

## **Destiny 1361**

Chapter 1361: The Legend of the Shunkai Forest (Part 3)

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As Shin hid behind the tree to avoid the vision of the sniper, he suddenly sensed an immense threat coming from his side.

Swoosh!

He quickly leaned forward without any hesitation, dodging the incoming strike that came out of nowhere.

Shing!

A sudden flash passed over Shin's head right after he leaned forward. He was about to counterattack when another attack suddenly came from the other direction, forcing him to throw that idea at the back of his head.

He quickly kicked the ground and propelled himself in the air, executing a quick spin roll and dodging another attack with a hair's breadth margin.

Phantom and Valdez, who thought that they had perfectly timed their attacks, were caught a little off guard but were not shocked enough to cease their attacks. They quickly recovered themselves and continued attacking.

Phantom flipped his dagger and swung it down, planning to cut Shin's neck in front of him, while Valdez adjusted his grip over his sword and turned it upwards before swinging it at Shin, who was still midair and positioned horizontally.

Shing! Shing!

Both attacks came in perfect synch, making it hard for Shin to avoid them. The two were quite fast, accurate, and decisive with their actions, making it hard for Shin to respond, especially with very few flaws that he could take advantage of.

But while he was spin-rolling midair, he suddenly adjusted his center of gravity to slightly slow down his descent before twisting his body and retwisting it toward the opposite direction, swinging both of his arms along with it as well as the shortswords he was holding.

Swoosh!

Clang! Clang!

Both Phantom and Valdez were shocked as their attacks were deflected by Shin despite being in a very awkward position. They were even forced to take a couple of steps back as they tried to relieve the residual force on their arms right after their dagger and sword rebounded respectively.

That single exchange was more than enough for them to realize that their opponent was in the third tier of his class, making him one of the current pinnacle players of the game.

"Someone from the Hall of Fame?" mumbled Phantom as he frowned deeply.

Valdez also had a similar thought, making him to be more wary of this opponent that they had. He and Phantom also had Tier 3 Classes, but they could already sense that this person in front of them had superior stats, class, and equipment with just a little exchange.

This was also the realization behind Phantom's words, which indicated that even if they were also in the Hall of Fame, the ranking of the person in front of them was way higher than theirs.

With a solemn expression on their faces, they were still forced to calm themselves down and continue attacking Shin.

He might be stronger than them individually, but that did not mean that they would back down just because of that.

They quickly charged forward, trying to attack Shin once again.

Valdez leaned forward and was about to swing his sword forward when he suddenly saw Shin flipping in the air before swiftly kicking at him in a stomping action.

The sole of Shin's combat boots accurately hit the bottom of the hilt of Valdez's sword, making the latter unable to fully swing his sword.

Then Shin used the momentum from the collision to propel backward, avoiding the attacks that were coming from Phantom, who suddenly appeared beside him.

Swoosh!

Due to his actions, Shin was forced out of his hiding space. This made him visible to Claude, the marksman of the other party, once again.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Without any hesitation, he pulled the trigger of his modified magic pistol, firing a rain of bullets in his direction.

The timing and the accuracy were topnotch as the bullets flew straight to Shin right after he revealed himself from behind the tree. They even flew in a strange trajectory, taking strange angles while reaching their targets.

Ta-ta!

Shin's foot just touched the ground when these bullets flew at him. They were already about to reach him before he could even adjust himself and the fact them.

Swoosh!

But Shin was not even fazed when he saw that the magic bullets completely covered all his escape routes. He did not even have the time to use any movement or escaping skills since they were already right in front of him before he could even do anything.

They were about to reach him when a black and white electricity covered Shin's body and his movements suddenly became much faster.

His arms turned into blurs as flashes of black and white light crisscrossing one another surrounded him, slicing and deflecting the magic bullets that were about to reach him.

'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship: Sword Transmigration'

Cling! Clang!

Clang! Clang!

Claude, who fired all the shots, could not help but stare blankly at the sight. He could not believe that there was someone, who could still respond in that kind of situation. He was confident that even some of the most powerful and highly skilled Godlike Players would have a hard time responding in that predicament.

Even though he believed that there were still a few, who could achieve such a feat, they were only limited. He could even count them with his two hands. That was had few of the people he knew, who could block or dodge his shots in that situation.

"Am I getting rusty?" he mumbled to himself, seemingly slightly doubting himself. His ego seemed to have been hurt by what he was seeing.

That only lasted for a moment as he quickly recovered his composure and started firing more shots.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Shin, who just used the power of the Primordial Eclipse – more specifically, the Primordial Lightning – due to the sudden emergency, quickly incorporated this power with his movement techniques.

Crackle! Crackle!

The alternating black and white electric currents suddenly covered his entire body before he kicked the ground.

Bang!

'Yin-Yang Arts: (Self-Created) Lightning Steps'

With his extremely fast movements, the electric currents left behind a trail that traces his path. They also interfered with the magic bullets that were trying to change their trajectory and chase after him.

Shin disappeared and reappeared repeatedly, leaving a series of afterimages behind him. Then, due to his application of the Power of Primordial Eclipse, the afterimages that he had created also carried the black and white lightning elemental properties.

Every time these afterimages were hit by the magic bullets, they would explode and release a moderately powerful electric shockwave that spread within the five-meter radius around them.

This caused Phantom and Valdez, who were trying to chase after Shin, to slow down their movements as they were afraid of getting caught in the explosion.

'Yin-Yang Arts: (Modified) Ghost Evanescence'

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Boom!

Bang! Bang!

In the meantime, Claude kept on moving backward, trying to distance himself from their opponent as far as possible and kiting with Shin with his decent skills.

But given the speed that Shin had, and his locations being exposed due to his continuous shots, the opposing party would most likely catch up to him sooner rather than later.

Fortunately, they still had the advantage in terms of numbers.

Swoosh!

Wolf, who almost died at Shin's hands, finally recovered himself and joined the battle.

He did not dare to confront Shin in a head-on battle as he was aware that he was inferior in almost every aspect. But that did not mean that he would lose one-sidedly once again, especially when he would be working with his brother, whom he was very familiar with.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

As Claude was bombarding Shin with a series of shots, Wolf suddenly appeared on the side that was not covered by his brother. His body was currently shrouded in a black aura, which quickly converged into his daggers.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

He quickly swung his swords without any hint of hesitation, targeting Shin's vitals.

Shin, who was pretty much occupied with the magic bullets flying in his direction quickly adjusted his form, using his left hand to deflect the incoming bullets with his sword while swinging the other sword that he was holding with his right hand and blocking the daggers targeting him from the side.

Bang!

Wolf felt like he hit a huge metal pole with his daggers as his entire body shook due to the collision.

That casual swing from Shin felt like a heavy boulder pressing on him right after their weapons came in contact.

His arms were even shaking violently, making them numb to a certain degree.

That strike from Shin incorporated the will of 'heaviness' along with elements of earth and metal. It would be stranger if this attack did not cause such an effect.

Wolf did very well at withstanding that attack as he did not fly right after the collision. However, his feet sank deeply on the ground as he tried to redirect most of the force toward the ground right after receiving the impact.

Cough!

He also spit out some blood, indicating that his body suffered serious trauma due to the collision. Even the health bar above his head was chunked down by half without him knowing.

Shin was about to end Wolf with a follow-up attack when the familiar sound of the wind being split apart quickly interrupted him.

Swoosh!

Without even looking at what it was, Shin adjusted the trajectory of his sword and redirected it toward the incoming attack.

Clang!

Sparks flew in the air as his sword collided with the daggers on Phantom's hand.

Shin remained calm while the latter wore a solemn look on his face due to how heavy that strike was from Shin. If for his reinforced stats from the buffs that he had received earlier, then he would most likely be sent flying by now.

As Shin and Phantom maintained their positions, Valdez quickly appeared beside Wolf and dragged the latter away as fast as he could.

Shin did not bother to look at them as he was more curious about this assassin in front of him as well as the marksman that was keeping him occupied earlier.

From his observation, these two were the strongest ones within the group while that swordsman earlier slightly was behind them.

He was not confused as to why the marksman suddenly stopped firing at him as he knew that it was a basic principle for a marksman to actively change his position when the opposing side was already aware of his presence.

Shin kept his guard up, waiting for the sounds of the gunshots, before making his move.

But to his surprise, a different form of attack arrived.

The assassin in front of him suddenly disappeared while the ground underneath his feet suddenly shone brightly.

Glancing briefly at the patterns of the magic circle, Shin quickly gave an idea of what type of spell it was, especially when it was somewhat similar to what Cloe usually used when fighting alongside him.

"A Holy Mage Spell? It is at most Tier 2 as well," mumbled Shin as he responded.

Before the magic circle was fully activated, his True Sight ocular skill had already seen through it and found a few flaws in it.

He flipped his wrists along with the pair of swords that he was holding in each hand before infusing his Primordial Lightning in them.

At the same time, he was also circulating the energies within him through a certain pattern before gathering most of them toward his feet.

When the magic circle was about to be fully activated, he suddenly stomped onto the ground with all his strength, creating fissures that spread throughout the magic circle.

Then he channeled the Primordial Lightning toward the ground, destroying the flow of mana within the circle.

'Yin-Yang Arts: (Self-Created) Thunderclap Step'

Boom!

An explosion quickly erupted as a pillar of lightning flashed and soared into the air, filling the surroundings with black and white electric currents.

Such a sight was so stunning that the group felt like they were fighting the God of Lightning and Thunder himself.

But that spell was no ordinary spell. It was a tier 2 spell of a Holy Mage, which majored in Sacred Magic. Due to this, the effects of the black-and-white lightning were fairly limited.

However, Shin had destroyed most of the magic circle, so the flow of mana was completely disturbed. This caused the collapse of the gathering mana, which also resulted in another explosion.

This time, it would be hard for Shin if he did not handle it very well.

But Shin was already prepared for this. The gathered energies within his swords had already been prepared since the beginning of his actions.

Right when the explosion was about to devour him. He suddenly swung them, applying the energy circulation method that he had learned from Jade Kirin Scripture while also utilizing the sword wills that he had already mastered.

A new sword technique was formed.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

'Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship: Thunderbolt Cross'

Two strikes!

It was only two strikes, yet the massive explosion that was in the middle of the eruption was suddenly split apart, revealing his majestic and cool figure standing in the middle of it.

Phantom and his group, who were watching from a safe distance, could not help but fall in awe after witnessing this scene.

They could not help cursing themselves. "What kind of monster are we trying to fight?"

Chapter 1362: The Legend of the Shunkai Forest (Part 4)

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Phantom and the rest of his group could not help cursing when they saw what Shin had done. It was not that stunning if they were talking about someone who was a strong Godlike Player or Maverick God since such a feat of surviving that kind of explosion was pretty much normal to them.

Even Phantom, Claude, and Sylvie could also escape or survive that kind of powerful and explosive spell if they wanted to.

The problem here was how Shin had done it.

He first destroyed the magic circle to affect the activation of the spell when it was already about to be activated. The spell was supposed to be detonated at that time, but Shin was still able to respond within that millisecond timeframe and affect the scale of the spell, which also led to its collapse.

That Tier 2 Spell was supposed to devour Shin, who was in the middle of its formation, yet he calmly and composedly stomped his foot on the ground sending a powerful lightning current everywhere.

Anyone in that situation would first think of escaping the place rather than staying in the middle of it and destroying the magic circle that had already been activated.

What was even crazy about that was Shin decided to stay in the same spot despite destroying the magic circle. It was common knowledge to escape from that place when the magic spell collapsed since it would lead to a strong explosion albeit being delayed due to the crumbling magic circle.

The explosion could even become much stronger than the original spell if the mana that it carried was a lot larger than ordinary spells.

Fortunately, Shin disrupted the flow of mana when destroying the magic circle, resulting in a lesser explosion. But it was still much stronger than any other explosion, which could kill a knight in an instant.

Yet, Shin decided to stay despite knowing all of that. Then, as if he was purposely flexing his battle prowess, he executed a powerful technique that did not only cut through the explosion but also the collapsing magic itself.

