.

He believed that he would be able to clean the floor with any of them given the current stats that he had, especially now that he was promoted to the third tier of his class.

Unless the leader of that group made his move personally. Lucifer was able to clear his promotion quest, after all.

He had a bad feeling about this person the moment when he laid his eyes on his in-game name.

However, he doubted that the leader would make his move personally just for this kind of job. That was unless that person was a battle-craze maniac.

But despite all these pointing toward their favor, he still could not shake off the uneasy feeling that he was having. His instincts were telling him that this was not going to be as smooth as he was expecting.

"Well, it will be for the best since I will be able to test my current strength after reaching tier 3 and see my current limit," he mumbled to himself as he led the pair of siblings out of the city.

It would also be at this moment when he would identify which group these scouts belonged to.

"I have to keep a closer eye on those people with a very high level of stealth. They are most likely from the Evil Faction."

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As Shin, Samael, and Huahua stepped out of the city, the information was immediately reported to the higher-ups of the Pandemonium Descendants, who were stationed in the Sacred Light Kingdom and overseeing the entire operation.

It did not take long for the report to reach Paimon, who was responsible for the operations concerning the important questlines of the Demonic Churches under the Pandemonium Descendants.

Reading through the message that he had received, he suddenly turned to the person sitting across from him and said. "We have found the final relic that the elves need for the purification ceremony. It is in the hands of an independent player."

The person sitting across from him was the representative of the Corrupted Cult, who was also the one who led the invasion in the Saint Heaven Kingdom.

Given that they had already collaborated with each faction before, they were somewhat familiar with each other. But this was also the reason why they could not fully trust one another.

This person fell into deep thought before asking. "Can your people handle this? I know that you are quite capable, but you are not the one who will be leading the charge, so I am quite hesitant about this."

Paimon smiled mysteriously before continuing. "That is up to you. We are only collaborating to achieve our respective goals, so there will be no problem so long as we don't hurt each other benefits."

"We will deal with this ourselves, but you can't claim any rewards," he added, emphasizing his point.

The other person shook his head. "Our side doesn't care about the rewards. So long that we can spread the corruption, we will be fine."

"That's a deal then," said Paimon before turning his head to the side. "Tell that couple that they can move now, but they can't touch the members of the 'Big Three'. We are still in the middle of negotiating with them, so we must avoid any sort of 'misunderstanding'."

He paused for a moment before adding. "And tell them to be careful on that mysterious expert accompanying our targets. I've got a bad feeling about him."

While he was giving out the orders, the door of the room suddenly opened followed by the appearance of two players.

Paimon suddenly frowned deeply when he saw those two as he was quite familiar with them. "What are the two of you doing here? Aren't you in the middle of a 'hunt'?"

Amon, another leader of the Pandemonium Descendants, gave Paimon a sidelong glance before replying. "The Sweepers have reported that our target sighted in the Holy City before disappearing on our radar."

"None of them saw him exist from all the exits of the city, so we suspect that he went to the Teleportation Hall."

"Given the information that we have, there is a high chance that he will be here," he added after a brief thought.

Paimon stared at him for a moment before casting his gaze at the person behind. "I can understand if this lunatic is here, but why do you have to accompany him? To keep a close watch on him and put a leash on his neck?"

He completely understood this guy. As the true leader of the Sweeper of the Pandemonium Descendants and someone who handled all the assassination assignments of the organization, Amon had never been in a place where he was not needed or outside his area of responsibility despite his hot-headed temper.

If this guy was here, then there must be a serious reason.

Amon stared at Paimon for a couple of seconds before saying nonchalantly. "There is no serious reason about it. I just felt that I needed to be here."

He paused for a moment before a dangerous glint appeared in his eyes. "Or you can also say that I feel like there is going to be something big here so that I will be lending you a helping hand."

In the meantime, the player standing behind Amon was glaring fiercely at Paimon after hearing the word meant for him. But since he was here for an interesting mission to relieve his boredom, he had to suppress his anger and follow the orders. If not, then he would be forced to go back to his previous post.

Paimon ignored the sharp glare directed at him as he nodded to Amon with understanding.

While all of these were happening, the representative of the Corrupted Cult remained silent and observed them.

He squinted his eyes a little as he felt a little offended as he was being treated as an air while they were discussing among themselves. But he could not do anything about it as he completely understood that he was not a match for any of them.

'Just wait, and I will devour your organization sooner or later,' he thought to himself as he looked at them.

As if sensing his thoughts, Paimon suddenly turned in his direction while giving him a mystifying grin. It was as if he had been completely seen through.

Seeing that expression, this representative from the Corrupted Cult felt an intense shiver running down his spine.

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A few moments later, after Paimon had sent that representative of the Corrupted Cult and a new messenger of the faction, Amon suddenly asked.

"Are you sure that you are going to use that guy? I don't think that he will fall into your trap. He doesn't look like an idiot that will commit such a grave mistake."

Hearing that, Paimon suddenly chuckled and said. "Whether he falls for it or not is not my real target. What I need is a way to infiltrate their ranks."

He then paused and pointed in the direction where that representative disappeared before continuing. "And that guy will be the guide that will lead us to their core."

"He is just a new dog that recently joined their ranks and doesn't know much about their inner system yet."

"Moreover, he is a very ambitious one and quite eager to prove himself. His type is the one that will easily get agitated once things get a little awry."

"Someone very talented but also very easy to get blinded by it. He is the perfect target that we are looking for. All we need to do is to lead him and patiently wait for the right moment to harvest the fruit of our 'labor'."

He then paused and chuckled. "And when that time comes, we will finally get the demonic treasures that we are keeping our eyes on."

"We will also help the leader to get his hands on the other half of the 'Great Demon Codex' and complete it to receive the true legacy of the Devil Ancestor."

"It is quite hard to snatch them before because that sly fox Immortal is quite hard to deal with. Playing tricks with him is useless since he can see through all of them. But now that he is no longer on their side, things will get a little easier."

Hearing everything from Paimon made Amon shake his head. "It looks like manipulating the other Messengers into isolating him paid off."

He then suddenly paused and asked. "Don't tell me that you also let the acquisition of the Saint Heaven Kingdom just force Immortal to leave the cult?"

Paimon chuckled as he shook his head. "You are looking a little too much to it. The operations in the Saint Heaven Kingdom and Frozen Kingdom failed due to a lot of factors."

"The role that I've played is very minimal. It was still those from the Empyrean Talons, the Hand of Midas, and the Assassin Union are the ones that caused our failure."

"There is also the returning king of the games, Khing, and that old friend of ours, Diablo. Given the circumstances, I can say that that failure is inevitable."

Amon continued to shake his head while smiling bitterly. "So, that is why you abandon those guys in the Corrupted Cult at the last moment and push all the blame to Immortal."

Paimon smiled in satisfaction as he took it as a compliment. "We may have sacrificed a lot and wasted our resources and efforts, but I can say that it is worth it in the end given the conditions that we have right now."

"I still can consider it as losing the fight but winning the war since there are still a lot of things that are involved. But we can still consider it as us winning in the long run," he added while wearing a mocking grin.

"Regardless of the reason, we still benefited from it in the end."

Amon shook his head as he listened to everything. "This is why I can't trust you. You are someone that can backstab anyone just to achieve your goals. Aside from 'Pride', everyone else is just a chess piece that you can manipulate."

Paimon took it as a compliment. "I at least deliver satisfying results. And everything that I have done is for the sake of achieving his goals, so no one can question my loyalty to him."

"All of these are for his great cause while everything else is irrelevant!"

Chapter 1283 Another Encounter with the Pandemonium Troupe

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"Well, this was quite surprising," Shin stood leisurely as he watched the ongoing battle in the distance.

He wanted to test Samael's abilities as well as his younger sister, Huahua, so he asked them if they wanted to fight these scouts that had been on their tail since they had left the town earlier.

Samael was quite eager to test his new skills along with his newly acquired equipment set. He was not satisfied with his performance during the earlier missions that he had gotten from the Church of the Sun and Moon. He might have fought during those missions, but he either did not perform well or failed to showcase his real capabilities, so he was still looking for an opportunity where he could test his current strength.

This suggestion from Shin came just at the right time. He also requested Shin not to get involved unless they were in real danger. He wanted to see his current limit while also trying to impress Shin with his skills.

He was quite an expert himself. Even though he was still far from reaching the level of Godlike Players like Shin and the rest, he still believed that he could become a High Ranker. Being a Titled Ranker was also not far from his reach in his opinion, so he was pretty confident in himself.

As for the little shaman, Huahua. Samael was also quite confident about his younger sister. She might not like fighting, but that did not mean that she could not defend herself.

If they were talking about skills and techniques alone, then Samael was confident to say that this little shaman was an expert himself. It was just she did not like hurting other people or getting hurt herself, so it was a little troublesome.

But that did not mean that she was an easy picking either. She was a very troublesome opponent to deal with.

Samael was quite an expert when it came to fighting. Shin could easily tell that this paladin was not a martial artist, a combat mentalist, or a swordsman in the real world after seeing his performance.

But Shin could see that Samael was a real gamer. An expert gamer at that.

If Shin used the terms that Arthur loved to use before, then he could label Samael as a professional gamer. A real expert in the gaming world. Someone who played the game as a form of living or a player who loved playing the game as his passion.

Watching Samael fight, Shin could see the 'textbook' style of fighting that he used to see when reading about games when he first started.

He could see that Samael had burned these moves in his mind and engraved everything in his body, making it second nature to him. This fighting style had become a habit of his but in a good way.

Shin could see a very solid foundation in Samael's movements, which also became a type of martial arts in a sense.

Samael utilized all the advantages that he had such as the tools of his class, the superiority of his equipment set, and his great mastery over a series of combat and movement techniques along with the unique in-game skills in his arsenal.

If Shin were describing Samael in simple terms, then he would call this guy a real gamer. A gamer who did not have any background in any kind of discipline in the real world.

Thinking about it, Shin could also see that Samael was the same as Diablo. However, there were also some differences between them. He could also say that Samael was a notch lower than Diablo in every aspect.

Or should he see that he was a weaker version of Diablo with a different class?

Samael was a very good fighter too. He was able to hold himself against multiple opponents with the same level of skills and abilities without being at any kind of disadvantage.

Shin also suspected this had something to do with the class matchup. Samael was a paladin, and an elite one at that, whereas his opponents were either thieves or assassins, who were being countered by his class.

His moderately high defense and decent offensive attacks somewhat countered these scouts. His mobility was also quite good given his high level of mastery over his movement techniques, which covered disadvantages in this area.

He also had a lot of blessings that boosted his stats greatly along with some healing spells that restored his health from time to time, throwing his opponents in a little despair.

Looking at these overall, Shin found Samael was a real example of a player who truly understood the game. He knew where his advantages lay and knew how to cover his disadvantages properly.

On the other hand, Huahua was a very interesting player too. From what he had heard, she did not like to fight other players since did not like any sort of violence against people.

Due to this, the set of skills that she had learned focused on buffs that could help her allies and debuff that weakened her enemies. She did not have any sort of offensive spells under her arsenal, but she possessed plenty of summoning spells in exchange.

She did not have to fight the other party herself and leave everything to her summons.