If it was a powerful knight standing in the middle of that explosion and activating a strong defensive skill to protect himself or an assassin with very high mobility using a movement skill to escape, then the group would not be surprised since it was a common occurrence.

Those cases were still acceptable. But what they just witnessed was way beyond their understanding of the game.

They might have seen someone cutting through magic before just like Zero and other top gods of the game. However, those spells were nothing but simple to slightly intermediate spells rather than a collapsing Tier 2 Spell.

Shin casually cutting through it naturally shocked the group as they instantly understood the gap between them and this person.

"He must be a powerful Godlike Player or Maverick God. Be careful!" warned Phantom as the expression on his face was getting graver with each passing second.

"And someone who ranks very high up there at that!" added Wolf as he still felt the horrifying feeling when he was exchanging blows against Shin.

Wolf was a very skilled Maverick Ranker, who could rank quite high if he joined an official competition and became a Titled Ranker. He was also confident that he could fight a few Godlike Players and hold his ground very well without losing much.

But just a simple exchange with Shin was more than enough for him to humble him, especially that single strike earlier that made him think that he was striking a huge boulder or a metal gate despite attacking a player.

Just thinking about it sends shivers down his spine.

Valdez also wore a solemn expression on his face as he also felt something strange when exchanging blows with Shin.

The battle prowess that they had witnessed was one thing, but Shin's awareness, reflexes, and responses to every situation were on another level. He must admit that they had underestimated this person, who was supposedly a target of their 'hunt'.

They now understood why the Supreme Temple and Martial Alliance had to mobilize the players of the entire faction just to catch a single person.

This person was no different from a raid boss that required an expedition team.

Realizing that they were currently in a not-so-desirable situation, Phantom finally concluded. They would not be able to take down Shin if they had to hold themselves back, much less capture him with the prison prism.

Coming up with this conclusion, Phantom looked over his shoulder and said to the two behind him. "Wolf, go and be a guard for your brother. Valdez, protect Sylvie with all you have."

"Eh!?" the two were caught off guard by his words at first, but they quickly understood what Phantom meant by them right after.

"Are you planning to use that state? Don't you say that you still have not mastered it?" said Valdez with a frown.

In response, Phantom shook his head and added. "Not only me. Sylvie and Claude also need to use theirs if we want to finish this quest."

As someone who also passed the Tier 3 Promotion Quest, he also knew about the special states that the players underwent when trying to clear their respective promotion quest; Valdez had it too. However, he also knew that they were levels on it, and his special combat state was way below the standards that a real top expert possessed.

Phantom, Sylvie, and Claude happened to be lucky enough to stumble upon such an opportunity. They respectively met a strange NPC that gave them a series of odd quests. They first tried clearing them out of boredom or fun since they did not have anything better to do, but they later realized something strange going on after clearing a few more quests.

At the end of the chain quests, they realized that they were able to enter a strange state of combat after clearing the final quests, which was very odd.

Then they received a special recommendation letter that led them to an NPC without any details, who gave them a few tests.

Not long after, they finally realized that the strange state that they could enter during combat was not an illusion, but a real thing.

The three did not know that there were others, who experienced the same thing until they met each other and happened to share their experiences.

That was when they realized that this must be one of the new updates mentioned in the patch notes and developers' clues.

They had learned about these clues from their different experiences; Phantom overheard a conversation of top elites of a powerful guild, Sylvie accidentally stumbled upon it when she was clearing some errand quests, and Claude found out about it when he was looking for clues how to clear his promotion quests.

The three were able to clear their respective promotion quests due to this special state and after polishing themselves through repeated intense battles.

They still hadn't mastered these special states of combat. They also did not know how to call them yet since even the system was not giving them a clue about it.

They were trying to learn more about them, and suspected that they had something to do with the special states listed on the patch notes on the official website of the game – the Reality Manifestation, Hyperactive Immersion, Perfect Demonification, and Magical Formation.

There were not many clues related to these special states aside from Hyperactive Immersion since it was a legend in the Virtual Gaming World.

The three were aware that their special states were no way near these states, but they were at least a lesser version of those combat states.

"What are we going to do if we still can't take him on? Given the strength that he has shown us, it is highly possible that he can also enter such states," said Valdez with a deep frown before adding. "Heck! I will not be surprised if he has mastered them or even entered those legendary states listed on the webpage!"

Phantom smiled bitterly before saying. "Then we have no choice but to retreat if we can. Or just accept our fate to die here and lose a few levels in return."

"Let's just enjoy such a thrilling battle," added as he fixed his grip on his daggers.

As Phantom and others were talking in the party channel, Shin had no idea what they were talking about. But given the looks on their faces, he could guess that they were planning something.

He then saw the group move, seemingly following the instructions of their leader. They went into a formation while getting ready for the battle.

Phantom was left behind, facing Shin, while Claude and Sylvie looked for perfect spots where they could attack freely and support their leader without being distracted.

Shin did not bother to chase after the rest since he could tell what they were planning. Given the experience earlier, he knew that this group at least had three core members that he had to be slightly wary of.

At first, he thought that it was only the assassin, who was standing in front of him, and the marksman, who seemed to be as skilled as Alucard, who was previously known as the Gun and Sword King and was now a part of Empyrean Talons, as well as Morgan, who he knew in the real world and a part of Slayers Adventurer Team led by Lawless and Faker.

He could at least feel the air of an expert on these two from the previous exchanges that they had. But he was not expecting that there was another one in their group, who could also perform quite well – that Holy Mage, who just cast that Tier 2 Spell earlier.

He might have only seen her cast a single spell, but the timing and the accuracy of the spell were without a doubt among the top mages of the game.

She might not be as strong as the other mages that he had met before, but he could still see how skilled she was with that single spell earlier. He could see how meticulous she was and how trickly she could be after placing such a spell perfectly.

Shin could not help himself be curious about this group, particularly those three. He was not planning to recruit them or anything as he felt that they would not fit in their group, but he at least wanted to be acquainted with them.

They might be able to him and the rest of Empyrean Talons with the clues about the hidden mechanics of the game, particularly the special states of combat, as he could feel this certain air around them.

"Let's try playing with them a little bit to confirm my suspicion," he mumbled as he waited for the other side to finish their preparations.

It was not him being too confident of himself, but he just wanted to experience their full power so that he would also not hold back himself.

"Fortunately, no one has seen me using the 'Primordial Lightning' yet aside from Leo and Diablo. I can keep using it in this battle without worrying about the exposure of my identity," he mumbled as he adjusted his grip over his swords.

Crackle! Crackle!

The black-and-white electric currents swam through his entire body and danced in the air. They also flowed through his swords, making him look like a lightning person.

Seeing that, Phantom wore and more solemn expression as he took a stance. At the same time, he emptied his mind while trying to enter that special state of combat.

It took him quite a while to adjust himself and fully enter that ideal state. Fortunately, Shin did not attack him in that period, sparing him from being defeated while unguarded.

"Or he is purposely waiting for me so that he could also go all-out," he mumbled to himself fixing his grip on his daggers.

Claude and Sylvie were also ready, waiting for him to give them a signal.

As the atmosphere around these people was getting tenser with each passing second, someone suddenly appeared a few distance away from them and stood on a branch of a tree.

He hid his presence so that the others could not sense him before mumbling to himself. "Oh~! Now this is interesting. To think I will see an interesting matchup right after I arrive, this is going to be quite entertaining."

Pogo, the Killer Clown, sat on the tree cross-legged, planning to enjoy the show.

Chapter 1363: The Legend of the Shunkai Forest (Part 5)

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Phantom stood a few meters away from Shin getting ready for an attack from his opposition. But from the look of it, Shin had the intention of taking the initiative this time. He completely understood that he still had to keep an eye on the others, who would be attacking him from a distance.

And just like what Shin had expected, the opposing side took the initiative instead.

Phantom hopped backward, entering stealth, while Claude started firing without any hesitation.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

With Shin's senses, he could already sense the incoming magic bullets despite them being fired from a place that he could not see.

Shin quickly responded by taking a couple of steps forward, slow, calm, and collected. But unexpectedly, those simple movements from him made him 'dodge' the magic bullets.

Shu! Shu! Shu!

The bullets hit the ground either behind him or beside his feet, sending dirt in the air.

Seeing that, Claude, as someone with the sharpest eye within the group, could not help but be shocked at what he had just seen. Shin seemed to be taking a casual walk in a park while the bullets seemed to have avoided them instead of trying to hit him.

He thought that he was just seeing things at first, but given his sharp eyes enhanced by his ocular skill, it was impossible to not see even the tiniest details.

Claude could not help but gulp hard after seeing that scene. But he still continued firing shots without a pause.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

This time, he had executed a series of gun-firing techniques, making sure that Shin would not be able to easily avoid them.

Some of the bullets curved during their flight, others took tricky angles, while the rest flew straight to Shin.

Shin could not help but slightly raise his brows as he sensed the incoming bullets right after they entered his 'Sensing Circle'. He could instantly tell that those shots were executed under different combat techniques.

He could tell that this person was very skilled and knew quite a lot of gun combat techniques.

Shin planned to do the same trick he did earlier, but he could already sense someone stepping in the 'Sensing Circle', indicating that someone in stealth was trying to launch an ambush.

With that in mind, Shin instantly changed his mind and used his combat technique instead. The black-and-white lightning divided themselves, separating each of his swords. The black one went to his left-hand sword while the white one went to the other.

'Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship: Infinity Edge'

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Intertwining black and white lines appeared in the air, forming a dome of net surrounding Shin. They blocked, deflected, and cut the incoming bullets while also preventing Phantom from approaching him at the same time.

Clank! Clank!

Clang! Clang!

Sparks flew in the air while the magic bullets were either cut in halves or redirected in another direction as they approached the dome-like net around Shin.

Phantom waited for everything to end, before pouncing forward in great timing and aggressive presence.

At the same time, his arms were crossed in front of him while holding the daggers in a reverse grip manner. Each other was coated with shadowy mana which resembled black flame.

'Advance Combat Technique: Ghost Slash'

As he was moving forward, a silhouette of himself was left from his previous location, mimicking his initial posture. There was also a shadow aura left behind his path, seemingly connecting him and the silhouette at his initial position.

'Assassin Skill: (Modified) Delayed Strike'

Shin, who just finished executing the 'Infinity Edge', was immediately greeted by the incoming strike, indicating how perfectly timed this ambush was.

Regardless, Shin remained called as he still had plenty of time to either dodge or counterattack.

He watched Phantom approach him at great speed while throwing a reverse cross slash at him. Given the black light tracing the trajectory of the daggers, Shin could tell that it was no ordinary attack.

With a slight frown, Shin suddenly used one of his in-game skills.

'Phantom Swordsman Skill: Phantom Steps'

Swoosh!

His figure turned into smoke as Phantom sliced through his body before appearing behind the latter, seemingly spat out by the shadow beneath the feet of his opponent.

Despite failing to hit his target and regardless of the threat coming from behind, Phantom remained calm as his attack was yet to end.

Swoosh!

At the same time, the shadow that was left behind in his position suddenly charged forward, heading straight to Shin, doing the same actions that Phantom did earlier.

Sensing the threat behind him, Shin slightly raised his brows as he somewhat expected something like this.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

At the same time, he heard the silent gunshots from the distance seemingly trying to block his escape route.

Regardless, he kept his composure and used yet another in-game skill, but an elemental one this time.

'Elemental Skill (Void): Void Step'

A small void rift suddenly appeared and swallowed Shin, making him dodge the incoming attack from behind before it spat him out right above Phantom.

At the same time, he was already swinging his sword down as he fell from the void rift above.

Shing!

'Extra Skill: (Modified) Falling Lightblade'

Crackle! Crackle!

Shin drew a vertical line with his sword as he swung it down toward his opponent. There was also the black-and-white electric current flowing through his sword, which also traced the trail left behind by the sword.

Phantom instantly sensed the threat and knew that he would be instantly killed by this strike once it sliced through.

The attack also came a little too sudden as he was expecting Shin to at least deal with his delayed attack first as well as the shots that were fired by Claude to assist him.

But he seemed to still have underestimated Shin's abilities. From the initial movement to the transition of skills and then to a sudden counterattack that seemed to come out of nowhere.

Shin was supposed to focus on avoiding the attacks directed at him, yet he initiated a counter instead.

Phantom was a little slow to respond despite the current state that he was in. He was supposed to have sharper sense and faster reflexes when he was in this state, but all of it was still not enough.

He could not even respond to the sudden attack. He did not even have the time to use any movement skills to escape as the sharp edge of the sword was already upon him.

Swoosh!

Bang!

Fortunately, a transparent golden barrier suddenly appeared and blocked the descending sword. The timing was perfect, surprising Shin a little.

Shin held his sword tightly, preventing it from flying from his hand, as it rebounded from the barrier that came out of nowhere.

That barrier was way tougher than most of the defensive skills he had seen. His powerful attack did not even leave a scratch on that barrier, although it shook violently from the strike.

Smirking, Shin felt a little interested in the Holy Mage, who obviously cast that barrier to protect Phantom.

He briefly glanced in the direction where he sensed the fluctuation of mana in the air, indicating that the spell was cast from that direction.

He did not try to head there and take down the Holy Mage just like how one of the common strategies written in a book manual – take down the support first and the battle would be much easier.

He became a little arrogant at this point or somewhat overconfident. But he had a reason for that since he wanted to try something in this battle.

His eyes suddenly turned cold as he fixed his grip on his sword that rebounded from the barrier.

Crackle!

Then a silent electric current flowed through the sword as he swung it down.

Swoosh!

His arm seemed to have disappeared when he swung, only leaving a bright trail in the air.

This skill was a combination of two in-game skills under his arsenal, the 'Destructive Slash' and 'Solar Cut'. But instead of using the usual fire-elemental mana, he used the 'Primordial Lightning' in exchange.

At the same time, he also applied the technique that he had learned from Old Ryong recently but using two of them at once. He used both the 'swiftness' and 'heaviness' together, producing a surprising result.

The sword came fast yet also heavy at the same time.

Then adding the elemental powers of the 'Primordial Lightning', this particular strike came a little too strong even for the sturdy barrier to withstand.

Shing!

Crackle!

Phantom at that time had already known that he would be receiving yet another attack right after the previous one.

Since Sylvie had already brought him enough time with that perfectly timed barrier, he could now escape from this current situation that he was in.

Without any hesitation, Phantom used one of his movement skills to retreat.

Bang!

Then, right after he appeared a few distance away from his previous location, he saw that the barrier that Sylvie had placed in there exploded and shattered into pieces like glass.

He also could still see the lightning trail left in the air, tracing the path that Shin's sword had taken with that strike.

Phantom shivered as he could already imagine what would have happened to him if he had been even a fraction of a second late.

Boom!

But Phantom did not have time to breathe as he saw Shin suddenly stomped on the ground and propelled himself toward his direction. There was even a sonic boom during the charge.

Swoosh!

Without any hint of hesitation, Phantom used a series of buffs to boost his speed as he could already see what was about to happen next.

Dodging the first strike that was thrown at him, Phantom continued to retreat, trying to distance himself away from his opponent.

He was performing quite well, but that was only for preserving his life. He did the best he could to dodge each strike from Shin, which was almost scaring him.

Each strike was fast, but they also carried a heavy feeling in them, making it impossible for Phantom to dare block those strikes. Some of them also carried a sense of sharpness instead of heaviness, but that also made them so deadly for some unknown reason.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

At the same time, Claude was firing a series of shots, trying to assist Phantom with the best that he could.

But despite trying his best, Shin was still able to continue his aggressive assault, not giving Phantom any time to escape.

What was crazier about this was Shin blocking, dodging, and deflecting those magic bullets while attacking.

Every little movement of Shin seemed to be from a god. Even the simple tilting of his head to the side made the bullet miss him with the tiniest margin, which shocked Claude, thinking that it was nothing but luck.

Phantom tried to escape multiple times with his movement and life-saving skills, but despite his desperate attentions, Shin seemed to be able to predict all his actions and always be ahead of him all the time.

Whenever Phantom used a movement skill to appear in a different location, Shin was already there waiting for him. When he was trying to use his speed to get away, Shin stuck to him like a gum, unwilling to let him go.

All of these were even happening under the barrage of shots from Claude.

Realizing that the two of them were not enough, Sylvie disregarded her plan of using advanced spells and joined them.

She was trying a few spells here and there, trying to give Phantom a window that he could use to get away from Shin. But no matter how hard she tried, Shin seemed to be completely unbothered and even increased the intensity of his attacks.

Even if she provided shields and barriers for Phantom, Shin always found the latter under stealth.

How could Phantom escape from Shin when the latter kept his 'True Sight' active along with the 'Sensing Circle' territorial skill? So long as he stepped into the range of that skill there was no escape, especially with the current stats that Shin had.

The only way to get away from it was to use a long-range escape skill or a series of instantaneous skills that could not be interrupted.

In this battle, Shin showcased a skill and battle prowess that even overpowered two Godlike Players and a Maverick God, who were in the third tier of their respective classes.

The three of them might not be in the top rankings of the Godly Player List, but they were still highly skilled players of the game.

What they were seeing was a complete madness.

During this entire battle, Pogo, who was watching secretly in a distance, could not help but raise his brows at the scene. He was also surprised by what this guy could do by himself.

Then, a sudden thought flashed through his mind, and pulled out a virtual screen, opening the official forum of the game.

After that, he uploaded the video that he had recovered along with the live feed of the battle in the end.

"Let's see what is going to happen next," he seemed to be enjoying everything before licking his lips, excited about something.

Chapter 1364: The Legend of the Shunkai Forest (Part 6)

.....

The idle people, who did not have anything better to do and waiting for the news regarding the Shunkai Forest to arrive, saw a certain post of an anonymous person in the online forums. They then clicked it out of curiosity, especially with the title that it had that was saying – "The reason for the strange events of Shunkai Forest" –

Right after they played the video and saw the intense battle between the two sides, the views immediately went wild.

"Woah! What is this? Is this really from the same game that we are playing?"

"Holy! Look at that guy 1-vs-3-ing three people! The heck! He is dodging and blocking bullets while throwing slashes at the other dude."

"D\*mn! He can cut magic spell magic spells too!? Who the heck is this dude?"

"Dude! Look how he dodged those bullets and cut those spells while fighting. He is such a badass! Does he have multiple eyes to see everything? Does he even have a blind spot?"

"That Assassin is doing great as well! He is preserving his life against such a powerful opponent."

"That Holy Mage is quite skilled too! Look at her saves that are always on the clutch. Her heals, barriers and holy spells always come at the right time."

"Man~! Look at those shots! It is fired with high-level gun-fighting techniques! That marksman is really good."

"But that dude fighting the three of them alone is such a monster! He is suppressing them without breaking a sweat! He looks like someone taking a casual walk in the park!"

The comments immediately flooded in as they saw the battle. They were quite surprised but stunned as such battles where a single person fighting against a group was a common occurrence these days, particularly when elites and experts of the game wanted to showcase their capabilities.

It was not until some people managed to recognize the three people fighting the mysterious expert.

"Wait! Isn't that Phantom? That Assassin looks like Phantom."

"Holy Sh\*t! It is really 'Phantom'! The 'Fleeting God' Phantom! What the heck? He can't shake off his opponent no matter how hard he tries! Who is this guy they are fighting?"

"That Holy Mage! She is the champion of the last Challengers Cup! The new goddess!"

"'Goddess of Sacred Magic' Sylvie!"

"No wonder her spells are on point. But she still can't save Phantom even with her skills? This is nuts!"

"Now I remember! That gunslinger! That gunslinger is that dude from Mercenary War Incident!"

"Claude! That must be Claude, the Maverick God."

"Wait! There are also those two other people! That guy near Claude must be his brother! Wolf, a top-class Maverick Ranker.

"And that guy protecting Sylvie is Valdez! Maverick God Valdez!"

After recognizing the people fighting Shin, these people became even crazier. They were losing their minds after realizing the facts. They were also now looking at Shin as if he was some sort of a monster.

They also started guessing his identity.

"The heck? Three godly players and two highly skilled ones yet they still can't defeat a single person!? Just who is that dude exactly?"

"Holy Cow! This is madness! Two Godlike Players and a Maverick God ganging up against a single person, but they still can't win and lose instead? That dude must be a powerful Godlike Player too!"

"Must be one of the top gods of the game! Who is he?"

"He is using dual-wielding swords! He must be one of the top swordsmen of the game!"

"And he is using lightning? Who among the top godlike swordsmen has such mana?"

Due to the top players using their unique methods and showcasing their special mana manipulation techniques, the players realized that there were such techniques were quite common in high-level battles.

In the current time, you could not be considered a true expert if you could not harness a unique version of your mana manipulation. It became one of the requirements to become a true expert within the game.

It also became the identity of the top players, particularly those guys sitting at the top of the rankings.

Some of the bored people even created a list where they showed the unique mana manipulation of some top players within the game.

But when the viewers tried to compare the black-and-white lighting to the list, they could not find anyone with such a mana manipulation technique. There were a couple, who had similar lightning properties, but they were still far from this one.

Regardless, this did not stop the viewers from clicking on the live feed that the anonymous person, who posted the video clip.

They watched the intense battle, sitting back and enjoying the show.

...

Meanwhile, the elites and experts under the Supreme Temple and Martial Alliance, who were still looking for the traces of their target, also received the news.

They temporarily paused their search to watch the video in the post before quickly heading toward the direction where they thought the battle was taking place.

They were rushing toward that location, afraid that they would be late as they were sure that the others were also heading toward the same destination.

...

At the same time, the top guilds, who were keeping an eye on the news, also got an update from their people scattered in the Shunkai Forest.

They had also received news about certain posts in the official forums of the game, making the higher-ups of each guild watch it.

Unlike most of the people in the forums, these guilds somewhat had an idea of who this mysterious expert was. Given that they all received the warning from the Assassin Union, they could at least guess the identity of this person.

Then, after seeing how strong the so-called mysterious expert was, these guilds became more confident of their suspicion.

Due to this, they quickly adjusted their plans.

...

Aside from these groups, there were also others, who seemed to be waiting for this particular opportunity. They had been waiting since the very beginning when they received the special quest from their faction.

The members of Corrupted Cult and Demonic Churches also started making their way toward the said location. But unlike the people of Supreme Temple and Martial Alliance, they were not in a rush. Instead, they were bidding their time as they were plotting something more aside from catching the target.

They wanted to use this opportunity to grow their forces while also weakening the two opposing factions.

...

In the meantime, the person, who 'leaked' the news to the public, was currently enjoying the battle that he was watching.

At the same time, he also adjusted his position while letting the spying stones scatter in different directions to cover the entire place.

"I guess it is already enough. I should make my move now," mumbled Pogo as an evil smile appeared on his face.

He even licked his lips as he continued talking to himself. "Taking down such a sensational character always gives me a great thrill."

After that, he suddenly jumped down from the tree batch that he was sitting on before disappearing like a ghost.

...

The battle, Shin, who was enjoying the battle, could not help himself from smiling as he could see how powerful his new swordsmanship could be just by applying the principle that Old Ryong had taught him.

After 'playing' around for a while, he felt that it was time to end this. He had already spent quite a lot of time testing his new techniques and polishing them at the same time.

It was quite rare to find suitable 'test subjects' for this, so he could not afford to miss this chance to test his newly acquired techniques on these guys.

Due to the sudden change in the air surrounding Shin, Phantom instantly realized what was going to happen next. He could tell that Shin wanted to end this battle now.

Sylvie and Claude could also sense the sudden change in the atmosphere, making them feel the urgency of the situation and the crisis that they were about to face.

Phantom executed a series of movement and combat techniques, but none of them were able to help him get away from Shin as the latter continued to stick to him without any intention of letting him go.

Then, all of a sudden, Phantom felt that his entire body was paralyzed by something, preventing him from doing anything, much less going anywhere.

Sylvie wanted to save Phantom when she saw the strange actions of the latter. But before she could even cast any of her spells, she sensed a sudden threat coming from behind.