The spirits, wraiths, and ghosts that she summoned were not that powerful, but their overwhelming numbers were more than enough to protect her against most of her enemies.

The number of her summons was far from being on the same level as other summoners of the game. They were weaker than Spirit Summoners of the humans, had a lesser number when compared to the undead monsters of the Necromancer Class, or were not as intelligent as the pets of the Tamer Class.

But if she added the multiple totems that she could summon, which buffed her allies with different strengthening and supporting effects, along with the debuffs that weakened her opposition, this overwhelming number of her summoned creatures was more than enough to put up a good fight.

But this was still far from being enough to protect herself against elite members of top guilds of the game.

This was also what Samael was worried about before, so he spent quite a lot of fortune when buying a certain skill – the Spirit Beast Summoning Skill meant for Shamans.

It was a powerful skill that summoned a certain creature that grew stronger along with its owner. It was a class-specific skill, which also had a unique evolution feature.

Even though evolving the Spirit Beast consumed quite a lot of resources and burned a huge hole in their pockets, Samael still felt that it was worth it so long as his sister was safe.

The form of the Spirit Beast that his sister had chosen was a huge wolf since she felt that it looked the same as the pet dog that they used to have in real life. She even named it 'Silly' since that Spirit Wolf looked like a silly husky when it was not in a combat form.

This was not all as Samael also spent another fortune on the other skill that complements the 'Spirit Beast Skill', the 'Spiritual Armor'.

It was another class-specific skill of the Shaman class that gave them the ability to convert certain items and equipment into spiritual form, making it an equipable item that a Spiritual Beast could wear.

This boosted the battle prowess of her spiritual wolf multiple folds.

Watching the giant spirit wolf slaughter her enemies while it was being buffed by the totems that Huahua had summoned, Shin felt that Samael possessed a great understanding of each class within the game.

The pair of siblings were not working together, but they covered each other's back without communicating with each other.

While watching, Shin was also making sure that no one would be able to escape alive from here. He already summoned Blackie, Vladimir, and Grimrace around to clear the surroundings and executed anyone who would try to run away.

Due to the intense pressure that Shin was emitting, the scouts did not try to attack him or escape in his direction. Instead, they ran toward the other three directions, not knowing that the worst possible death was waiting for them.

After cleaning up the battlefield, Shin walked over to the two and commented. "Not bad."

Samael turned to Shin and shook his head. "It is not a big deal. If it is 'God Expert' dealing with them, then none will be able to escape."

Shin chuckled. "Don't worry, none of them escape either."

After that, he turned to Huahua and asked. "Are you sure you don't want to fight anyone and continue this way? You may be fighting right now since you are facing weaker opponents, but it will not be the same if you happen to encounter real experts at the apex of the game."

"You don't look like a weak opponent when you fight since I saw you keeping a close eye on the whole battlefield despite your unwillingness to 'hurt' anyone."

Shin knew that this little shaman's true age was just 2 years younger than him despite her innocent appearance, so he did not mind being frank with her. He could also feel that she had a stubborn and strong personality despite how she looked.

He guessed that her reason for not wanting to fight personally was due to a little trauma. He might not be an expert in that area, but he could tell that this was something that could be cured easily given how she resolutely scanned the entire place during the battle.

Hearing those words, Huahua bit the lower lip while lowering her head. It was clear that she was not ready to discuss this matter with him and wanted to avoid the topic.

She felt secure and comfortable with Shin, but that did not mean that she would discuss her private matters with a person that she recently met. Even though she was quite young, she had seen and experienced quite a lot in the real world along with her brother, so it was quite hard to earn his full trust.

Samael understood her thoughts so he could only give Shin an apologetic smile. He knew that Shin only wanted to help her overcome her shortcomings, but he also knew how his younger sister felt, so they could only avoid this topic.

Shin also nodded his head when he saw that. He was about to tell them to continue their journey when he suddenly sensed a pair of overwhelming presence coming from a certain direction.

He also sensed that the three Elemental Spirit Companions that he had summoned were forcefully unsummed and forcibly returned to his side.

Turning his gaze toward the direction where the opposing side was coming from, he could not help but frown deeply. "What a powerful presence and a large range for Spirit Awe Skill."

Hearing Shin's mumblings, Samael quickly looked up before turning his head toward the direction where the latter was looking.

That was when he saw a pair of players walking toward them from the deep forest. Those two were wearing large cloaks that covered their entire bodies, but he could still see the pair of horns sticking out from their foreheads.

"Demonic Players?" said Samael in shock. He subconsciously yelled out loud to voice out his thoughts before swiftly standing in front of his younger sister.

As an elite member of the Church of the Sun and Moon, he was very familiar with these kinds of players. Demonic Players and Corrupted Players were some of the opponents that he often encountered during special missions from the church.

From his experience, these players with such power were very troublesome to deal with, especially when the Demonic Players with a pair of horns.

Adding the overwhelming pressure that those two were released, Samael could tell that they belonged to the most elite group within the Demonic Churches.

They might still be quite inferior to Shin when it came to their might. But together, he could sense that they could still pose enough threat to this God Expert on his side.

Shin slightly raised his brows before asking. "From the Pandemonium Troupe?"

Hearing his words, the two suddenly stopped, slightly taken aback by his words. They did not expect that the expert that Paimon had told them to be careful of was able to pinpoint their identities within an instant.

On the other hand, Shin did not have to wait for their answer since their actions alone were more than enough to confirm his suspicion.

There were very few people who could give him this level of threat. Aside from the most elite members of the Pandemonium Descendants, the Pandemonium Trupe, he could not think of any believer of the Demonic Church who possessed such strength.

Of course, there were still those who became True Demons like Haowin. But he doubted that there were a lot of them in the Demonic Church, so he could only think of the second-best choice.

Realizing that these two were not going to be easy opponents, Shin stepped forward and warned Samael. "Don't get involved and focus on protecting yourself and your sister. These guys are not someone you can face with your current level."

When he took a step forward and started walking toward the opposing side, the two members of the Pandemonium Troupe immediately sensed a powerful pressure coming from his body. It spread in every direction and filled the entire place within a matter of seconds.

It was at this moment that this pair realized that they were up against someone in the same league as the leaders of the troupe and quickly informed their Paimon.

"Spotted a suspected 'Target'. Requesting assistance as soon as possible!"

Chapter 1284 Asmodeus and Lilith, the Lust Devils

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The pair from the Pandemonium Troupe were contacting Paimon when they suddenly saw Shin flip his cloak a little and reveal the sheathed katana in his hand.

And when the two saw that sword, their pupils quickly shrunk into the size of pinholes as a certain person flashed through their minds.

"Battle God Sickarius!"

The two quickly treated as their little caution immediately became extreme alert. They were still very confident earlier and felt that this was going to be an easy mission. But after seeing this monster in front of them, they could not help but be wary of what was about to come.

They might be more powerful compared to most of the players of the game. They were not even afraid of the so-called Godlike Players within the game. Not even the ones in the current Godlike Ranking List could make them scared.

But that was completely different went it came to this person in front of them. If it was before, then they were still confident about themselves. But the recent events mentioned that this very player had cleared the Tier 3 Promotion Quest.

This also indicated that he was the first person to achieve such a feat. He was even much faster than the true leader of the Pandemonium Descendants, whom they were very afraid of.

Lucifer, who was the Pride Devil and the supreme commander of the Pandemonium Troupe, could destroy both even if they did their best while working together.

If Shin was able to clear his promotion quest a few hours faster than their leader, then these two had to take him very seriously. Aside from that, they also had to put in their mind that he already had the third tier of his class, which indicated the gap in their strength.

After distancing themselves, they also sent additional reports to Paimon. "Battle God Sickarius has been spotted! He is accompanying our other targets, who have the chalice!"

Bang!

Right after one of them sent the message, the pair heard an explosion in the distance followed by a sonic boom that was heading toward their direction.

Swoosh!

One of the pair, the male demonic player suddenly charged forward to greet the incoming opponent brandishing his sword.

Bang!

The collision quickly resulted in a massive explosion that sent shockwaves in every direction along with the formation of a huge crater on the ground.

Swoosh!

The person who tried to stop Shin was sent flying back to his previous location as he was unable to withstand the power behind the latter's attack.

In the meantime, the female demonic player, who was accompanying him, flipped her cloak as she took out her magic scepter and raised it in the air.

A blinding light came out from the top of her scepter, which illuminated the whole place and prevented Shin from chasing after the other demonic player.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then a large group of magic circles suddenly surrounded Shin from every direction while facing him. He was trying to read their mana flow when he saw black and crimson chains shot out from the center of each magic circle and flew toward him.

Their speed was so fast that they were already about to wrap themselves around him before he could even make his move.

Calm and collected, Shin spread his feet and squatted his hips while preparing to draw his sword. He waited with a brief pause when the chains reached the ideal range for his attack before unsheathing the sword.

Click!

Shing!

Right after he unsheathed the [Yamato] and swung it around, multiple sword flashes appeared in the air. They crisscrossed and intertwined with one another to form a dome-like net before cutting through everything.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Metal Form): Flash Firmament'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Clang! Clang! Clang!

The magic chains made of mana were immediately obliterated by the sword flashes before they could fully wrap themselves around him.

But despite her spell not being able to do anything, the female demonic player did not panic as its purpose was just to buy time for her next spell. She just tapped the bottom of the scepter onto the ground, spending a gentle ripple on the earth's surface.

When the ripple passed through the ground underneath his feet, Shin suddenly felt a foreboding feeling.

He then firmly planted his feet on the ground while holding his sword in front of him horizontally and channeling his mana into it.

Along with it, he also increased the weight of his body through the 'Great Dominator Technique' and the Earth Elemental Mana.

Swoosh!

Boom!

It was at that moment when an invisible attack flew at him at extreme speed.

It was like a strong air current that tried to blow him away. It was also accompanied by sharp blades that tried to shred him into pieces.

But thanks to the special effects of the 'Great Dominator Technique' and the earth elemental mana that covered his body, he was able to ward off most of the attacks and defend himself.

Aside from his feet sinking on the ground and drawing long, deep trials on it due to the pushing power of the air current, he did not suffer that much. He also barely lost any Health from his HP Bar, signifying how ineffective it was against him.

He might not have enough time to properly prepare himself against it due to how fast it was. But since his instincts and reaction time were quite sharp and very sharp, he was still able to respond accordingly.

The opposing side did not immediately follow that attack with another since they knew that it would be useless. For now, they had to regroup and reorganize themselves to prepare for the next offensive.

In the meantime, Shin relaxed his muscles and stood straight before twirling the [Yamato] left and right and putting it back to its sheath.

After that, he looked ahead and said. "I know that the Demonic Churches are involved in this, so I somewhat expected to meet your people."

"But to think that I will encounter members of the Pandemonium Troupe from the start. I guess this event is another big operation of yours."

He then paused for a moment as he recalled the information that he had gotten about these people from Zero before continuing. "If I am not wrong, you guys are known to be the 'Lust Devils' in the troupe, Asmodeus and Lilith."

"I guess this is going to be a little interesting," he mumbled as he prepared for another attack.