This threat seemed to come out of nowhere, making Valdez unable to sense it until the final moment. When he turned around, he saw a pair of 'Shins' heading their way – one heading straight to Sylvie after transforming into a streak of light while the other was coming at him very aggressively; these were the Moon and Sun Clones that Shin had released since who knew when.

Without any time to properly respond, Sylvie and Valdez were forced to prioritize protecting themselves over anything else.

On the side where Claude and Wolf were located, the Phantom Clone of Shin also appeared. Unlike the two clones on the other side, this Phantom Apparition used the 'Phantom Dance' without any hesitation, surrounding the pair of brothers with multiple copies of Shin.

Wolf wore a solemn expression when he saw that they were surrounded and nowhere to run.

Claude quickly responded, jumping over his brother and starting to spin in the air while firing in every direction. He was using 'Random Firing' to shoot all the Clone Phantoms.

Unfortunately, his bullets only went through the bodies of the apparitions as if they were nothing but illusions.

Sensing that his allies were currently occupied with something, Phantom immediately realized the predicament that he was in. He knew that he could do nothing but watch himself get killed by Shin.

But before the scene inside his head played out, something strange suddenly happened.

Clank! Clank!

Shin, who was about to swing his sword at Phantom, suddenly heard a very subtle sound of chains that seemed to come out of nowhere.

Then, when he swept his gaze at his surroundings, his eyes suddenly turned wide while his pupils shrunk greatly.

He suddenly realized that there were pitch-black chains surrounding him. They suspended in the air and formed a spiral with him at the center.

They were just a meter away from his body, making Shin wonder when they appeared.

Clank! Clank!

Then when Shin was still confused, the chains suddenly tightened and rapidly shrunk, seemingly trying to wrap themselves around him.

Swoosh!

Shin used 'Void Steps' without any hesitation and appeared a few meters away from his previous location.

But before he could even catch his breath, he immediately sensed an incoming threat coming to his side and seemingly heading toward his neck.

Swoosh!

Shin quickly ducked forward, barely dodging the sickle that flew past over his head. It even left a trail of crimson light in the air, signifying that it was no ordinary attack.

Shin did not have the time to think whether the one, who ambushed him was working with Phantom and the others, as he quickly retreated once again after sensing the slight trembling of the earth underneath him.

Bang!

Right after he left, another sickle suddenly shot up from the ground along with the chains connected to the bottom of its handle.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A few more attacks tried to catch Shin, but none of them managed to even touch the edge of his cloak as he skillfully maneuvered himself while dodging each of them – jumping, backflipping, hopping, spinning, and cartwheeling in the process.

The attacks only stopped when he distanced himself far enough from the range of the chained sickles.

"Hoo~! That is close," when Shin stabilized himself in the distance and raised his head to look at the person, who just ambushed him.

That was when he heard the latter talk. "Tsk! Tsk! You sure are a slipper b\*st\*rd. To think that you are still able to escape such a perfect ambush!? I just missed the perfect opportunity!"

"I must admit that you are worthy to be hunted," he added while laughing maniacally.

Pogo, the Killer Clown, suddenly appeared a couple of distances away from Shin, catching the chained sickles that came at him before licking its curved blade.

Shin instantly recognized the guy as he had seen the video of the battle between this clown and his senior brother.

He then slightly knitted his brows deeply, finding that the situation was getting a little troublesome.

But, at the same time, it was also getting more interesting.

He smiled under his mask before fixing his grip on his swords, preparing for another round.

Chapter 1365: A New God versus an Old God (Part 1)

...

Shin stared solemnly at Pogo as he could tell that the latter also had a Tier 3 Class and possessed a special combat state on a similar level as his Reality Manifestation.

The earlier exchange was more than enough for him to realize this since the great control that he had seen from the latter when using the chained sickles to ambush him was absolute and perfect. Even the micro-movements of the chains were so good that they looked like a part of Pogo's body.

With such control, Shin understood that it would not be the 'Reality Manifestation', but more like what Diablo had. "Hyperactive Immersion?"

As Shin mumbled those words, Pogo seemed to have heard his words and said. "I see that you are also one of us – true Tier 3s."

Hearing that, Shin got the confirmation. But instead of getting intimidated, especially when he was facing an additional enemy that was much stronger than others, he started smiling behind his mask.

He felt that this was going to be much more fun and entertaining than he originally thought.

Without waiting for Shin to say anything further, Pogo quickly made his move. He dashed forward and disappeared in his current position, leaving a shockwave behind that blasted the air in that place.

Swoosh!

"Fast!" Shin was somewhat surprised at the speed of his opponent, but he remained calm as he knew two other people, who were much faster than this guy.

He then adjusted his posture and twisted his waist before turning in the opposite direction and calmly raising his sword and unhurriedly swinging it upwards.

Swoosh!

Bang!

In an instant, his swords suddenly collided with something hard, resulting in a strong collision. The air around him and Pogo, who suddenly appeared right in front of him, scattered and sent violent ripples in every direction.

The sickle and the sword vibrated as both sides refused to back down.

Shin calmly looked at Pogo while the latter continued to maintain his grin and stared straight into Shin's eyes.

Pogo could not see Shin's face due to the shade of the hood, but he could at least see that the latter was wearing a mask to further hide his identity. He now understood why his special observation skill was not giving him any information about this guy. Possessing two disguising items to hide his identity was like having a double security feature.

Disregarding his intention of trying to reveal Shin's identity and confirm their suspicion, Pogo quickly adjusted his approach and decided to fight for real.

Clank! Clank!

With a slight flick of his wrist, Pogo tugged the chains connected to his sickle while his other hand swung the other sickle, dragging the chains attached to its handle.

Shin quickly responded by pushing Pogo and swinging his other sword to meet the incoming sickle. The trajectory of his strike was quite tricky as it was also trying to catch his opponent at the same time.

Seeing the incoming sword, Pogo quickly adjusted his position by pulling his right arm backward and then changing the trajectory of the sickle on his left hand to meet the sword of his opponent.

Bang!

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Right after the collision, the chains attached to the sickles suddenly moved and surrounded the two, particularly Shin who was flanked in two different directions.

But since they were moving forward, Shin could just move backward to prevent them from completely trapping him.

However, Shin did not proceed to take that obvious answer since he could tell that it was just a trap that Pogo had laid to try baiting him in.

Instead, he held his ground after pushing Pogo away to create a space between them. He then took a stance, left-hand sword raised over his left shoulder while the right-hand sword was placed below his armpit and beside his waist.

Bang!

There was a strong pressure that was released from his body, making Pogo slightly hesitate to continue pressing forward.

With that, Pogo just pulled his arms backward, making the chains roll in the air as they were being dragged by his actions.

Seeing the incoming chains that were flanking him, Shin suddenly moved. He suddenly took a step forward while swinging two swords consecutively, creating violent ripples in the air.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

His actions did not stop the approaching chains as they continued to move toward him, surrounding him from different directions. But their approach at least slowed down due to the strong ripples in the air that were trying to push them back.

After that, Shin suddenly stomped on the ground and then propelled himself forward. At the same time, he also raised one of his swords and pointed it forward, throwing a forward thrust straight at Pogo.

His actions were fast and decisive while the transition between his movements was smooth and flawless.

Swoosh!

Shin also applied the sword principle that he had learned, particularly the 'will of quickness', making his sword and movements move faster.

Shing!

A straight line appeared in the air, connecting the starting point of Shin's sword and its sharp tip.

'Extra Skill: (Modified) Sword Rush – Thrusting Dash'

The tip of Shin's sword was almost upon Pogo, who was still in the middle of his previous actions. The tip of the sword was rapidly magnifying in his eyes as it was alright right in front of his face.

Without any hint of hesitation, Pogo decisively gave up on trapping Shin with his chains and quickly used one of his escaping skills.

'Extra Skill (Tier 2): Gale Steps'

Swoosh!

His figure suddenly flicked, leaving an afterimage, as his real body disappeared before he appeared a couple of meters away.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

But at the same time, the chains connected to his sickles were also dragged along with him, making them follow him toward that new position.

Pogo tried to adjust his arms as he controlled the chains, making them again surround Shin.

But Shin was already expecting that, so he continued to move forward and chased after his opponent by using the second charge of his previous skill.

Bang!

With another powerful stomp that left a deep footprint on the ground, Shin sent himself forward once again. But this time, he infused the 'Primordial Lightning' with his movements, increasing his already insane speed even further.

Crackle! Crackle!

Shin left a trail of lighting in the path behind him as he flew straight to Pogo standing a distance away.

'Extra Skill: (Modified) Sword Rush – (Lighting) Slicing Dash'

Shin swung the sword forward, leaving a trail of lighting on its trajectory.

Seeing Shin appearing right in front of him once again, Pogo could not help but click his tongue while frowning deeply. Without any choice left, he could only retreat once again as he could not afford a frontal confrontation with Shin.

Swoosh!

Using another escape skill, Pogo appeared a distance away once again. He looked a little more serious this time as he found that his current strategy would not work on someone like Shin, so he had to use his advantage as well.

"I know that he is holding himself back when fighting those mutts, but I don't expect that he is on this level," mumbled Pogo as he continued to create more distance away from Shin.

Even if he knew that Shin could also enter the true special combat states, he still did not expect that the difference between when the latter was playing around and when he started getting serious would be this wide.

Coming up with this conclusion, Pogo had to showcase his real abilities too.

This was going to be completely different when he was fighting David – known as 'Khing' within the game – since Shin focused more on frontal confrontation and possessed a speed that was no worse than his.

When Pogo was fighting Khing, the latter possessed a series of odd skills, which made it hard for the former to be quite restricted during that battle. There were even a couple of summoned monsters at that time, which was limiting the choices Pogo had when attacking, so he could not properly showcase his full capacities, despite him performing well.

But this time, it was a completely different situation. It was clear to him that this current opponent that he had was an expert in close combat with insane speed.

Thinking about this, Pogo loosened his grip over his chained sickles before letting them fall. Before the sickles could even touch the ground, he suddenly grabbed the chains attached to their handles pulling them up with a gentle tug with his wrist.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

He then started spinning the two sickles before doing a couple of tricks with them as he spun them around his body.

Shin immediately noticed the sudden change in the air surrounding his opponent. He could tell that Pogo was now taking him more seriously.

After that, he saw the chains that Pogo was holding become covered with a crimson aura while the blades of the sickles turned bloody, making the spinning around him shine bright.

Shin could also sense an immense threat coming from those two spinning sickles, making him more cautious of them.

At the same time, he kept the two swords that he was using, putting them back in his inventory while hiding his arms under his cloak.

He was planning to use his real sword this time as he could sense that those chained sickles were no ordinary weapons. Even if his current swords were quite good as well, he could sense that they were inferior to the weapons that his opponent was using.

He also saw that their durability dropped drastically after their brief exchange earlier. This was one of the reasons why Shin wanted to use the [Yamato] – it was an indestructible weapon and could also shatter weapons that were greatly weaker than it.

But instead of using its original form, he was planning to use the dual katana. Even if he had used this form in public before, he was not that worried that it would expose his identity since despite their amazing appearance, they were not that unique to everyone – there were also high-quality swords out there with similar designs.

After swapping his weapons secretly, Shin held both swords while shrouding them with the 'Primordial Lightning' to further hide their somewhat common appearance. Not many would be able to notice the difference between these swords and the ones that he was using earlier.

...

As Shin and Pogo were having a staredown, Phantom, who just escaped death earlier, was not sure what to do next.

He was not that delusional to believe that Pogo had saved him. As an assassin himself, he could tell that it was a perfect opportunity to launch an ambush and the most efficient timing where the latter could take down Shin.

He just felt a little unpleasant for being used as bait at that very moment. Given the great timing that Pogo had chosen, Phantom could tell that the guy had been watching them for quite a while already.

He then saw the brief but intense exchanges between Shin and Pogo right after the initial ambush, Phantom instantly realized the gap between him and these two monsters.

This also confirmed their initial suspicion that Shin was one of the top Godlike Players of the game or might even be a Maverick God that they were not aware of.

On the other hand, Pogo, known as the Killer Clown, was an old god who was almost forgotten by everyone due to his being inactive for quite a long time. But the people would still remember his infamous feats that could strike fear in most of the players, especially when he was one of the founding members of the largest and most notorious dark guilds within the game, the Blood Carnival.

Looking at the two gods in front of him, Phantom felt inferior compared to them despite him finally being a Godlike Player himself and even getting a title for himself. Yet all of it was still not enough as the gap was laid in front of him.

Fortunately, he had a strong will, so he could quickly recover himself. He then turned to around and headed toward the rest of his group, lending them a hand in dealing with those overpowered clones of Shin.

After regrouping them, they would have to reorganize themselves before trying to try once again.

Chapter 1366: A New God versus an Old God (Part 2)

.....

Bang!

Shin suddenly charged forward, heading straight to Pogo without any hint of hesitation. He had seen the battle between David and this guy through the recovered video that Akailu and the rest had given him, and what he had seen was quite surprising.

Even though David showcased the difference in ranks between the two as he did not even move out of the circle that he had drawn since the beginning of the battle, the fight itself was quite amazing.

Aside from being surprised at David, Shin had also gotten a deep impression from Pogo during that battle, particularly how he controlled his chained sickles along with the other combat techniques under his arsenal.

Shin completely understood that he could not afford to let Pogo take the initiative in this battle as he would most likely become suffocated by the latter's combat style.

Swoosh!

When Pogo saw Shin charging at him, he immediately understood what the latter was thinking. But since he was aware of his limits and the strength of his opponent, he would not dare to lower his guard and underestimate the latter once again.

Without any hesitation, Pogo swung the chained sickles forward, sending them toward his opponent and manipulating them with his great control.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

One of the chained sickles flew straight at Shin while the other moved around and took a detour around him, seemingly trying to trap him once again.

He was about to make his move when his feet sensed the sudden tremors from the ground. It was not because of his steps as these tremors were much more intense than what it supposed to be.

Raising his brows, Shin quickly responded and jumped in the air without hesitation.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Then he saw a bunch of smaller chains with broad, yet also slim kite blades attached on their end shooting out of the ground. They tried to grab Shin, who was in midair, but he just tapped his foot in the air and propelled himself forward.

Ta!

'Legacy Skill: Mondi's Jump'

Swoosh!

Avoiding those chains, Shin flew straight to the incoming sickles that were sent by Pogo earlier. It moved in a strange pattern as it was alive while trying to approach him.

Shin waited patiently for the chained sickle to almost reach him before tapping his foot on the air for another time and sending himself forward with a faster speed.

Ta!

Swoosh!

He also twisted his body in the air while avoiding the flying sickles with a very narrow margin.

Seeing Shin do a consecutive aerial maneuver while dodging his sickles, Pogo smirked as if he was already expecting that to happen.

He then flipped his wrist and tugged the chains on his hand. In response, there was a chain reaction that made the chains spiraled in the air and surrounded Shin, who was still flying midair.

Then Pogo made a strong pull with both of his arms, making the chains tighten. The spiraling chains around Shin tried to capture him while the one that was making a long detour earlier accelerated its movements and headed straight to the back of the target.

Shin remained calm despite the predicament and the use of one of his movement skills midair. But before he could even activate any of them, he suddenly froze as he realized that all his active skills were greyed out – he had been silenced without him knowing.

Shin could use one of the cleansing skills attached to his equipment but decided against it in the end as he wanted to save it for a more desperate situation.

Instead, he took the more straightforward approach and relied on his swordsmanship for this predicament.

He would now showcase his real capabilities with the 'Reality Manifestation.'

He twisted his body midair as he adjusted his center of gravity and took a more comfortable position before swinging his swords around.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

A series of black-and-white flashes trailed through the air, intertwining with one another. They hit the rapidly closing chains and warded off their advance.

'Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship – Infinity Edge (Aerial Version)'

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Sparks flew in the air due to the collisions before the chains rebounded from the sword slashes along with bloody sickles attached to them.

After repelling those chains that were trying to catch him, Shin briefly glanced at his skill bar and saw that the silence effect already disappeared.

"It seemed like being trapped by those chains made him unable to use any kind of escape or movement skills," he mumbled as he saw this happening right after he pushed those chains away from him.

He then suddenly disappeared from his spot and reappeared behind Pogo by coming out of the latter's shadow.

'Phantom Swordsman Skill: Phantom Steps'

Swoosh!

Right after he was spat out of the shadow, Shin quickly swung the black katana on his right hand as the silver lightning covered its blade.

This was a sword movement under one of his available sword techniques while applying principles that he had learned so far. One was using the combined skills under his arsenal and using it as the main model for this sword technique while the other was infusing it with the will of 'quickness' and 'heaviness'.

He then fused the silver lighting of the 'Primordial Lighting' to increase its speed and destructive power.

Flash!

The strike was so strong and fast that it left a bright vertical line in the air, seeming to connect the sword and a pillar of lightning falling from heaven, but it was in jade color.

Then an explosive sound similar to a thunder roaring in the sky quickly followed.

Boom!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: First Movement – Collapsing Wind'

It was as swift as the wind and as heavy as the earth, but it carried the power of lightning.

This was the real form of this sword technique, and Shin had realized it earlier during the time he used that earlier technique when cutting the magic that Sylvie had cast. It might have happened in the spur of the moment, but it gave him great insights that helped him understand the sword movements of the 'Jade Kirin Scripture'.

Bang!

But despite his sudden enlightenment, this seemingly perfect attack still failed to end his opponent as Pogo was able to respond to it without problem.

Crimson chains suddenly burst out from the ground and circled Pogo, forming a barrier that protected him from that strike.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

The chains might have been shaken violently by that heavy strike, but they were still able to withstand the impact in the end.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

They then suddenly burst open, spreading in every direction and surrounding Shin in the process. They were planning to trap him inside once again.

Whoosh!

Then, to prevent Shin from escaping once again, Pogo suddenly charged forward with a pair of bloody sickles that returned to him out of nowhere.

'Killer Clown Personalized Technique – Crimson Pilgrimage'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

As Pogo approached Shin, flashes of crimson lights surrounded him before heading straight to Shin, who was just standing a meter away after throwing the earlier attack.

Shin slightly frowned his brows as he knew that he did not have enough time to perform the 'Infinity Edge' once again due to how close he was to his opponent.

His movements were restricted by the limited space forcing him to swing his swords would only give his opponent easier access to continue with this particular attack.

Given that his skills were greyed out once again, his choices for counterattacking or defending became even more limited.

But during this predicament, a sudden idea struck him.

His current position still maintained the final position of the 'Collapsing Wind', which also gave him enough space to follow it up with the next sword movements.

Following his instincts, he raised his arm and turned the sword clockwise, forming a circle in the air as the power of 'Primordial Lightning' continued to flow through it.

He then subconsciously followed the energy circulation of the 'Jade Kirin Scripture' based on what he 'remembered', making the mana within him respond.

Swoosh!

The silver lighting flowing through his sword turned blue all of a sudden before a gentle flow of liquified energy took over.

Shin was unaware at first, but he had triggered the 'Origin Source' of the 'Power of Primordial Eclipse' once again.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Second Movement – Returning Wave'

This time, the lighting was as gentle as the water and as steady as the wood.

Shin suddenly understood something, and then smiled beneath his mask. "I see."

Following the pattern, Shin pulled the black katana back right after deflecting all the crimson lights that were trying to approach him while swinging the white katana on his left hand.

Swoosh!

Crackle! Crackle!

This time, a black light was covering his sword as he swung it. He drew a triangular shape in the air as he swung the sword three times with absolute control and great accuracy.

During the process, the circulation method of the Jade Kirin Scripture continued. But it also fused with the Solar Breathing, Golden Immortality, and Great Dominator Techniques during the entire process.

To make it even more complicated, he even applied the sword principle that he had learned from Old Ryong, adding the wills of 'quickness', 'sharpness', and 'heaviness' in the mix.

Boom!

Something seemed to have been provoked inside him as the 'Primordial Lightning' continued to flow according to everything.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Third Movement – Trinity Storm'

Bang!

A triangular slash flew straight to Pogo, which made the latter retreat due to the fierceness that it had. The lighting that it carried seemed to be as explosive as fire, as sharp as metal, and as heavy as the earth, which made it impossible for Pogo to confront it head-on.

It was his first time seeing such a profound attack within the game.

It was more of a work of art instead of an attack inside the game.

Without any hesitation, Pogo retreated, giving Shin enough space to avoid the entrapment of the crimson chains.

In the meantime, Shin felt somewhat disappointed. It was not because his attack was unsuccessful or anything, but it was because he felt that he would not be able to complete this swordsmanship even if he defeated this powerful opponent in front of him.

Based on what he had seen, that 'Trinity Storm' could also be applied with other sword principles and carried more combinations of elemental properties.

He felt pity because he still had not awakened his other two innate attributes and practiced a corresponding breathing technique. If he did, then the 'Returning Wave' that he had just performed would be more perfect.

It would also make him understand more about the properties of this 'Primordial Lighting', which seemed to have the ability to incorporate the wind element.

"If I want to know more about this 'Origin', then I must awaken my other two attributes as soon as possible," he mumbled as he also realized the other potential of applications of sword principles. It had more potential than he originally thought. "I also have to work hard to learn more under Elder Ryong."

After setting it aside for the time being, Shin turned to Pogo before resuming his attack.

Bang!

This time, he had more confidence and was somewhat more excited.

Aside from being able to fight a powerful opponent that was acknowledged by his senior brother, he now had another goal for this battle.

He wanted to learn more about this 'Jade Kirin Scripture' which was so mysterious that it was so overpowered. The more he thought that he had learned everything about it, the more Shin realized that he was far from the truth.

Since it was tempering not only his disciplines but also polishing his swordsmanship and energy control, he would welcome more discovery about this supposed to be 'mind-cleansing technique'.

Pogo, who was standing a distance away from Shin, could not help but look at his opponent weirdly. As someone with sharp senses, he could instantly tell the sudden shift of the mood that the latter had. He could tell that Shin became more excited for some unknown reason.

Regardless of everything, Pogo could only describe Shin in a single word. "Insane. This guy is insane!"

But he did not dislike it either as he, himself, was also the same.

With that, he quickly swung his arms and sent his sickles flying toward his opponent once again. "Let us see who is more insane between the two of us!"

Chapter 1367: A New God versus an Old God (Part 3)

...

The people watching the live feed of the battle between Shin were surprised when they saw Pogo, the Killer Clown, especially when they saw the perfect timing when ambushing the target.

But they became even more impressed when they witnessed Shin dodging everything with complex and tricky maneuvers.

The initial exchange between the two was quite intense, but they were not as stunning as the viewers initially thought. After all, this was Pogo they were talking about – one of the notoriously known villains within the virtual world and a founding member of Blood Carnival, one of the largest and most powerful dark guilds in the game.

Some people even said that Pogo was nothing but an old god now and could not keep up with the current Godlike Players in the Godly Ranking List – even though he was still very young given that he was not older than twenty-five years of age.

Despite that, these bored idlers without anything better to do loved to trash-talk people and said that Pogo was already behind the times and past his prime.

Other people also joined the fun, especially when they saw Shin was in the upper hand during the first few exchanges. It was more fun to join the crowd, particularly the majority when it came to these situations.

It was not until when they saw Pogo showcased his real capabilities.

Shin might have gotten a few enlightenments and understood more about his swordsmanship, particularly the sword techniques under the Jade Kirin Scripture. But Pogo was still not someone who could be underestimated.

The moment Shin showed his aggressiveness and tried to press Pogo with his momentum, the latter finally showed his fangs.

The Killer Clown finally showed what he was capable of when he was serious.

Pogo used his signature moves and techniques that were familiar to most of the players but in a much better way and improved versions.

The familiar combat techniques that he used in the past were now much more powerful and carried a more dangerous air in them.

Pogo bombarded Shin with attacks along with his chained sickles, manipulating them in the strangest way possible and showcasing his amazing control over them.

There were also some combat techniques that he was using where that made it look like he was controlling multiple chained sickles when there were only two. This illusion technique amazed most of the new players and shut up the trash talkers in the live feed.