In the meantime, the pair on the other side were wearing a solemn look on their faces as they could see that this was not going to be good for them. They just had a simple exchange against Shin, but they could already sense how huge the gap between them was, especially when it came to overall their stats.

And that was when they could tell that Shin was still holding back!

It was clear that he was trying to test their strengths and measure the depths of their organization.

'If I can see the real capabilities of these guys, then I can vaguely guess the overall strength of their top combatants. This information will be a great help for us in the future. I must handle this properly,' thought Shin as he observed the two.

In the meantime, Asmodeus and Lilith fully understood that this was going to be easy for them, so they could not afford to hold back.

Understanding their current situation, the two instantly decided to go all out from the very beginning. They would not care about the consequences and think about it later. Their safety was their current top priority.

They even set aside their original purpose of coming here and shifted their focus solely on Shin.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Taking off their cloaks, the couple quickly used their respective demonic powers and traits to their full potential.

Asmodeus, who was holding an exquisite sword, took a step forward. He had a very handsome face that could make even a woman jealous of him. His long silver hair hung on his face as a pair of huge horns sticking out of each side of his head.

He was wearing a slightly loose robe instead of a set of armor. His muscular chest and appealing abs were revealed by that robe as it was not properly tied. Then there were two huge bat wings protruding from his back that spread wide.

Contrary to his upper body, which had a proper and handsome appearance, the lower part of his body was completely different.

His legs were like a kangaroo and filled with black furs. His feet had sharp claws that dug into the ground while a long dragon tail extended from the back of his waist.

His partner, Lilith also revealed her demonic form.

Shin was impeccably beautiful, no losing compared to Asmodeus when it came to facial appearance alone.

She had platinum blonde hair, fair skin, and bright blue eyes. She looked slenderer but curvaceous, nonetheless. Her seductive body was even more outlined by the set of armor and magical robe that she was wearing, which was barely able to hide her noticeable parts.

Her hands, particularly her fingers, were equipped with sharp steel nails and luxurious chains connecting each other.

If not for the pair of slender horns sticking from her forehead and the pair of bat-like wings behind her, no one would think that she was a demonic player.

Anyone who would look at her with a weak mentality would surely become tempted and seduced by her.

With that kind of face, she looked more like a celestial being rather than a demonic creature.

She was holding a long scepter in his right hand while a glowing orb was floating above her left hand.

But despite how handsome and beautiful these two were, Shin paid more attention to other matters. He was more focused on the sword that Asmodeus was wielding as well as the scepter and orb in Lilith's hands.

He was guessing their respective class and preparing for the possible skills and spells that they had in their arsenal.

"A swordsman and a mage, huh? Quite an uncommon combination, but not that rare," mumbled Shin as he watched them undergo their respective demonic transformations.

Knight and Mage were the usual combinations in the game when it came to a two-man party. Sometimes they could also find a Swordsman-Marksman, Knight-Priest, Dual Thieves, and many more combinations, so he was not that surprised by the combination of these two.

What made him slightly curious about them was the set of equipment that they had.

Asmodeus was not wearing any kind of armor; not even light or leather armor, which made him frown a little. But if he could guess what type of swordsman this guy was, then he would most likely be someone who focused on speed.

A swordsman with fast attack and high mobility was not common in the current stage of the game since they mostly fought in the frontline along with the main- and sub-tanks.

They were more exposed to the chaotic battlefield and intense fights where accidents such as friendly fire were a common occurrence.

Finding a swordsman equipped with cloth armor rather than light and leather armor signified that this guy was confident with his abilities. He would not need any kind of defense as long as he dodged properly.

Aside from this, Shin also suspected that this guy might also know some magical spells. Magic Swordsman was a common play style these days, so he would not be surprised if Asmodeus walked that path.

On the other hand, Lilith, who was a mage was wearing a few steel armors. Even though their sizes barely covered anything, they were still armor, nevertheless.

Shin could not help but suspect that she was fully capable of fighting a melee battle, enough to protect herself until her partner rescued her.

This was not the first time Shin had seen magic-related classes capable of melee battle. Immortal alone was a prime example of this, so he would not be surprised if he found anyone with a similar style.

"A possible Magic Swordsman and a suspected Combat Mage? It is quite peculiar indeed," he mumbled as his interest in this battle became more notable.

Chapter 1285 Asmodeus and Lilith, the Lust Devils (Part 2)

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Shin stared at the two for a couple of moments before fixing his grip on his sheathed sword. He slightly tilted his head to the side before leaning forward and letting his body fall freely.

During the fall, the muscles on his body suddenly relaxed while his joints started to loosen up.

Then-...

Boom!

His body suddenly disappeared.

The sonic boom that was created along with his movements reverberated in the whole place, shaking the trees and vegetation in the surroundings. It also created a spiraling hole in the air as he charged ahead.

Asmodeus held his sword with both of his hands and channeled his contaminated mana on it before swinging it upwards twice, forming a pair of arcs with its trail and sending consecutive sword waves forward.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The swords cut through the ground as they charged forward, heading straight to Shin.

Given Shin's speed, he would have a hard time changing his direction and dodging the incoming sword waves. It was clear that Asmodeus had timed his attack perfectly, making it close to impossible to dodge.

Most of the players would most likely be forced to halt their charge and face the incoming sword waves head-on. They would be forced to either block them or counter them with their respective attacks.

But Shin was different.

With a sudden shift of his feet and ankles, his figure suddenly shook before turning into fading blurs that continued moving forward.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

He was able to easily dodge the sword waves without sacrificing the speed of his charge. He was already right in front of Asmodeus within an instant and currently in the middle of ducking forward.

Asmodeus wanted to use his perfectly timed attacks to delay Shin's movements and buy enough time for Lilith to cast her spell. But from the look of it, he still underestimated the speed and mobility of this opponent in the end.

Watching every move of his opponent, Asmodeus held his sword with both of his hands before swinging it down while his corrupted mana swirled around it and formed a spiral flow.

'Prince of Hell Skill (Demonic Executioner): Nether Strike'

Swoosh!

On the other side, Shin stomped his foot on the ground to halt his charge while twisting his waist and grabbing the hilt of the [Yamato] with his right hand.

Adjusting his breathing and switching with the 'Golden Immortality Technique', he swiftly pulled the sword from its sheath while twisting his waist toward the other direction along with the swinging of the sword.

Shing!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Metal Form) – Flash Horizon'

Swoosh!

Bang!

The two swords collided and created a violent ripple in the air that spread everywhere. The ground also shook due to the strong impact which was followed by the crawling cracks that spread in every direction.

Shin quickly retracted his sword and channeled his mana in it before swinging it thrice and drawing a triangular light with the trail that it left in the air.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Third Movement – Trinity Storm'

Shing!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Asmodeus continuously moved backward dodging the sword strikes while using his sword to block the final attack.

Bang!

He was forced to slide a few meters back, drawing a long and deep mark on the ground.

It was clear that he was at a disadvantage, but he remained calm. He firmly held his ground while maintaining his fighting stance. From the aura that he was releasing, it seemed like he was already expecting such an outcome.

Fortunately, he was not alone. Lilith was already done casting her spell and activated it before Shin could even continue pursuing Asmodeus.

Bang!

Slamming the bottom of her long scepter on the ground, multiple magic circles appeared behind her. The runes and sequences filling the magic circles were made of black and corrupted mana while a crimson light shrouded them.

'Princess of Hell Skill (Demonic Tempress): Chains of Seduction'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Along with the activation of the skill, the magic circles released black chains that flew straight to Shin. They seemed to have a mind of their own as they solely targeted Shin and chased after him without having any intention of letting go.

Shin constantly moved while leaving a series of afterimages behind, trying to shake off these chains. But despite his efforts, they seemed to be stuck at him and would not stop unless they caught up to him.

It was at that moment when he sensed a dense killing intent coming from his blind spot.

It was Asmodeus who was taking advantage of the situation to launch a sneak attack.

Sword in hand, he transformed into a shadow that flew straight to Shin in a tricky angle. He then swung the sword when he reached the ideal range while it was being covered with a dark aura filled with the miserable cries of women.

'Prince of Hell Skill (Demonic Executioner): Strike of Torment'

Swoosh!

Slightly knitting his brow, Shin suddenly tossed the sheath on his left hand in the air as it transformed into a greatsword.

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

He used the 'Telekinesis' skill to control the greatsword while executing a series of sword movements to ward off the incoming chains.

'Perfect Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon (Self-Created Technique) – Gravity Sword'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin did not bother to look at the greatsword slashing the incoming chains as his 'Sensing Circle' was more than enough to keep an eye on his surroundings. With it, he was able to accurately block the chains while dividing his mind into multiple fronts.

While the greatsword was dealing with the chains, Shin turned toward the other incoming opponent and swung the [Yamato] at the same time.

The blade of his sword was releasing a metallic luster and glittering lights as it traveled through the air. The sword seemed to have paused for an instant before suddenly accelerating and stabbing toward Asmodeus.

'Perfected Four Symbol Scripture: Sacred White Tiger – Deadly Fang'

Swoosh!

The speed of that strike surpassed Asmodeu's imagination, so he forcefully changed the trajectory of this attack. He swung it to redirect the course of his opponent's attack away from his heart.

Bang!

Asmodeus was about to retreat when he noticed a dark shadow from above. Casting his gaze upwards, he saw the flying greatsword falling toward him with an unstoppable momentum.

'Perfected Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon – Mountain Crusher'

Swoosh!

Asmodeus was about to curse when saw the greatsword change its trajectory and head toward Lilith.

'Princess of Hell Skill (Demonic Tempress): Center of Attention'

She attracted it with a spell before calling the chains that she had sent earlier.

Before the great sword could even reach her, the chains wrapped themselves around it and prevented it from moving further ahead.

Freed from the chains, Shin was now free to do whatever he wanted. He quickly stepped forward and chased after Asmodeus while swinging the [Yamato] repeatedly.

Asmodeus already recovered himself at that moment and quickly swung his sword in response. He repeatedly blocked the incoming strikes of his opponent, not letting a single strike reach him.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

Sparks flew in the air as the two exchanged blows.

And when things looked like in a deadlock, Shin suddenly extended his left hand in the air and called for the trapped greatsword.

The greatsword was unable to break free from the chains due to how tight they wrapped themselves in it. But when it reverted to its sheath form, the chains loosened momentarily, giving it enough time to break away.

And when it returned to his hand, Shin quickly transformed it into a rapier before striking forward with a series of stabs.

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

Blazing embers and metallic luster mixed around the blade of the sword as it turned into multiple sword flashes that rained down toward his opponent.

'Perfected Four Symbol Scripture: Celestial Vermillion Bird (Metal Reinforced) – Pheonix Nest'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Asmodeus was immediately overwhelmed by the rain of blazing sword flashes, forcing him to retreat repeatedly while trying his best to protect himself.

But no matter how good his defense was, there were still a few stabs that broke through it and hit his body.

Fortunately, he was able to twist his body in response and avoid his vitals from getting hit.

However, he still suffered quite a lot of damage in the process.

Whoosh!

During the crucial moment, a purple light suddenly bathed his body followed by a comfortable feeling that washed over him.

At the same time, his dropping health bar suddenly rose, returning it to full.