These keyboard warriors were in the middle of trash-talking when Pogo exploded with a series of combat techniques, suppressing Shin in an instant. That scene made these people pause their hands from typing and swallow their words back.

Aside from the attacks with the two chained sickles, Pogo was also throwing more attacks with his other chained weapons like the one with kite daggers that he used during the earlier exchange. Some flying daggers seemed to come out of nowhere, trying to ambush Shin from a different angle as well as the blind spots that Shin had.

But Shin always had his True Sight active, he was always able to read the trajectory of the chained sickles no matter how tricky the angle was. As for the unseen attacks that always came from his blind spots, none of them were able to successfully harm him due to his territorial skills, the Sensing Circle.

No matter how powerful Pogo was and how amazing his control over his chained weapons was, none of them were able to pressure him much.

Aside from using the lighting version of his 'Infinity Edge' repeatedly to ward off most of the attacks of his opponent, he was also using a series of movement techniques as he tried to close the distance between himself and his opponent while also dodging the rest of the attacks at the same time.

With the cool black-and-white lighting that was crackling around his body and covering his sword, the viewers could not help but feel in awe, especially when Shin used the 'Infinity Edge' and created a dome-like net of crisscrossing lines with his swords.

Then there were also those movement techniques that were enhanced by his 'Primordial Lightning', which made each of his actions much cooler, particularly when he was leaving a series of afterimages behind and when a trail of lighting followed his path.

The battle was in a deadlock as Shin was unable to get closer to Pogo since the last time when he had successfully approached the latter.

After that instance, Pogo was more cautious in his movements and kept a certain distance between him and Shin.

He was quite good at controlling the space between them, especially when he was trying to kite Shin. The distance between them shrunk from time to time, but it always grew wide once again as Pogo did not want to engage Shin in a frontal confrontation.

Even if he was confident in his abilities to fight in a melee battle, he knew that he would be suppressed in such a battle given that it was the speciality of the opposing side.

Moreover, he would be able to showcase what he was capable of in mid- to average-range battles with his chained sickles, especially when most of his combat techniques specialized in this area.

On the other hand, Shin was slightly frowning his brows as he was trying to look for other solutions to break the current deadlock. He knew that he would be in trouble if more people joined the battle later.

Even if a battle royale occurred due to the competition of the people trying to capture him, he would still be the main target of everyone, which would put him at a great disadvantage.

Shin knew that Pogo just happened to join the fun, but that was also one of the problems since these random assassins or mercenaries would most likely try targeting given that there was a major event connected to him.

Aside from these 'scavengers' who were trying to fish in troubled waters.

There were also the people from the four factions that were after him, so Shin knew that he had to finish these fights earlier before the others arrived.

However, it was quite hard to fight the temptation of experiencing such a thrilling battle.

It was quite uncomfortable that he could not use his other techniques and skills, particularly the ones meant for movement. He had to keep his identity unknown as long as possible to make sure that the players that were coming after him to counter him, especially those guys from the Demonic Churches and Corrupted Cult that he always clashed with.

He was already familiar with them, it would not be strange for those guys to be familiar with him as well, especially his moves and techniques.

Glancing at the timer in the corner of his eyes, he saw that already dozens of hours had passed, which made it more than half of the total time that he had to spend being hunted was left.

To exact, there was still a total of a day and a half (in-game time) before the final tick of the clock ended for this particular event.

He had been roaming around the Shunkai Forest for quite some time already. He was trying to waste the time of the other people chasing and looking for him while taking down one team after another by constantly ambushing them.

It also wasted the time when his coordinates were being revealed to the four factions every two hours.

He just kept appearing and disappearing in different parts of the map, making it harder for the other people to find him.

He could log out of the game at this point if he wanted to and take a little rest before logging back again. It might pause the timer, but it could also give him enough time to recover the peak condition of his mind after he continues fighting since he was forced into this 'event'.

However, he wanted to use that opportunity when it was finally time to go offline, which was almost in the final hours of this 'hunting event', especially when someone had already 'booked' him for a duel at that time.

He had to prepare first before taking on such a strong opponent.

After glancing at the timer, Shin also saw that there was still quite a lot of time before the system sent his coordinates to the 'hunters.' But considering that the other people might have already figured out his location after fighting Phantom and the others, then against this current opponent.

He was not sure if they had informed more people or asked for reinforcements. There was also the possibility of someone stumbling in this place. Given the intense battle, it would not be strange for other players to hear the clashes and notice that there was going here.

He had to end this as soon as possible. "I guess I have to reveal a few more of my cards this time."

Thinking about this, Shin took a deep breath after dodging a series of attacks from Pogo. He utilized the brief period where the chains needed time to set themselves up to catch his breath and adjust his form.

Pogo instantly sensed the sudden change in the air surrounding Shin, making him warier of what was about to come.

At the same time, he also adjusted the formation of his chained sickles, taking a more defensive approach rather than an offensive one.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

As the chained sickles were about to reach his desired position, something unexpected suddenly happened – Shin, who was supposedly standing 50 to 60 meters away from him, suddenly appeared in front of him without a sound.

'Equipment Skill (Leg Armor: Megumi's Shadow): Death Travel'

Shin was ducking forward while holding his swords beside him, one positioned on beside his waist while the other was being held over his shoulder.

Pogo might have been caught off guard by his opponent's sudden appearance, but as an expert himself and an old god with a lot of experience, he was still able to respond in time.

Pulling his arms down and tugging the chains that he was holding; he calmly took a step back to have a clearer view of Shin. He then raised his arms and shook them in a twisting motion. The crimson chains then wrapped themselves around his arms as he placed them in front of him in a parallel manner, putting up a defensive stance.

He even lowered his head to hide it behind his fists while slightly curling his upper body like a boxer on guard.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

That was when Shin swung his swords at him consecutively.

Pogo strengthened his arms and braced himself for impact, but the attack that he was expecting never arrived. The sword that was being swung at him passed through him before the 'Shin' in front of him slowly faded away.

"F\*ck!" Pogo could only curse under his breath as he realized that he had been duped.

Without any hint of hesitation, even a fraction of a second, Pogo used one of his lifesaving skills.

'Extra Skill (Tier 2): Gale Steps'

Swoosh!

Pogo did not care about the instantaneous stealth that the skill gave him since he could tell that Shin was still able to see through it through a special ocular skill. What he wanted from this skill was the few seconds of invulnerability and the boosts in his movement speed that it provided.

Dashing forward for a second, Pogo suddenly leaped while twisting his body in the air and turning around.

Swoosh!

He barely dodged the sword strike that Shin did while targeting his neck.

During his turn, he swung both arms around, making the chains twist and turn along with his actions.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

'Blood Killer Skill (Tier 2): Sanguine Storm'

The chains were swung randomly, carrying a powerful force behind them. They then wreak havoc around him, slamming on the ground and leaving deep fissures on it. Their air was also cut by a series of crimson flashes as they covered a larger area.

But despite how powerful that violent attack was, it still hit nothing but air as the target disappeared like a ghost.

This might be a powerful skill and covered quite a huge area, but it still exposed a fatal flaw in Shin's eyes. Despite its huge range, the area above Pogo was completely left unaffected.

Shin appeared up there right after being spat out by a small void rift.

He was positioned upside down as he let himself fall naturally. He then took advantage of the gravity and even kicked the air under his feet with 'Mondi's Jump' to accelerate his descent.

Swoosh!

With such a powerful momentum, Shin positioned his sword parrel to himself while infusing the 'Primordial Lightning' on it. He then swung it down along with his fall, leaving a vertical line in the air.

'Extra Skill: (Modified) Falling Lightblade – Lightning Strike'

Shing!

The sword cut through the air and almost reached the head of his opponent.

But Pogo was still fast to react. The blood sickles appeared on his hands as he raised them over his head while channeling all his mana on them.

At the same time, crimson light covered his entire being while the chains attached to the sickles gathered and wrapped themselves on his body.

'Self-created Skill (Combined): (Enhanced) Crimson Protection'

Swoosh!

Crackle! Crackle!

Bang!

The sword covered with black-and-white lightning finally fell from above and hit the crossed sickles, creating a powerful shockwave.

Pogo felt that his body was shaken to the core due to the powerful impact. His feet even sank a few inches on the ground.

It also did not stop there as the aftershock spread in every direction and made the ground sink further, forming a deep crater beneath Pogo.

Pogo finally experienced the true might of Shin's attack!

And this was just the beginning since Shin finally closed the gap between them, he would never let this opportunity slip away.

Chapter 1368: A New God versus an Old God (Part 4)

.....

Shin had already seen enough of Pogo's style and knew that he had to keep close to the latter to limit the strength of such an opponent.

Now that he had closed the gap between them, he would never let go of this opportunity. He would immediately press forward and prevent Pogo from escaping.

But Pogo was still an old god regardless. It would not be easy to faze such an experienced player. Even if Shin landed on the ground and quickly launched a series of attacks, this Killer Clown was still able to hold his ground.

Even if Pogo was not as strong as Shin in a melee battle, he was still able to preserve his life with a couple of tricks. However, those tricks were also running thin with each passing second as Shin's violent and aggressive attacks would not be ceasing at any moment yet.

In just a few moments of experiencing the series of sword techniques that Shin was throwing at him, Pogo instantly realized that he was in deep trouble.

He had already lost his advantage after Shin got close to him. Now he had to deal with a series of attacks that carried the essence of true swordsmanship from the real world.

Pogo was almost running out of skills and combat techniques that he could use in these exchanges while his opponent continued the aggressive assaults, seemingly growing stronger as more time went by.

In such a predicament, Pogo was forced to use more of his hidden cards even if they would cost him a lot in exchange.

Clang!

Forcing Shin to take a step back, Pogo brought himself a couple of seconds to take out a particular position from his inventory before gulping it down without any hesitation.

At the same time, he also activated two of his berserk skills, triggering a double berserk effect that enhanced all his stats almost thrice at their original value.

Seeing that, Shin slightly frowned. He knew that this was going to be a little more troublesome. He could also use the berserk and buff skills under his arsenal, but all of them had a long cooldown and he did not know when another powerful opponent, like Pogo, would appear.

If he used one of them now to match Pogo, and someone equally skilled was laying another ambush for him, he would be forced to engage in another intense battle.

But since Pogo consumed an odd-looking potion and even triggered a double berserk at the same time, Shin did not know if a single berserk skill or buff skill was enough to match it.

Moreover, Pogo also had a Tier 3 Class, which made his stats on a similar level as Shin's, so the boosts that the former would receive were something that Shin could not overlook.

But if he also triggered a double berserk to match it, he would enter a weakened state even if he defeated Pogo.

That was a good opportunity to take him down, and he knew that those guys watching in the dark would never miss such an opportunity.

There was still quite a long time before this 'event' would end.

Having this string of thoughts, Shin decided to take the most obvious approach, which was also his usual style.

Use his Elemental Spirit Possession to match the enhanced stats of his opponent.

It might risk exposing his identity to everyone, but he did not have much of a choice but to gamble it.

"Blackie! Whitie!" he mumbled in a low voice that only he could hear.

In response, the two quickly separated themselves from the cycle of the other specks of light that were revolving around Shin before briefly manifesting themselves behind Shin in their respective humanoid forms and swiftly fusing with his swords.

'Elemental Spirit Possession: Abysmal Conqueror'

'Elemental Spirit Possession: Sacred Vanquisher'

Bang!

Crackle! Crackle!

Right after the two Elemental Spirits possessed his swords, the 'Primordial Lighting' seemed to have responded to them and made black and white lightning once again. The white lightning went to the black katana in his right hand while the black lightning covered the white katana in his left hand.

This version of 'Eclipse Wielding' was very different from the usual version when he first created it. After the continuous adjustments and restructures of this Combat Technique, it reached a level that was already beyond the regular legendary rank.

However, Shin also knew that the previous version where he was using the Powers of Brilliant Sun and Abyssal Moon had its advantages. But it was also more suited for Yin-Yang Arts and Swordsmanship while this version with the 'Primordial Lightning' suited his current style and sword techniques more.

Bang!

Now that it was being further enhanced by this dual possession, the strength that Shin had received was way off the charts.

It might still be a little inferior when compared to the time when he was fighting the Grand Centipedeus, it was already nearing that level. Moreover, that battle was under the special condition of a triggered quest scenario, making the system grant them a series of boosts in both stats and other areas.

Compared to what he was right now, his current state was already way beyond what most of the players could achieve.

He was also not using his version of 'Natural State' yet – the Perfect Zenith – since it consumed a lot of concentration and willpower just to keep it active.

Regardless, his current strength was more than enough to deal with the current state of his opponent.

Swoosh!

Charging forward, Shin swung the black katana horizontally, drawing a straight line in the air, which also transformed into a white flash a second later.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Fourth Movement – Tempest Stroke'

Shing!

The sword cut through the air and almost arrived in front of Pogo within a millisecond timeframe.

But despite the absolute speed that that strike carried, Pogo was still able to respond instantly. He raised this blood sickle in a seemingly casual manner before it suddenly accelerated and reached a speed that was no less than Shin's incoming strike.

Swoosh!

Bang!

The collision immediately resulted in a strong shockwave that was sent in every direction due to the powerful impact.

Shin's sword rebounded along with his arm as he tried to prevent it from flying. He held tightly to it and put more strength on his hand and arm, pulling it back. But the result was the same and he was forced to take a series of heavy steps back, leaving deep prints on it.

On the other hand, Pogo was forced to skid back due to the strong force from the collision. His feet also sank to the ground, but it still did not stop his body from moving away. He even left a deep and long trail on the ground as he continued skidding away from the point of collision.

After stabilizing themselves, Shin and Pogo raised their heads, looking straight into each other's eyes.

The former carried a somewhat amazed expression while the latter had a pair of bloodshot eyes, seemingly resembling a beast that went on berserk.

There was a brief pause before the two quickly went back into action.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Pogo quickly threw his sickles forward, trying to re-establish his previously lost advantage. Now that there was a decent space between the two of them, he could not afford to let it slip away from his hands.

It seemed like he was still in the right mind despite the current appearance that he had.

Bang!

Swoosh!

But Shin also understood that and quickly stomped on the ground, sending small fragments of rocks in the air, before propelling himself forward.

There was also a sudden thunderclap that exploded right after that stomp, sending an aftershock and electric currents that spread in every direction. They blocked the smaller chains that suddenly shot out from the ground and tried to entrap him.

Whoosh!

Clank! Clank!

Pogo knew that Shin would use that strange swordsmanship to repel his chained sickles once again, so he executed a different combat technique this time, which he could only use under crazy this state.

He shook his wrists, sending ripples to the chains and making them move in waves. He then did strong pulling motions, dragging the chains.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

But strangely, instead of flying straight back to him, the chained sickles did a series of strange movements in the air while heading to his opponent with odd timing and angle.

Shin, who was already sprinting forward, instantly realized that there was something wrong with their movements. Even with the help of his True Sight Skill, he was still unable to read their trajectory, much less the part of his body that was being targeted.

He could sense the danger of advancing, but he did not have a choice but to continue since he knew that he would be at a disadvantage once again if he stopped pressing forward.

He could also tell that his opponent was waiting for him to use the 'Infinity Edge' just by looking at the expression that the latter had. He felt that his swords would be neutralized once he used them to ward off those chained sickles.

"That is fine since I will not be planning to slow either," he mumbled as he bravely charged forward.

Trying to ward off the chained sickles with the 'Infinity Edge' would require him to slow down briefly, which was what Pogo was waiting for. But Shin was not planning to do that at all since it would give Pogo more time to create more distance between them.

Instead of busying himself on dealing with these bloody sickles, Shin decided to accelerate forward and jumped toward the swarming chains and a pair of sickles upfront.

Swoosh!

Pogo was quite confused by those actions, but he continued with his attack regardless, not letting Shin approach him that easily.

With a series of tugs and twists of his wrists, the chains and the sickles attached at the end danced around, surrounding Shin.

But right before they could even reach Shin, Pogo saw a strange scene – a scene where his opponent showcased a series of seemingly nonchalant movements while dodging sickles and getting away from the grips of crimson chains.

With a simple turn and sidesteps, Shin was able to avoid all the attacks directed at him with a very small margin.

There were also times when the bloody mana covering the chained sickles tried to expand the range and scale of their attacks, but the 'Primordial Lighting' shrouding Shin's body warded them off completely.

When Pogo tried to use a much crazier series of attacks, Shin suddenly added a few movements to his actions. He hopped, jumped, leaped, spun, flipped, or even rolled in the air as he navigated his way at the blocked of crimson chains blocking his path.

Bang!

The moment when he finally got out of the formation of crimson chains, Shin suddenly stomped on the ground and launched himself toward Pogo like a rocket.

Swoosh!

Shin then pointed his sword forward as he flew straight toward his opponent.

Pogo wanted to create more space so he quickly retreated while pulling his chained sickles back to him. The chains tightened before being dragged by him while the sickles released a sanguine glow before flying straight to Shin's back.

Shin did not care about that as he kept looking up front while raising his sword and pointing it forward. Then a spiral energy suddenly surrounded his sword, revolving and spinning with a destructive force.

Applying all the sword principles that he had learned and combining them with the circulation method of the Jade Kirin Scripture, Shin thrust the sword forward while he along with his charge.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Fifth Movement – Hurricane Force'

Swoosh!

A spiraling torrent of energy suddenly shot out from the tip of the sword and flew straight to Pogo with a speed that almost surpassed the sound. It was rapidly expanding, covering a large area, before aggressively moving forward with a momentum that could shred everything in its path.

The craze in Pogo's eyes seemed to have subdued a little due to the mighty force heading his way. He then abandoned attacking Shin with his sickles as he knew that this attack would arrive first before they could even touch the back of his opponent.

The pair of sickles suddenly appeared on both of his hands, as if they teleported, before Pogo channeled his sanguine energy in them.

He then tossed them in the air and grabbed the chains, spinning the pair of sickles, before throwing a series of powerful strikes at the incoming torrent of energy.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

A series of sanguine flashes appeared in front of him and formed a spiderweb-like formation as they moved toward the opposing force.

'Blood Killer Skill (Tier 2): (Modified) Blood Web'

Bang!

A strong explosion quickly erupted right after the collision, creating a huge and thick cloud of smoke between the two players.

Pogo wanted to use this opportunity to retreat and create more distance, but he suddenly heard a series of sharp sounds cutting through the air.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Raising his head, he suddenly saw a group of sword waves that broke through the cloud of smoke and headed toward his direction with a speed that was no less than the previous attack.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Sixth Movement – Sword Gale'

Shin had used one of his Elemental Skills, the 'Blood Rampage', as a model to recreate this sword technique within the game.

This skill had also been enhanced since Vladimir had evolved a couple of times, and it would further become more powerful once this conceited elemental spirit had successfully become a full-fledged Supreme Elemental Spirit.

The sword waves slashed through the air and flew with a tricky formation that blocked all the escape routes that Pogo could take.

Even if he tried to enter stealth or use his other movement skills, he would still be caught by the bombardment of this attack due to the large area that it covered.

Without any hesitation, Pogo gritted his teeth before swinging his chained sickles once again, transforming them into crimson flashes that met each of the incoming sword waves.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

After a series of collisions, the mana that was filling the air had become affected and turned chaotic, making it hard to control.

Even if Pogo was not relying on magical skills that were required to communicate with the surrounding mana, he still had to absorb some of them to refill his already spent mana from his previous skills and techniques, especially when he would not be able to find the time to use a position in such an intense battle.

He was already lucky earlier when he used the Berserk Enhancing Potion; he did not know if he would get another opportunity once again.

Moreover, Shin would not let him use any kind of potion after what happened earlier.

Pogo was keeping his guard up while focusing his gaze on the already subsiding cloud of smoke. But then, he noticed something strange – Shin, who was supposedly charging at him and persistently trying to pressure him with continuous assault, did not appear.

"Sh\*t!" that was when he realized his mistake.

Due to the aggressive and violent attacks that came at him from the front, he subconsciously forgot to pay attention behind him.

Adding the chaotic energies that were filling the air and disturbing the natural flow of mana, Pogo failed to notice the subtle fluctuations behind them.

Without any hesitation, he quickly turned around and crossed his sickles in front of him while pouring everything he had to brace for the impact.

And as expected, an ambush came from that direction.

Bang!

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A heavy strike collided with his bloody sickles, sending tremors to his body. Then he was sent flying in the air due to the awkward stance that he had, making him fail to withstand the force behind that sword strike.

"Tsk!" Shin could not help but click his tongue as he still underestimated the experience of an old god.

Regardless, he now had landed a decent hit, albeit being blocked at the last second.

Chapter 1369: Lending a Hand

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Shin quickly gave chase of Pogo, who he sent flying into the air. He used strange movement techniques to catch up before leaping in the air and using the charges of 'Mondi's Jump' to reach the same level as his opponent.

The 'Primordial Lighting' surrounding his sword became more active as if it sensed that Shin was about to use a powerful move.

He was planning to use the seventh movement of the 'Jade Kirin Scripture' to finish off Pogo.

"Urgh!"

But before he could even execute the skill, his visions suddenly got a little blurry before a sudden headache assaulted him.

This disturbed his actions, making him pause a little and delaying his actions.

Pogo instantly noticed it and quickly took that opportunity to adjust his position in the air and assumed a battle-ready stance.

The headache quickly disappeared as it seemed to be temporary while his vision became clear once again briefly after.

"I guess I still can't use the Advanced Movements of the 'Jade Kirin Scripture' as smoothly as the basic and intermediate movements with my current strength," he mumbled after noticing that he was unable to control the flow of mana within his body earlier.

He could still use the sword technique, but it would require some time to prepare since he had to focus on the circulation of energy within his body while doing so. It was unlike the first six movements that he could use whenever he wanted.

Shin quickly shook it off since he knew that he only needed more practice at using the sword technique until the circulation of energy became second nature to him.

He then turned to Pogo, who was now already in the middle of descending toward the ground while clicking his tongue. "Tsk! What a lucky b\*st\*rd!"

...

In the meantime, the few people, who happened to arrive much earlier compared to the other experts, saw everything from a distance.

They were stunned speechless and in a state of bewilderment due to what they just witnessed. They still could not believe such movements were possible without the game, even though they had already witnessed a lot of them online.

Both Shin and Pogo had made them realize what it was to be a true expert of the game, and what the gods of the virtual reality game looked like.

The feeling of watching such battles through the screen and witnessing everything firsthand was a completely different experience.

You would only realize the difference in skill, strength, techniques, and mechanics once you had seen and experienced them for yourselves.

These people even doubted if they were playing the same game.

Those, who were weaker than the rest, even laughed at themselves thinking that they could join this event and 'hunt' such a target.

Most of them had already backed out of the mission, but none of them wanted to leave since they felt that this would be a crucial part of their gaming careers.

They might not get the rewards for capturing this mysterious expert fighting an old god, but they would still learn a lot by watching the battle firsthand.

...

Meanwhile, the big guilds and powerful organizations also understood this situation. They felt that it was a good opportunity to fish in troubled waters. They quickly issued a command and mobilized their forces toward the Shunkai Forest.

Some remained neutral and took the stance of 'continue watching' and 'observe until everything is clear' before making their move – these were usually the cautious forces that did not want to accidentally provoke a behemoth due to their careless actions.

But those greedy ones did not care about those and continued.

It was not until they encountered an awkward position. The higher-ups of these guilds and organizations received an anonymous message – or more like a warning.

They all received a simple photo – a photo of their elite groups, who were focusing on improving themselves and not caring about the political movements of their superiors until they were summoned.

Some received a message about their hidden farming maps, where rare and unique materials were being harvested regularly. They were controlling such regions to nurture their forces. It was also one of their sources of income.

There were also others, who received a photo of themselves with a text written on them – at least 100 deaths. That simple message was more than enough to tell them that a bounty would be placed and they would be assassinated until the said number was reached.

What was scarier about this was the photo was recently taken, which meant that their security had already been breached and they would be taken down at any given moment.