'Princess of Hell Skill (Demonic Tempress): Cure of the Tempted Heart'

Seeing that Shin could not help but stop the attack. He then briefly retreated while repeatedly clicking his tongue.

'So, she can also heal others, huh?' thought Shin as he glanced over at Lilith, who was already casting another spell. Based on the violent flow of mana, he could tell that she was preparing an offensive spell this time instead of a crowd-control one.

'Should I set aside the thought of testing my current fighting style against them and finish this off?' Shin started to consider as he felt that the two seemed to be trying to buy some time based on their less aggressive attacks.

Others might not be able to tell it, but he could see that they were somewhat subdued and reserved with their attacks.

He had already exchanged some blows against Mammon, the Sloth Devil, before and he could tell that that guy was very skilled and quite troublesome, especially when he had gone all-out.

Comparing these two 'devils' to that guy, this pair seemed to be trying to hide something.

It was as if they were trying to survive for as long as they could and waiting for their reinforcements to arrive.

Thinking about it, Shin could not help but curse slightly. "Damn! There are more members of the Pandemonium Troupe stationed here."

As he came to a realization, it suddenly drew to him that this operation was a crucial part of the plot that the Pandemonium Descendants were scheming.

He then exchanged a few more blows with Asmodeus before creating more distance between them.

He then put the [Yamato] back to its sheath before initiating an Elemental Spirit Possession. "I guess I can't play with you guys that long. I can't afford to be surrounded by you people."

Swoosh!

Divine Flames suddenly gathered around Shin before fusing with his sheathed sword.

'Elemental Spirit Possession (Eternal Flame): Divine Constellation'

As Solus merged with the [Yamato], the surrounding temperature suddenly rose sharply, making these 'Lust Devils' sweat purposely due to the intense heat.

They felt that their skins were being scorched while their breathing was getting harder due to this environment.

This clearly showed how different the current Elemental Spirit Possession that Shin had after reaching the third tier of his class.

It could already affect the environment, which also affected his opponents greatly.

The spell that Lilith was preparing was also slightly affected by the sudden change in temperature. Her accumulation of mana slowed down while the formation of the magic circle was greatly hindered.

Asmodeus immediately sensed the immense threat coming from Shin the moment the [Yamato] completed its transformation.

Rapidly retreating away, Asmodeus gathered all the demonic powers in his body and prepared for the incoming attack.

In the meantime, Lilith did not dare to hold back either as she activated one of her 'Demonic Chants' that boosted her speed in casting a spell and enhanced her focus greatly.

From the sudden change that they had seen from Shin, they could tell that he had already caught up with their plan.

They did not expect him to figure them out this early. They were not holding back with their earlier advances, but they were indeed quite reserved in everything. It was because they were prioritizing their survivability rather than taking down Shin.

They might be proud experts, but they were not idiots. They completely understood the current gap between them and Shin, so they would not blindly challenge him with the thought of defeating him.

They planned to continue with this pace until their reinforcements arrived, but who would have thought that Shin would be able to see through their plan this early?

Not planning to have any reservations, the couple quickly activated their strongest berserk skills.

'Prince of Hell Skill (Demonic Executioner): Dark Synergy'

'Princess of Hell Skill (Demonic Tempress): Blinding Beauty'

At the same time, Shin suddenly charged at them. He left a blazing trail in his wake as he took the flight.

He then unsheathed the blazing [Yamato] during the charge and swung it forward, drawing a beautiful and majestic arc in the air while advancing.

Shing!

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

Swoosh!

Chapter 1286 The Greatest Variable

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Swoosh!

The blazing trail behind Shin formed a beautiful line in the air along with the dissipating embers that it had. The point where Shin previously stood and where he was right now were connected by this blazing trail, showing the spectators an amazing scene.

But Asmodeus and Lilith did not have the time to appreciate this scene as they were the target of the skill that Shin had used.

Lilith instantly canceled the advanced spell that she was trying to cast and instead summoned multiple layers of magic barrier to block the incoming attack while Asmodeus positioned himself in front of her and placed his sword horizontally in front of him.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The magic barriers did not last even for a second as they instantly collapsed in front of the blazing tip of Shin's sword. He then continued moving forward and reached Asmodeus immediately before their swords collided.

The tip of the [Yamato] pressed on the surface of Asmodeus' sword, creating sparks that flew in different directions as they ground against each other.

Shin slightly raised his brows as he was impressed with the timing that Asmodeus had. The latter perfectly timed his block and accurately read the trajectory of the incoming attack, making the surface of his sword properly block the tip of his opponent's sword.

Moreover, his stance was also very firm and steady, which made him withstand all the heavy force behind this attack.

Not waiting for the opposing side to properly hold his ground, Shin quickly retracted the [Yamato] while swinging his other hand which now holding a majestic greatsword. The surface of its blade was filled with engravings of magical runes which were releasing a thick and heavy flow of earthen and metallic energy.

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

'Elemental Spirit Possession (Metallic Earth): Summit Shaper'

Boom!

The surrounding ground felt like sinking as this greatsword appeared, especially when Astaroth fused with it.

The air, which was already too heavy to withstand due to the scorching heat and suffocating temperature, had become heavier.

Asmodeus had felt that his body was turning sluggish due to the sudden heaviness of the atmosphere. He also felt that the gravity within a certain radius around Shin had become stronger, which made it hard for him to do whatever he wanted.

Bang!

With a heavy step, Shin's foot sank into the ground and sent gravel and broken fragments of earth into the air.

Then he swung the greatsword with a force filled with heaviness of earth and toughness toward his opponent.

'Perfected Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon – Mountain Crusher'

It was the same move that he had used earlier, but executed differently and carried a much stronger force and denser elemental energy.

Swoosh!

Asmodeus' face suddenly turned ugly as he saw the descending greatsword. Not only did it carry an unstoppable force, but it also exerted a heavy pressure that was pressing on him during its descent. This pressure prevented him from moving his feet.

Adding the sudden increase of gravity, trying to retreat would be close to impossible!

Fortunately, he was not alone. Lilith was already preparing her spell at that moment and ready to unleash them. But when she saw Asmodeus unable to move his feet and realized that it was already too late to cast a protective spell to save, she redirected her target and hit her partner instead.

She skillfully controlled the power of her spell and greatly weakened it before firing it to the land beside Asmodeus, blasting him away in the process.

Bang!

It was because of this action that she was able to save her partner from being cleaved in halves by Shin's strike.

Boom!

An explosion quickly erupted right after the greatsword landed on the ground, sending shockwaves in every direction, and splitting the earth with a deep fissure.

A cloud of dust quickly swallowed Shin due to the strong impact, which also hid him from the side of his opponent.

Lilith suddenly had a bad premonition when she saw that spread cloud of dust, so she quickly waved her scepter and teleported away from her current location.

Puff!

But right after she appeared in her new location, she heard a soft puffing sound coming from the cloud of dust. When she raised her head to look over, she saw a huge hole in the middle of it along with the flashing silhouette that was heading toward her direction.

Looking closer, she saw an exquisite rapier that magically appeared on Shin's hand, swapping with the majestic sword that he was holding earlier.

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

'Elemental Spirit Possession (Blood): Blood Thirster'

Shin did not have any energy control regarding the blood elemental mana, but this form of the sword was perfect for the 'Conviction Form', so he rather used this possession to have a proper boost in stats when using a rapier.

Moreover, this did not mean that he could not use his other energy application and breathing technique along with it. He could just combine them and produce a better result.

Shin could not do this before since his body could not withstand the reaction the two different powers would cause after fusing. They were different from the powers of the Brilliant Sun and Abyssal Moon since he had the Yin-Yang Breathing Technique for them.

But it was different now. With the stats that the Tier 3 Class provided him, he now had a suitable vessel to withstand this kind of energy manipulation.

Swoosh!

The rapier was suddenly lit ablaze as he used the Solar Breathing Technique, controlling the fire elemental mana in the surroundings and fusing it with it. Then he stabbed the rapier forward right before Lilith's foot touched the ground.

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

Swoosh!

The pupils of Lilith contracted as she stared at the rapidly magnifying tip of the sword right in front of his eyes while it was heading straight to the middle of her brows.

Whoosh!

But before the rapier could even reach her, Asmodeus suddenly arrived and swung his sword upwards, redirecting the course of the stabbing rapier.

Clang!

Puchi!

It was able to graze the forehead of Lilith, but it did not deal that much damage as she avoided the fatal strike.

Ta-ta!

Without further ado, she quickly used another teleportation spell to disappear from this spot and reappear in a different location.

In the meantime, Asmodeus released a demonic flame that enfolded his entire being along with his sword while planning to exchange blows with Shin.

Shin welcomed the gesture and flipped the rapier in his left hand transforming it into an ordinary-looking longsword.

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

Then Astaroth suddenly fused with it, transforming its appearance into a smaller version of the greatsword that he was holding earlier.

It was a similar Elemental Spirit Possession but with a version that used the longsword as the main medium. It was a version where the dominant force was the Mental Element instead of Earth.

'Elemental Spirit Possession (Earthen Metal): Summit Shaper'

With the [Yamato] on his right and the [Summit Shaper] on his left hand, Shin executed a series of slashes that instantly filled his opponent's vision.

'Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship: Infinity Edge'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Inspired by the previous combat techniques that he had created along with the real version of it from the 'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship', Shin had recreated this sword technique and integrated it with his new system.

And since he already had the experience of creating a personal combat technique within the game, creating a new one was not much of a problem, much less using his previous technique as its main model and incorporating it with his new swordsmanship.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

The metal flashes and blazing trails produced by his series of attacks quickly overwhelmed Asmodeus despite his absolute utilization of his best combat techniques and sword skills within the game.

He was forced to constantly retreat while exchanging blows with Shin. It was clear that he was losing his footing as the battle continued. It would only take a few more exchanges before he lost.

Fortunately, Lilith had his back. Whenever he was about to lose his footing or about to get killed by a final strike from Shin. She was able to save her partner at the most crucial moment by suppressing Shin with her spells.

With her assistance, Asmodeus was starting to regain his footing and was able to get back to his rhythm.

Even if Shin tried to target Lilith first, Asmodeus would always appear at the right moment, saving her in time.

Even if Shin tried to shake Asmodeus off, Lilith had enough combat prowess to exchange a couple of blows against him in a melee battle. Moreover, Asmodeus also had a couple of range spells that he could throw in a distance, which was also perfectly timed that Shin had to drop the idea of chasing after Lilith and block them instead.

With this battle, Shin had a rough idea of how these two fought. One of them acted as a supporting character whenever one was trapped in a difficult predicament while the other had enough strength to either hold their opponent or stick to them when needed.

With all of these, the battle was forced into a deadlock once again.

Shin did not expect that these two would give him this much trouble when they fought together. He must admit that he had underestimated them greatly, but that did not mean that the two could relax either since they were starting to feel the pressure from Shin as the battle progressed.

It might be their imagination, but they felt that Shin's fighting style was gradually getting stronger and becoming more polished, which was giving them more pressure as time went by.

Little did they know that they were right. Shin was indeed polishing his fighting style and swordsmanship, which made him forget his initial plan of finishing this battle as soon as possible.

He did not have the time to try this battle style, where he was constantly using Mondi's Style and different breathing techniques along with his Elemental Spirit Possession, during his Class Promotion Quest.

It was because it was forbidden to rely on his Elemental Spirits during that time.

He only had the thoughts and theories inside his head but did not have the time to put them into practice.

Now that he had gotten the chance to use them in actual combat, Shin could not help but feel a little addicted. He wanted to thoroughly polish them and further perfect his self-created swordsmanship, the Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship.

He was starting to enjoy the process and got engrossed in this battle.

And as he grew stronger, Asmodeus and Lilith started to see what kind of monster this person was.

That time when Mammon was fighting Shin, he once said that Shin was a 'monster close to perfection'.

This pair might not know what Mammon had said during that time, but he could feel the same feeling that he had at that very moment.

"A monster close to perfection," mumbled the two at the same time while also picturing a certain person that their leader once described.

They knew that 'he' was not Shin, but they could not help themselves but compare him to 'that' person.

"We can't let him progress more!"

"We have to hinder him as much as possible!"

Thought the couple after exchanging glances with each other. They fully understood that Shin would become the greatest variable that would hinder the great plan of their leader, they had to take him down at least once and continuously hunt him until he could no longer get back up on his feet.

The problem was that Shin was already strong enough to protect himself against any of the members of the Pandemonium Troupe.

That was unless the top five leaders made their move personally.

They just hoped that those leaders would immediately realize how much of a threat Shin was to them and their entire organization.

Chapter 1287 Friends and Foes

.....

Bang! Bang!

Boom!

A few distances away from the battle, Samael and Huahua were staring blankly at the ongoing battle between Shin and the Lust Devils of the Pandemonium Troupe.

They knew that Shin was strong, but to think that his strength already reached this level. Samael could not help but become dumbfounded at this scene. He could already consider himself an expert, but to think that the gap between him and the top gods of the game was this huge was somewhat encouraging and demoralizing at the same time.

He wanted to be that strong too and fought against someone equally strong or even stronger. He wanted to grow as strong as these experts and stand at the peak of the game.

The fire within his heart started to ignite and grew stronger as he watched the battle progress. There seemed to be an urge that wanted him to join the battle and showcase his strength.

Unfortunately, he knew himself very well. He knew his limits and understood that he would not be able to help Shin in this battle. He would be a hindrance himself, so he could only stand at the sideline and watch the battle while clenching his fists.

"Someday! I will be fighting alongside him someday! I promise myself with it!"

Beside him, Huahua, his younger sister, was staring blankly at the scene. She could not believe that the game could also be played this way. She even started to doubt that they were playing the same game.

What Shin was showing them was beyond what she had learned about the game up until now. She had already worshiped his brother for his skills, but this level of gameplay was beyond anyone's imagination.

She had also watched quite a few battles between top experts of the virtual world online, and all of them were amazing in their own right. Her amazement reached another level when she witnessed what a real clash between these experts firsthand.

Her eyes twinkled brightly as she stared at Shin's silhouette that kept on flashing and dashing around the battlefield while fighting Asmodeus and Lilith. She was doing her best to keep up with the flow of the battle while subconsciously putting her hands together.

"He is so handsome!"

She was immediately converted into a devoted fan when saw watched Shin maneuver his body to dodge the spells that his opponents were sending him before engaging in a melee battle.

His sword-drawing techniques looked cool, making him more handsome in her eyes, while changing the forms of his left-hand sword was way cooler, making him more dashing.

She then said to her brother without taking her eyes away from the battle. "Big Brother! Didn't you say that he is part of an adventurer team? Can we join them? Can we play and do adventures with them?"

Samael gave her a sidelong glance before feeling a little uncomfortable. He was a fan of Shin and the rest of the Empyrean Talons too, but he could not help but feel a little strange when he saw his little sister look at Shin with that worshiping and fanatic gaze.

He used to be his little sister's only idol. But now, it seemed like he was going to be far behind the real experts.

Regardless, the idea of joining Shin and the rest of their team was quite an allure to him. He also wanted to join them and experience what it felt like playing with the top gods of the game.

Unfortunately, that decision was not for them to decide.

Shaking his head, Samael suddenly said. "I don't think that will be possible. They did not need us at all. Their team is already balanced enough and doesn't lack anything else."

"Moreover, the level of each member and their respective strength are way beyond ours, so don't get your hopes that high since it is most likely not going to happen."

Brutally crushing her fantasy that fast, Huahua glared at her older brother and snarled. "You are the useless one! I've just visited their page and see that they don't have any shaman in their team."

"The buffs that my totems can provide and the debuffs that I can cast to our opponents can be helpful too! My ghost summons can also cast a debuff of their own, especially when I've gotten my hands on a Banshee!"

"What about you? What can you provide them that they do not have? None! Whatever you have, their priest and knight can do it too! If we are talking about our chances of getting accepted, then you are most likely to be the one to be rejected!" she added in a provoking tone, waking up Samael in reality.

Now that he thought about it, what his younger sister had said was true. He could not provide the team with anything that they did not have, yet her kit was everything that the Empyrean Talons lacked!

It was a wake-up call!

"Wait! Why am I thinking about this? It is not like I am going to join them either," he mumbled when he realized this.

But when he turned back to Huahua, he saw that she was seriously reviewing the fan page of the Empyrean Talons while casting her gaze back in the ongoing battle from time to time.

"She is seriously considering joining them!" Samael felt a little betrayed by his younger sister.

To think that she would abandon him just like that just to follow her idol.

Where was the justice here? Where was the justice for the big brothers who raised their younger sister by himself?

Samael sighed helplessly while shaking his head repeatedly. All he could do right now was to support this adorable sister with what she wanted.

He was about to turn his attention back to the ongoing battle that was close to its end when he suddenly sensed something.

Casting his gaze toward the direction where felt it coming from, he squinted his eyes and focused his senses.

It was at that moment that he felt an overwhelming presence rapidly approaching them. He could also feel that the owners of those auras were much stronger than the two who were currently fighting Shin.

"This is bad!" Samael immediately panicked when he realized the target of the incoming auras was most likely be Shin given the aggressiveness and killing intent that they were emitting.

Unfortunately, he was already too late to make his move as the two newcomers already arrived before he knew it.

...

Shin was currently in the middle of an intense battle against Asmodeus and Lilith and about to finish one of them off when he sensed a dense killing intent directed at him.

Before his sword could cut Asmodeus down, a sharp sensation suddenly appeared right beside his face, seemingly threatening to pierce him if he dared to continue with his strike.

"Tsk!"

Clicking his tongue, he quickly retracted the [Yamato] before swinging the [Longsword Summit Shaper] toward the assailant that ambushed him.

Clang!

Sparks flew in the air as the two swords collided.

Shin did not even bother to look at that assailant as he quickly retreated and appeared in front of Samael and Huahua, protecting them.

"Tsk! I guess I played a little too much," he mumbled as he realized that the reinforcements of the two finally arrived.

Casting his gaze in front, he saw two new faces.

One of them was the guy who attacked him. He was a fierce-looking person with a square face and thick brows.

This person was constantly wearing a deep frown that made him look much fiercer. There was also a vertical sword scar at the corner of his left brow which continued down to his chin.

His crimson eyes were so deep that they felt like a crimson abyss. They were sharp and full of rage, which also gave anyone a feeling that they were on constant watch of a savage beast.

There was also a pair of thick horns on his head, which were slightly hidden by his brown hair. This indicated that he was a demonic player just like Asmodeus and Lilith. But unlike previous demonic players that Shin had encountered, this guy seemed to be a 'real demon' or a 'true demon' in comparison.

He was donning a set of light armor that was constantly emitting a black miasma, indicating that it contained a considerable amount of demonic mana. On his right hand was a long sword that was covered with raging flames that seemed to come straight from hell.

Looking at this basic profile, Shin instantly recognized this person after comparing them to the information that Zero had provided to the secret expert channel.

"'Wrath Devil' Amon," he mumbled as the expression on his face became more serious.

Based on the information that they had gotten; this guy was one of the leaders and top experts of the Pandemonium Descendants and a stronger member of the Pandemonium Troupe.

"Looks like we are in serious trouble," he mumbled with a slight frown but still wearing a calm demeanor.

He then turned his attention to the other person that came with this troublesome expert.

It was a person with long crimson hair. He had a pair of black horns on his head, which were curving upwards and resembling goat horns.

The fierceness of his crimson eyes did not lose to the Amon, who was standing beside him, but they also carried a hit of savagery and craziness. If not for that expression, then he would pass as a handsome man, especially with that sharp jawline.

He seemed to be itching to fight but was still somewhat able to hold his urge back due to the presence of Amon.

This person did not wield any weapon. Aside from the set of armor that he was wearing, he was not carrying anything.

But based on his hands which were covered with thick and smooth black scales, Shin got a rough idea of what kind of class this person had. However, he could not be that sure either since he could tell that these guys from the Pandemonium Troupe had a unique fighting style and strange classes.

What made Shin frown even deeper was the fact that he had no idea who this person was. He was not in the database that Zero had provided for the members of the Righteous Churches and Light Faction.

But based on what he could see, this person was slightly stronger than Asmodeus and Lilith together. He might even be as strong as Amon based on aura alone.

Shin slightly frowned as he looked at the four enemies in front of him. But despite that being the case, he remained calm as he was pretty much confident with the current strength that he had.

Moreover, he knew that he was also not alone.

And right on cue, they arrived!

"Oh! Do we arrive late?" said Owen as he appeared from the other side carrying his round shield and unsheathing his sword.

Ithilien was walking beside him with her huge bow hanging on her back and a quiver full of arrows behind her waist. "We have yet to miss the most exciting part, haven't we?"

There was also a girl walking with them. She had a deadly and seductive figure. That voluptuous chest along with hourglass body could already remind Shin of a certain person. Even the military suit that she was wearing, which was specially made for the soldier class or any gunner-related class of the Human Race, could not hide her alluring figure.

Her hair was tied into a bun so that they could not hinder her.

She was wearing a respirator mask on the lower half of her face, but Shin could already guess her identity, especially when he saw the rifle that was resting over her shoulders.

That was Lorraine without a doubt. The girl that was head over heels for Leonard.

"So, she went for the Gunslinger Class, huh?" commented Shin as he saw her in a tactical suit and carrying a sniper rifle and a pair of pistols holstered on each side of her waist.

It was just a regular class, but it suited her perfectly, especially when she was an expert of guns herself in the real despite her young age.

It was to be expected for the heiress of the Goldstein Family, a family of gunsmiths and gun experts.

Lorraine waved at Shin with her free hand as a greeting.

These three were the only ones to arrive, but Shin believed that they were more than enough, especially when he could feel the changes in Owen and Ithilien.

Moreover, there was also Samael and Huahua to help them.

Shin gave the pair of siblings a sidelong glance before turning his attention to Amon. In his opinion, this guy was the greatest threat that they had, so he had to face him himself.

But he suddenly noticed Asmodeus giving them a mocking smile, which bothered him a little.

It was at that moment that he noticed a large number of auras from every direction. Turning his head around and sweeping his gaze in the surroundings, he suddenly noticed that they had been surrounded by their knowledge.

He then directed his gaze at Amon and the mysterious expert who was accompanying him. He immediately realized that these two were purposely releasing their auras to the fullest earlier so that they could hide the presence of the others who were coming along with them.

If it was any other occasion, then he would not be worried since he was confident that with Lorraine's assistance, Samael and Huahua would be able to handle this many Sweepers.

Given her background as the Commander of her own Adventurer Team, her strength should be something that cannot be ignored. She was without a doubt an expert in her own right.

As for Asmodeus and Lilith, he believed that Owen and Ithilien were more than enough to deal with them. Moreover, those two were already close to exhaustion due to their previous battle against Shin.

The problem was either Amon or the mysterious expert would be free to do whatever they wanted. He could only keep one of them busy at most, and more than that would be risking himself.

That was when Shin suddenly turned his gaze at space a few distance away. It was the same for Amon and Mephisto as their face suddenly grew solemn.

The others were slightly slow to react as they could already see someone 'materializing' out of thin air.

Seeing the familiar face, Shin could not help but ask. "So, which side are you on this time?"

"The same as before. I am against them," Diablo, who suddenly appeared out of nowhere, glanced at him before turning his attention to Amon. "And I have a few words that I want to discuss with this old friend."

He indirectly said that he would be working with Shin and the rest, but also informed him that he was still not on their side.

Shin smiled slightly while saying. "That is more than enough for me."

Diablo hesitated for a moment before warning Shin about Mephisto with full seriousness. "You can't underestimate that guy. He is Mephistopheles, someone that even 'Pride', their leader can't fully control when unleashed."

Shin gave him a skeptical look. "You don't have to tell me about that since I can also clearly see it."

"But thanks for the heads up nevertheless," he added before fixing his grip over his swords and looking straight into Mephisto's eyes.

"I just finished my warmup. He just came at the right time."

Chapter 1288 Clash!

...

Lorraine hopped beside Shin and said. "To think that you will be at the center of trouble right after you arrive. I wonder how Cloe can handle you all this time."

"Then there are those idiots – Arthur and Leonard. I can't imagine how she is holding out," she added before finally voicing out her real motive. "How about I transfer to your team and help her out? I'll make sure that she will be doing fine. After all, I am quite experienced in being a Commander of an Adventurer Team."

Shin gave her a bitter smile while shaking his head. "Don't bother. You deal with your side first and we will talk again about this later."

Lorraine pouted her lips and glared at him. "Hmph! How dare you guys leave me behind? Aren't we friends forever? How can you create your adventurer team without me?"

At this moment, Shin glanced at her with his 'True Sight' Skill and read through her basic information.

Player Name: Nala

Race: Human

Class: Gunslinger (Tier 2)

Secondary Profession: Gunsmith (Master Rank)

Level: 150 (MAX)

Affiliation:

Adventurer Team: Secret Society

Guild: None

Player Classification: Official Ranker

Ranker's Title: Magician of the Black Smoke

Cough! Cough!

Shin could not help but choke with some air as he saw her IGN (in-game name). He pretty much ignored the rest of the information as he focused on it before giving her a skeptical look. "For real?"

"You seriously named yourself based on Leo's ID? D*mn! You are down bad!" he commented while shaking his head and repeatedly mumbling. "I can't even tell whether it is love or she is just obsessed with him."

Lorraine glared at him sharply as if telling him that he had gone too far.

"Forget about it. We have a more pressing matter in our hands," Shin then ignored her glare and pointed at Samael and Huahua. "Take care of these two and deal with those small fries for the time being."

Hearing that, Lorraine could not help but frown deeply before complaining. "Aren't you underestimating me a little too much? Leaving such small fries for someone like me? Do you even know how much my pay grade is and what kind of commissions I accept?"

Shin shook his head and waved his hand. "Just deal with it for now. If you have brought your people with you here, then you may even have a chance to play with the stronger ones."

"Tsk! Do you think that I am not thinking about that? But we can't leave the 'main base' unprotected, can we?" she pouted her lips further and added. "I have to station them there to prevent any accidents from happening."

"Then I leave the rest to you," said Shin before turning to Owen and Ithilien and pointing at Asmodeus and Lilith. "As for you two, that pair is all yours. I've played a little with them earlier. They are by no means weak, so be extra careful when facing them."

Receiving the instructions from Shin, the pair, Owen and Ithilien nodded their heads while wearing solemn looks on their faces.

...

On the other side, Amon, who assumed the leading position in their ranks, did not immediately give out his orders and led the opposing side to make their arrangements.

Instead, his gaze fixed on Diablo, who just appeared out of nowhere. The raging flames within his eyes further strengthened the fierceness that he had as he stared at the old friend that he had.

And as if they had agreed to it, both Amon and Shin signaled their sides to make their move.

Bang! Bang!

The first to make the move was Lorraine, who swapped her sniper rifle with a pair of magic pistols. She aimed it at the Sweepers that were trying to charge at them from behind and shot them one after another.

The magic bullets that came out from the muzzles of her pistols accurately hit the heads of the incoming Sweepers, not giving them any time to react.

One by one, the Sweepers fell to the ground, making their colleagues halt their advances instantly. They now learned that they could not afford to underestimate these opponents in front of them.

But their actions did not stop the gunshots from Lorraine. She kept on firing at them and taking down a target with each bullet in the head.

Seeing that, the Sweepers finally understood that this gunslinger was not someone to be trifled with. They quickly jumped to the side and hid themselves behind the surrounding trees while the rest used their movement skills to charge ahead fearlessly.

With the incoming opponents, Lorraine leaned to her side and said to Huahua. "Stay by my side, little sister. This big sister will protect you."

"But can you start summoning your friends and help me a little?" she added as she put back the respirator mask to cover her mouth.

Hearing those words, Huahua finally snapped out of her daze. She inhaled deeply to calm herself. She was surprised at the sudden arrival of the strong people, which was immediately followed by the appearance of the enemies that surrounded them from all sides.

She was not used to this kind of situation, so she was greatly in shock and panic. But after sweeping her gaze at the others around her, and seeing the calmness that they had, she could not help but become affected by them.

Nodding her head, she started summoning her totems one after another while also calling out her Spirit Wolf. "Come out, Silly!"

When she was done summoning the giant spirit wolf, her face immediately turned red like a ripe tomato due to embarrassment. She could not help to knock her head for giving such a huge and fearsome wolf such a name.

Regardless, she continued to summon the ghost gates that summoned her ghost soldiers, which also started to charge in every direction.

It was clear that she did not know how to properly control her summons just by looking at those ghost soldiers running in random directions and did not have any kind of battle formation.

Lorraine felt a little speechless when she saw that before turning to Huahua. But when she saw the little shaman panicking a little due to the overwhelming number of her summoned ghosts, Lorraine could not help but giggle due to how cute this girl was.

She was about to give an order to Samael when she saw him running in a certain direction that was not covered by the ghost soldiers of his sister. It was also at that moment when she saw Silly, the giant spirit wolf charged toward the opposition direction.

The ghost soldiers might be attacking randomly, but these two were covering the two big holes in their defense, which immediately nullified most of the dangers that Huahua might face.

But since Lorraine was on Little Shaman's side, her safety was pretty much assured.

It was at that moment when Lorraine realized that these two might not be as simple as they seemed, especially when she saw that the buffs that the totems had given them were quite strong.

"Well, they are discovered by Shin after all. His eyes have never been wrong when it comes to finding talented people," she mumbled before raising her pistol to the side and pulling the trigger without looking.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Three shots were fired which was immediately followed by three dead bodies that fell on the ground.

...

On the other side, Owen and Ithilien had made their moves.

Owen charged straight to Asmodeus fearlessly, not caring about the hidden Sweepers that tried to sneak behind him.

It was because those Sweepers were shot down by Ithilien's arrows one after another before they could even reach him. This made Owen focus on the opponent in front of him and not care about anything else.

Asmodeus felt a little insulted when he saw this lowly 'subordinate' of Shin charging at him. The rage that he had in his heart was already burning fiercely, so he quickly charged forward and met Owen head-on.

Raising his sword in the air, he suddenly stomped forward and swung the sword down with all he had and exerted all the mana from his reserve.

Swoosh!

The air-splitting sound could be heard as he swung the sword down it released a raging flow of mana and drew a violent arc in the air, tracing its trajectory.

Bang!

Owen immediately sensed the powerful attack crushing down at him. In response, he stomped on the ground and raised his shield over him while channeling his mana in it while also planting his feet firmly onto the ground.

Boom!

The defeating explosion immediately erupted as the two sides clashed.

Asmodeus took a couple of steps back due to the impact, trying to regain his footing while firmly gripping onto his sword that got rebounded by the powerful collision.

Owen, on the other hand, felt like his body was shaking violently due to the heavy force that crushed him. Fortunately, he was able to transfer most of it toward the ground as he tried to shake off the tremors within his body.

The two were about to resume facing each other when their expression suddenly changed.

Asmodeus sensed the raining arrows falling at him from the sky and pouring like droplets of rain while Owen found himself in the middle of shadowy flames that were swarming at him at an insane speed.

Ithilien and Lilith had taken action!

But instead of supporting their respective partners, they decided to attack the two melee combatants and put all their trust in them.

"Tsk!"

"Sh*t!"

The two boys cursed under their breath and quickly responded.

Asmodeus held his sword horizontally before moving it in a very slow yet steady manner. His sword left a series of afterimages behind as he moved it before swinging it to block the falling arrows.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

He seemingly moved in a very slow manner, but he was able to block all the incoming arrows that were directed at him, not missing one despite how fast they were falling at him.

In the meantime, Owen gritted his teeth as he stood straight and raised his shield in the air. He gathered surrounding mana before slamming the shield on the ground and sending a powerful shockwave that spread in every direction.

Boom!

The shockwave warded off the swarming flames and weakened their momentum greatly. There were still a few tongues of flames that managed to get past the shockwave, but their power was already negligible enough to treat them as a threat.

Owen just walked through them before charging straight to Asmodeus.

The latter, who just repelled the raining arrows, quickly noticed the incoming opponent and redirected his gaze.

Without further ado, he charged ahead and met Owen, which resulted in them engaging in an intense melee.

From time to time, Ithilien and Lilith would provide some assistance to the two while also sending some attacks on each other, harassing the opposing side.

With all those people making their respective moves, the whole place immediately turned into a chaotic battlefield. But despite that being the four strongest people present still refused to act.

They strangely stood still and stared at each other. It was as if they were in an intense staredown competition.

They seemed to be calm on the surface, but their auras were already clashing against each other, creating a heavy and suffocating atmosphere around them.

Some quiet explosions could be heard due to the collision of auras from each side.

Mephistopheles was already itching to fight since he arrived. But for some unknown reason, something seemed to be preventing him from acting up until now. He was not sure what it was, but he knew that it had something to do with this opponent of his.

This might be one of those rare times when he felt some hesitation when facing someone. This could only mean that this current opponent was much stronger than he had expected.

But instead of being dejected, he had become more excited as he finally had the time to go all-out once again.

"Battle God Sickarius! I hope that you can show me the thrill of battle that I am looking for!"

Chapter 1289 Mephistopheles, the Secret Weapon of the Pandemonium

...

After the staredown, Mephisto suddenly leaped into the air and started rushing toward a certain direction. He seemed to want Shin to follow him where they could fight to their heart's content, and no one could disturb them.

Shin did not mind. He glanced at his friends before turning to Diablo for a moment. He then disappeared from his current location and appeared a few meters away from Mephisto, who was running ahead of him. He would entrust this place to the others while he dealt with this guy.

Amon finally opened his mouth. "It has been a while, Diablo."

Diablo smirked at those words. "Don't act like you missed me or something, Amon. We both know how much we want to get rid of each other."

Amon shook his head and smiled bitterly. "If not for you betraying the leader and the organization, then we will never be in this situation."

Hearing that, Diablo could not help but feel skeptical and said. "It is not me betraying you guys. It is everyone betraying me and my expectations."

"The current Pandemonium Descendants is completely different from what it used to be. The organization started chasing profits and that twisted ambition while the Pandemonium Troupe turned into a weapon that slaughtered everyone," he added with a bitter tone.

Amon shrugged his shoulders. "Isn't that how everything should be? If you don't have any ambitions, then what are you even doing? And what is the use of the strong force if it is not for slaughtering your enemies."

Diablo shook his head and refused to comment. He would not argue with this guy since there was no point in it. Both knew each other very well, and they understood that neither of them would be convinced with one another.

He stood on his spot silently and waited for Amon to make his move. But to his surprise, the 'Wrath Devil' of the Troupe seemed to be able to hold his rage and remained calm despite that ugly look on his face, which was still full of rage.

"Not making your move? Isn't the reason why you are here because you are expecting me to appear in this place?" said Diablo.

Amon tilted his head to the side before admitting it. "Well, that is for sure. Since you understand us very well, I know for sure that you will be able to predict our move of targeting the very variable that will be the greatest hindrance on our path."

He then paused for a moment before continuing. "Even though I want to crush you right here and now, I can't let it blind my judgment."

"I have to prioritize my mission before anything else," he added while suppressing the burning rage within him. "My job is to keep you here while Mephisto deals with the target."

Diablo raised his brows, slightly surprised. Then he suddenly started grinning s he said with a provoking tone. "What? It seems like you have changed. Is it because of what happened during that time?"

"Now that I think about it, you have suffered quite a lot during that time. It was a pretty devastating loss."

The corner of Amon's mouth suddenly twitched uncomfortably when he heard that. He remembered clearly how one of their most important and biggest operations crumbled because of this very person.

He tried his best to suppress his anger while glaring fiercely at Diablo.

Diablo smirked as he added. "But are you sure that Mephisto will be enough? That guy is not simple as think he is."

"I am sure that even 'Pride' put more importance on this guy. I bet that even he will be wary when facing this particular target."

Amon paused for a moment as he could not refute those words immediately. He knew very well that Shin was not an easy target. Even he, himself, was not confident in taking that guy down, especially now that Shin had achieved the third tier of his class.

But after thinking about Mephistopheles and the special class that he had, Amon shook his head and said. "I may not be able to take on that guy right now, but you should know better than anyone what kind of person Mephisto is."

"Especially with that unreasonable class that he has," he added, emphasizing how troublesome Mephistopheles was.

Diablo raised his brows for a moment and pursed his lips a little before nodding his head. "That is for sure. That is why I find it a pity not to watch their fight."

...

In the meantime, Mephistopheles finally stopped as he found a spot that he was very satisfied with. He briefly nodded his head and mumbled. "This should be perfect."

He then turned around and said. "I thought that you would chicken out and not follow me."

Shin refused to reply and kept silent. He observed the opposing party and tried to gauge the latter's strength.

For some reason, he was getting an uncomfortable feeling from the other party. Even his instincts were telling him not to let his guard down.

It was at that moment when he heard Solus' voice inside his head. "You must be careful of this man, my liege. He is not some an ordinary demon."

Hanzo's voice immediately followed. "I feel the power of evil spirits within him."

Grimrace's growling voice suddenly followed. "He has an aura similar to mine."

"Hmm... his scent is the same as Clown," said Blackie, which Whitie seconded.

"An abomination?" mumbled Shin in shock as he digested their words.

But it was immediately rejected by Vladimir, who corrected it. "Similar yet different."

"He consumed our kind," Astaroth joined in with the words shocked Shin even more.

The other elemental spirits seemed to have agreed with his words. The more they stared at Mephistopheles, the more convinced they became.

Shin, on the other hand, wore a solemn expression on his face. Now, he had to be extra cautious, especially with the heavy tone that his 'Reapers' had.

He then asked with a serious tone. "What does it mean?"

"If he eats your kind, what kind of power does he have?" he added with a heavier tone.

Grimrace thought for a moment before answering. "We may be similar, but there are still some distinct differences between us."

"I consume the other elementals and the rebirthing place before because I have to sustain myself and keep on living. But this demon seems to treat us as food that he regularly consumes."

"I also consume others to strengthen my powers, but he seems to devour others for their powers," he added with a little uncertainty.

It was at that moment when Hanzo nodded. "About right."

Shin's expression became darker when he heard that and asked. "So, are you telling me that we consume the elemental spirits to get their powers?"

"It seems like it," affirmed Hanzo.

"Then how many elementals does he consume thus far?" asked Shin.

"At least five," answered Solus instantly.

"Does that mean he has five unique abilities from different elemental spirits?" Shin continued to ask as his expression grew more solemn.

Hanzo and Solus nodded as they confirmed his thoughts.

When Shin heard their confirmation, he became more and more cautious as he suddenly felt an unexplainable pressure coming from Mephisto. He now started to understand why he was feeling a dangerous threat coming from the latter.

"Just what kind of class does he have?" he mumbled.

As if hearing those words, Mephistopheles suddenly said. "Are you done talking with those spirit friends of yours? Are you curious about what kind of class I have and which race I belong to?"

"I can tell you the answers so long as you give me a satisfying battle," he added as his face immediately showed his excitement for battle.

Solus then suddenly said. "If I am not wrong, he must have inherited the legacy of an Ancient Demon God. Moreover, he must also have visited the underworld or devildom at least once to gain such powers."

"Now that I think about it. During the Repelling Era, the heroes with transcendent races encountered a certain demon calling himself one of the 'Original Sins'. At that time, that demon has eaten a very powerful abomination in the war, which has given him the powers to devour our kind," said Hanzo, chiming in.

He paused for a moment before continuing. "If I am not wrong, that demon must be from the direct line of that Ancient Demon God."

"And from what I can see, this demon and that descendant must have become one," he added as he squinted his eyes while observing Mephistopheles.

Mephisto seemed to have heard that conversation once again and chuckled. "I must admit that these friends of yours are quite knowledgeable. They may be from that distant era."

He then licked his lips as he continued. "I wonder how they taste and what kind of powers can they give me."

"Should we start already?" he added as the expression on his face was suddenly washed by much impatience.

Shin knitted his brows deeply before mumbling. "Solar Reaper."

Swoosh!

Right after those words left his mouth, Solus, who was staring at Mephistopheles with an unfriendly gaze while in she was in the form of a speck of light, broke free from the others before manifesting behind Shin in her humanoid form.

Seeing her, Mephistopheles' eyes shone with greed as he had gotten the urge of wanting to get her.

Solus glared at him briefly as she turned into a light that fused with the [Yamato], changing its appearance into a more exquisite and special sword.

Boom!

The surrounding air immediately erupted with a powerful explosion that caused a sharp increase in temperature. The surroundings seemed to have become bright red as specks of blazing embers rose from the ground.

Seeing the sudden change in atmosphere, Mephisto suddenly grinned from ear to ear. "Fire! What a coincidence! I happen to have a similar power!"

With that, his crimson air suddenly floated and danced with the hot wind before a pair of blazing wings appeared behind him.

His crimson eyes radiated with a blazing glow as he stared at Shin full of excitement.

"Let's do this!" he shouted as a blazing sword manifested in his hand and disappeared from his current position.

Swoosh!

Shin did the same. He stomped his foot onto the ground and kicked it to propel himself forward.

He suddenly disappeared just like Mephisto before reappearing once again when they were only about two meters away from each other.

Mephisto halted his charge as he swung his sword made of raging fire down, which carried a strong and heavy force that seemed to be crushing the whole world. His swing was like a meteor that was charging straight to the earth, carrying its unstoppable momentum.

'Devil's Advocate Skill: (Reinforced) Blazing Judgement'

Swoosh!

Shin ducked forward as he unsheathed the blazing [Yamato] and swung it horizontally.

Shing!

The tip of the sword drew a beautiful arc in the air, which was suddenly ignited by the holy fire.

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

Swoosh!

Bang!

The explosion that was produced by the collision of the swords caused the surrounding air to be ignited and created a storm of fire that revolved around them.

The firestorm formed a spinning tornado around the two while treating them as the center.

Blazing embers flew in the air and surrounded the two as they stared at each other's eyes and maintained the ending posture of their previous moments.

There was a brief pause before both suddenly retracted their arms and adjusted their stances before swinging their swords at each other.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

Their arms turned into blurs as blazing sword flashes filled their surroundings.

The blazing sparks and flame embers continued to increase as their swords repeatedly collided with one another and created a series of explosions.

Some of the residual energies from their strikes were sent flying in a random direction, causing the land, trees, and vegetation in the place to get caught in an explosion. The flames that it had spread and burned the surrounding area, turning the whole place into an inferno.

The two paused for a brief moment as they caught their breaths before stomping onto the ground and executing another advanced technique.

Mephisto inhaled deeply as he summoned the power of the fire spirit that he had consumed and channeled it into his sword while swinging.

'Class Fighting Style: Burning Heaven'

The raging flames surrounding his sword became even more violent as he swung the sword horizontally. The blazing sword seemed to have devoured the surrounding flames, making its blade grow larger while approaching its target.

Swoosh!

Shin let go of the sheath with his left hand and let it hang on his waist before holding the [Yamato] with both of his hands and raising it over his head.

He took a deep breath and circulated the mana within his body according to the 'Solar Breathing Technique', increasing their pace and strengthening their flow.

A violent flame enfolded his entire being before flowing toward his sword.

Shriek!

A phoenix seemed to have formed behind him as he swung the sword down, drawing a vertical stroke in front of him.

'Perfected Four Symbol Scripture: Celestial Vermillion Bird – Pheonix Purgatory'

Swoosh!

BOOM!

Chapter 1290 Mephistopheles, the Secret Weapon of the Pandemonium (Part 2)

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BOOM!

The clash between Shin and Mephisto produced yet another explosion that made the already raging flames of the surroundings become even more violent.

The trees, plants, and other vegetation were scorched black by these flames, turning them into ashes. The whole place seemed to have become an inferno in the physical realm where the raging flames burn violently.

Puff!

Shin flew out of the blazing cloud of flame and dust as a raging fire tried to burn him. He stopped a few distance away before shaking the [Yamato] in [Divine Constellation Possession] which devoured the flames on his body.

He squinted his eyes as he glared at the cloud of flame and dust in the distance and activated his 'True Sight' skill to see through it.

From the earlier exchange, he sensed something odd from Mephisto. It was a familiar feeling yet also somewhat different at the same time.

The earlier exchanges had given him a rough idea of his opponent's strength, and he felt that Mephisto's overall stats did not lose to anyone with a Tier 3 Class, which was rather surprising. He was not sure what it was, but he suspected that it was most likely due to the current state that the latter had.

Swoosh!

A huge hole suddenly appeared at the center of the blazing cloud of flame and dust followed by the silhouette that was charging straight to Shin.

Shin quickly sheathed the [Yamato] and assumed his signature sword-drawing stance while waiting for the opposing side to arrive.

Shing!

When the Mephisto reached his range of attack, Shin quickly pulled the sword from its sheath and swung it forward.

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

Swoosh!

Bang!

Mephisto swung his sword right at the same time and deflected the strike from his opponent, creating blazing sparks that flew in the air.

Shin quickly retreated while briefly retrieving the [Yamato] before suddenly thrusting it forward once again.

Swoosh!

The blazing sword left a burning flash as it moved forward and flew straight to the chest of his opponent.

Mephisto did casually twirled his blazing sword and deflected the incoming stab from the opponent while continuing to move forward.

Clang!

Then Mephisto suddenly twisted his body in the air and threw a sharp kick at Shin and produced an intense sound of cutting through the air. He was taking advantage of the latter's awkward form, where Shin could not swing his sword.

But Shin quickly reacted as he flipped the sheath on his left, holding it in a forehand grip, before swinging it straight at the area between Mephisto's feet and shin.

Bang!

Their actions seemed to be a casual one, but they carried a strong force behind them which was why a shockwave was quickly produced right after the collision.

The two paused briefly, maintaining their positions, before exploding in an intense melee exchange.

Mephisto attacked with sharp quick punches, kicks, knee attacks, and other hand-to-hand combat techniques, mixing them with the sword movements that he was already using to confuse Shin.

The speed of his attacks was so fast that Shin was forced to respond with his combination. But since the rhythm of the battle was out of his control, he could not find the time to switch the forms of his sheath. He got swept with the tempo that Mephisto had and was forced to continue battling with just the Jade Kirin Scripture and Celestial Vermillion Bird Method.

He had to keep up with the speed of his opponent and switch between the quick draw, sword movements, and other sword techniques that he could use.

He did not lose in a bit and was able to regain his footing not long after and started taking the initiative from time to time.

Despite being able to adjust to the style of his opponent, Shin did not immediately go back to his 'Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship' as he wanted to continue polishing the current style that he was using.

With the earlier suppression that he was in, he realized some of the flaws in his new swordsmanship aside from his previous problem.

By fixing these flaws one after another, he felt that he would be able to properly integrate the Perfected Four Symbol Scripture and the Jade Kirin Scripture into his new style.

He started using the pressure that he was getting from his opponent to improve his swordsmanship.

He first started with the two sets of swordsmanship that he had, the quick draw and sword movements of the Jade Kirin Scripture and the Celestial Vermillion Bird Method.

When he was with these two, he then proceeded to the 'Meteor Form' of 'Mondi's Style' and used both the sword techniques under the Celestial Vermillion Bird and Sacred White Tiger Methods together.

The [Yamato] was in [Divine Constellation Possession] while the 'Meteor Form' was using the longsword form of the [Summit Shaper Possession].

He executed multiple variations and combinations with all of these and fixed all the flaws that he had found.

After that, he switched the 'Meteor Form' of the left-hand sword and used the 'Judgement Form' while still maintaining Astaroth's spirit possession with it, the same [Summit Shaper Possession].

He continued using the Sacred White Tiger Method for a while since there were still a few sword techniques that needed to be executed with a greatsword. He then switched to the Divine Yellow Dragon Method immediately after.

Not long after fixing all the problems with this form, Shin changed the 'Mondi's Style' once again and used the 'Conviction Form' while using Vladimir's spirit possession, the [Blood Thirster Possession].

The sword techniques that Shin had used with this form were very few. Aside from a couple of techniques from the Celestial Vermillion Method and the ones that could be used with a rapier from the White Tiger Method, he did not have anything else.

He had limited stabbing techniques under the two methods, especially the ones that were compatible with blood elements.

He just forcefully integrated the fire elemental attacks from the Celestial Vermillion Bird since the two elements were not that compatible.

The metal elements from the White Tiger Method were more compatible, but there were very few sword techniques that he could use for stabbing attacks under the savage techniques of this particular method.

Aside from these little problems, Shin no longer found anything that he had to polish.

His swordsmanship took more shape and became more solid and sophisticated. The switching for forms from 'Modi's Style' had become smoother along with the swapping of Elemental Spirit Companions and their possession.

He could now switch the forms and possessions of his left-hand swords with a thought and a simple mumbling of the code name of each Reaper's Retainer.

With these changes, the switching of style from the sword-drawing and the complex swordsmanship became faster and more convenient.

Shin's movements also changed and faster. His arms and hands seemed to be turning into blurs and flashes as he switched between the two styles and between the different forms of the sheath in his left hand.

Everything seemed to be instantaneous and natural.

Shin just found it a pity that he could not use the other forms as he still did not have a proper breathing technique for the corresponding element, which would fit them.

While all of this was happening, Mephisto was naturally able to see through Shin's actions. He knew that Shin was using him to polish the 'Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship' further, but he did not mind.

He even cooperated and increased the pressure that he 'provided' during the exchanges!

He wanted Shin to polish this complex swordsmanship and become stronger!

This was how confident Mephisto was! He wanted his already powerful opponent to become even more powerful so that he could enjoy a more thrilling battle.

But while he was doing that, he was also gradually getting stronger himself. He was also adjusting to the growth of his opponent and matching each change that the opposing side was making.

He even copied the style how Shin fixing his style along with the swapping of swords and elemental spirit possession.

Every time Shin switched with a new style and possession, Mephisto would do a similar thing, calling upon a different power from the elemental spirits that he had consumed before applying it to his style and using its abilities in battle.

At times, his blazing sword turned into a black sword made of death energy. Sometimes it would become a blue sword filled with extreme heat. Other times, it would become a white sword that absorbed the heat in the surroundings and showed some ice abilities.

These different swords were used to match the styles and sword techniques that Shin was using.

Shin did not notice it at first as he was too immersed in polishing his swordsmanship and style. But when he was done with everything, he realized that he was facing a monster that was not inferior to himself.

Moreover, he also found out the reason why Mephisto was able to contend against a Tier 3 Class Player like Shin, who also had his stats boosted by his Elemental Spirit Possession. "What the heck? He is in a constant state of Elemental Spirit Possession! How is that possible!?"

"Moreover, it is a perfect possession! Is it because he has become one with the Elemental Spirits that he has consumed?" he asked his elemental spirits as he created a distance between him and Mephisto.

"Most likely," answered Hanzo briefly.

"Tsk! Now I understand why those guys sent this guy after me," cursed Shin as he suddenly disappeared from his current location and reappeared in another.

Swoosh!

Boom!

In the spot where he previously stood, a huge explosion occurred as Mephisto sent a huge fireball in that direction, trying to catch Shin.

Shin took a deep breath as he charged forward. He left a series of afterimages behind him before disappearing from his enemy while also erasing his presence.

Mephisto halted his actions and scanned the surroundings with his sharp eyes, trying to look for the trances of his opponent. But despite activating most of the skills that could enhance his senses, he still could not find the location of the other party.

It was as if Shin had disappeared in thin air.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then he found himself surrounded by the afterimages of Shin, who was currently in the middle of taking a sword-drawing stance.

Click!

There was a subtle sound that reverberated in the whole place, which also indicated that the sword was about to be unsheathed from its scabbard.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then Mephisto saw that all the illusionary figures of Shin surrounding him simultaneously jumped forward and charged at him all at the same time.

Shing!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Fire Form) – World Splitter (Blazing)'

Fire trails were left in the air as all the 'Shin' charged forward. These blazing trails intertwined with each other while heading toward Mephisto, who was standing still right at the center.

Mephisto frowned briefly before an excited smile appeared on his face. He then held the blazing sword with both of his hands and infused his demonic mana in it.

Swoosh!

The bright fire that the sword had seemed to have been contaminated by the dark mana that mixed with it as it increased in size.

Not long after, the sword had become a very huge sword covered with shadowy flame.

Mephisto stomped onto the round while forcefully swinging the giant flame sword in his hands, sweeping everything in its path.

'Class Fighting Style: Dark Heaven Cleave'

The giant sword drew a huge arc in the air as he swung it wide, covering almost every direction. And with it, the fire trails of the incoming attack from Shin were wiped clean and disappeared within an instant.

But Mephisto did not dare to lower his and swiftly turned around.

Holding the huge blazing sword in his hands, Mephisto used the momentum of his previous actions and raised the sword above him as he swung it down with great power.

'Class Fighting Style: Dark Heaven Annihilation'

Boom!

The blazing sword was slammed on the ground creating a huge expression before the shadow flames on its blade spread in every direction.

Shin, who was hiding in the area, rapidly retreated. He was trying to avoid the shadow flames as he could feel a serious threat coming from them. But when he realized that it was impossible to escape from it, he quickly halted his retreat and focused his senses.

He channeled the blazing mana into his sword before unsheathing and swung it horizontally, covering every direction.

Shing!

The sword released a sword wave that created a ring of fire that spread everywhere, clashing against the shadow flames that were trying to approach him.

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

Swoosh!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of explosions continuously erupted as the two flames clashed.

Whoosh!

It was at that moment when Mephisto broke through the blockade and flames and leaped over the explosions to fly toward Shin.

The blazing wings on his back were noticeably increased. They were now four wings behind him with the first pair releasing the usual flames while the pair under it contained the dark and shadowy aura.

In his hands was a smaller version of the previous blazing sword that he had used as he swung it down during his descent.

Swoosh!

Shin instantly realized that Mephisto was using a Secret Skill. A skill that was the fusion of his Class Fighting Style and Elemental Spirit Possession.

But this one was not the regular Secret Skill as he seemed to have combined two different possessions when executing it.

'Demonic Secret Skill: Destruction of two Heavens'

Swoosh!

The black-blazing sword released an intense and blinding light as he slashed it down toward his opponent.

Shin quickly adjusted his stance and inhaled deeply, using two different breathing techniques altogether.

Then the sheath on his left hand turned into a longsword as he used the 'Meteor Form' of 'Mondi's Style'. Quickly after it, Astaroth fused with the sword and activated the [Summit Shaper Possession], changing its form and infusing it with Mental Element.

Controlling the elements of fire and mind, Shin held the two swords beside him parallel with each other.

He would be using two different sword techniques from the 'Four Symbol Scripture' and fusing them. But he was not yet confident with this since it was a move that did not belong to the ones that he had already fused before.

However, if he wanted to face this incoming attack from his opponent, he had to use an unconventional technique to match the overwhelming power of a Secret Skill.

Bang!

The ground beneath him exploded, sending multiple rock fragments in the air.

The pair of swords in his hands released two different energies: a violent flame and metallic luster, as he waited for the opposing side to enter his attacking range.

When it was at the right moment, he swung the swords simultaneously as the fire and mental elements spiraled and intertwined with each other before fusing.

Then the roar of a fearsome tiger and the cry of a blazing bird immediately followed after his actions

Roar! Shriek!

'Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship: Crimson Slash'

Swoosh!

BOOM!