They could also try to salvage the situation by calling up the guards, but they knew the force behind the pictures – the Assassin Union, which was notoriously known for not failing any assassination assignment.

Moreover, these people needed to deal with them at least a hundred times. Other organizations would not be that persistent, but the Assassin Union could do it – and in a much faster way.

There were different kinds of threats sent to these people, but the messages told them a single thing – "Don't get involved or you will have to see the end of it." –

With such an obvious threat, these guilds could not do anything about it when the other side had already shown them their capabilities.

This might be a money-burning battle, but there was a certain force out there, who would dare to do such thing – the Hand of Midas.

If they tried to be persistent, then they would not only be clashing with such a force along with their allies, but they would also be losing the right to buy items from the trading firm or ask for their other services.

What was the Hand of Midas? It was not only the largest and wealthiest guild within the game but also the house of masters.

They not only had a variety of products that almost covered every need of the players, but they also housed most of the best lifestyle players of the game.

Contesting them from time to time was still fine, but provoking such force was a whole different matter.

Realizing this, the upper echelons of these guilds and organizations could not help but curse. "Just how is that guy for the Hand of Midas to go such lengths to protect him."

There were also those forces that were comparable with the Hand of Midas Lifestyle Guild within the Saint Heaven Kingdom, but most of them took a neutral stance and did not want to get involved just like the 'Titan Guild' while the rest were busy dealing with their matters like the 'Wings Alliance,' who busy with their internal conflict, and the 'HeadHunter Guild', who need to focus on setting up a branch in the Sacred Light Kingdom.

Two of them even became a business partner of the Hand of Midas.

As for the Assassin Union, they had always had a close relationship with the Hand of Midas, so there was no need to question them.

Those guilds could only sigh and step back, refusing to take part in this 'event'.

As for the other forces that the Hand of Midas could not control such as the dark guilds like Blood Carnival, Shiella did not care about them since she believed could already handle the rest, especially when she was already watching his battle against Pogo.

"I have already done everything I can, so what are you going to do now my dear little brother," she mumbled as she glanced at the reports that were sent to her just now.

"The stance of the Supreme Temple and Martial Alliance will slightly change once Zero and Ashura voice out their opinion since they are the most influential."

"Zero will surely try to convince the faction once he becomes clear of Shin's identity while Ashura will have to do something to the Martial Alliance since he has already 'booked' and appointed with Shin."

"That will leave the Demonic Churches and Corrupted Cults alone once again. The dark guilds will not be able to do much since it is a faction quest. Those two factions will not let them get too much involved in this, so a clash between them is bound to happen."

She then turned his attention back to the live feed of the battle before continuing with a smile. "The stage is set, so let's see how you will deal with the rest and create your legend."

...

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Boom!

The battle continued and Pogo was already starting to realize that he would not be able to defeat Shin. He might not want to accept it, but it was already clear right in front of him.

At first, he might still be a little stronger than Shin in some of the aspects, but the latter had closed the gap with his persistence and amazing adaptability. Especially when Shin had chosen to close the gap while taking advantage of his superior speed and the 'Infinity Edge'.

Pogo might still be powerful and could defeat other experts on the same level or even suppress most of them with his fighting style. But his advantages had already been erased by Shin the moment they were engaged in a melee battle, which was his comfort.

What was crazier was his opponent who was continuously growing as the battle progressed, making Pogo more terrified.

Given his vast experience in playing the game, he had already seen quite a lot of 'monsters' and even fought quite a number of them, but this was his first time encountering someone who could make him scared of fighting.

The king of virtual games, Khing, might have been like that in the past. But Pogo had not felt it during their previous battle.

However, the huge gap in strength was still in there.

Pogo suspected that Khing was only toying with him at that time and refused to show his real capabilities as the other old gods were paying attention to them.

Regardless, Pogo felt that this current opponent that he had was similar to what Khing had done to them when he still reigned supreme in the virtual gaming world.

Thinking about all of these, Pogo finally became determined. He might not be able to defeat Shin, especially when the latter continued to grow if this battle lasted a little longer, but that did not mean that he would just surrender just like that.

Since he would lose anyway, why not gamble everything, and see what would happen next?

"I may not be able to defeat you, but I will make sure that you will also go down with me," said Pogo as he suddenly became crazier and started exchanging blows in a more aggressive manner.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Those words were clear to Shin, seemingly trying to tell him that they would be going down at the same time.

But Shin did not feel that it was something like using their final trump cards and clashing with the single yet destructive exchange.

Glancing at the surroundings, Shin immediately realized what Pogo meant by those words.

He would make sure that Shin would exhaust himself to the point that he would not be able to deal with the swarm of people charging at him later when he was exhausted.

With that, Shin knew that he had to choose whether he would continue exchanging blows with Pogo like this, with the same intensity, or just escape.

The other choice was also to let Pogo go so that he would save time and energy in such a battle.

But Shin was unwilling to do that since it was clear that he was already winning.

The most obvious choice in this situation was to distance himself and prepare for a showdown where they would use their most powerful attacks to take down each other. But even that would exhaust Shin to a certain extent.

There was also the choice of using all his strength and his other signature techniques to dispose of Pogo as soon as possible. But that would also expose his identity to everyone, which he had been delaying as much as possible.

Any choice was heading in the same direction and most of them were somewhat in his favor.

He could also rely on his Reapers if he wanted to deal with the army of players that would be swarming at him later. But their influence would be limited once the players realized that they were his summons.

These were elites and experts, so they would immediately realize what was going on and quickly use their 'Spirit Awe' to force his elemental spirits to be unsummoned.

But they could still buy him enough time.

Formulating a series of plans inside his head while covering as many scenarios as possible during the battle was quite bold. But Shin remained calm and continued to pressure Pogo with his aggressive attacks.

After a while, he was done with the backup plans. He then stared at Pogo as he finally decided. "Since it is already like this, ending this battle in the most satisfying way is the only option."

Chapter 1370: The Legend of the Shunkai Forest (Part 7): The Grim Reaper

...

Since Pogo was planning to end this battle with a final exchange, Shin could already tell what his opponent was planning. Given the confidence, despite being desperate, he knew that Pogo was planning to use a Tier 3 Skill.

But using a Tier 3 Skill was not that easy. Shin was aware of this since he was also in the third tier of his class and had seen the condition of using such skills. He did not have the time to explore the Tier 3 Skills under his arsenal due to the recent events that kept on happening, but he was clear about how hard it was to use.

"Just right in the time since I happen to also have a skill that needs some preparations," he said to himself before purposely throwing a strike that pushed Pogo away from him.

Pogo seemed to have realized what Shin was planning to do, especially when he raised his head and saw that the latter seemed to be preparing a big move.

He then smirked mockingly, seemingly trying to say that Shin had made the wrong choice. "You will regret being arrogant."

After that, he suddenly jumped high up in the air while making a series of gestures with his arms and tugging the crimson chains.

At the same time, the sickles swung along with his movements, leaving trails of sanguine lights in the air. Their momentum grew stronger, which also made their speed constantly accelerate during the process.

It did not take long before the crimson chains and bloody sickles formed a huge rotating sphere in the air, surrounding Pogo in every direction.

At the same time, there was also a demonic figure that manifested behind this sphere, standing tall and placing both of its hands on each side of the sphere.

Shriek!

Then a series of eerie screams and horrifying wails could be heard coming from every direction. Some of the players, watching in the distance and possessing keen sense, could see some spirits or ghosts flying everywhere while matching the rotation of the crimson sphere.

It even dyed the air red, creating a strange and horrifying atmosphere that resembled those ghost stories and movies, but to a greater degree.

Along with all of these, heavy pressure was suddenly pressed on everyone. Some trembled while the rest felt suffocated. There were even others who were already kneeling on the ground as they were unable to withstand the pressure.

Pogo, who just completed all the preparations, felt more confident in this final exchange. This was how mighty a Tier 3 Skill was, especially when it was executed under the Hyperactive Immersion.

He was quite smug when he had successfully finished all the preparations, especially when it was his second time using it since he got promoted to Tier 3 Class.

But when he looked at Shin and was about to mock the latter, he noticed that Shin seemed to be doing something strange.

He could tell that Shin was not using a Tier 3 Skill, especially since it did not carry the unique pressure that such a skill should have. He frowned deeply and asked himself. "What is this idiot doing?"

But since Shin seemed to be throwing himself to defeat, Pogo did not care much and fully activated his skill.

'Blood Killer Skill (Tier 3): Crimson Devour'

Roar!

The demonic figure behind the crimson sphere suddenly moved. It raised both of its hands and formed a claw each before slamming them down toward Shin.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The air seemed to have been ripped apart due to those huge and bloody claws.

Pogo could not help but smile victoriously as he saw that Shin was still not done preparing his skill.  
"Fool!"

...

Meanwhile, Shin swiftly took a stance right after he pushed Pogo away. He spread his feet apart from each other while slightly leaning to the side.

The pair of swords in his hands had already disappeared at this point as they merged once more and became the [Yamato] once again.

Along with it, Blackie and Whitie also fused along with the swords, triggering the dual possession of reapers.

'Elemental Spirit Possession (Fusion): Chaos Slasher'

Swoosh!

Shin held the sword with both of his hands, positioning it horizontally in front of his chest. He did this because he wanted to somehow recreate the conditions that he had during his battle against the larvae Grand Centipedeus of the Bug Tribe.

He then focused his mind and circulated the energies within his body based on what he remembered.

Crackle! Crackle!

The Primordial Lighting danced around him and covered his sword as if it were responding to his actions. They seemed to be alive as they moved according to his will.

Boom!

A thunderclap could be heard as the lighting struck down from the sky and fell on Shin, who was in the middle of maintaining his stance.

The energies within his body ran rampant and became chaotic due to this. The lightning had become harder to control, making Shin sweat profusely.

But he stubbornly held on to his will and kept the Primordial Lighting under control. He even activated his version of 'Natural State' to make sure that he would be able to control everything.

'Natural State: Perfect Zenith'

When the giant crimson claws were about to fall on him, Shin suddenly opened his eyes and turned the sword in a seemingly casual and slow manner.

Swoosh!

Then, all of a sudden, his arms seemed to disappear as he threw a diagonal slash in the air releasing all the accumulated energies from the sword. When they reappeared, Shin was already in a stance where he had completed the slash.

That was when it happened-...

Flash!

There was a blinding light that illuminated the entire place, seemingly resembling a bolt of lightning that struck down from the sky.

Those with keener eyesight saw a crescent wave made of black-and-white lighting flying from the tip of Shin's sword and obliterated the descending claws before it headed straight to Pogo.

Crackle!

The crescent lighting cut through everything on its path, slicing through the trees before flying toward the sky.

Boom!

That was also when a deafening thunder roared, reverberating throughout the forest, and sending ripples in every direction.

There was also an electrifying feeling that was left lingering in the air, making the players caught in it feel that they were being electricized by the air itself.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Seventh Movement – Thunder Eclipse'

Pogo was still maintaining his triumphant smile, still believing that he had already won. He failed to process that his Tie 3 Skill was completely obliterated by the crescent lightning earlier.

The strike came a little too fast for Pogo to respond, much less process the sudden development. It only came into him when he realized that he lost control over his body while his arms fell, losing their strength.

That was when he realized that he lost the battle.

"Ah-..." He tried to open his mouth, but no words came out. There was nothing but a scorched feeling coming from his throat while black smoke even came out from his mouth.

Not long after, he was unable to continue standing in the air and fell toward the ground.

His body was slowly dissipating into specks of lights in the air during his fall. All he could remember was his vision turning dark as he felt regret for underestimating such an opponent in their earlier exchange.

Clank! Clank!

What Pogo left was the pair of chained sickles that he had used in the earlier battle.

Shin instantly appeared in front of it through 'Void Steps' before picking it up and keeping it in his inventory. It was an interesting weapon, he wondered what he could do with it.

That was also when he suddenly felt the fatigue kicking in. He felt that his legs were giving out and about to fall.

He quickly flipped his sword and stabbed it on the ground, supporting his weight with it. He also leaned forward and placed his other hand on his knee to further support himself.

"Tsk! Using that skill under normal circumstances is still too much for my current abilities," he mumbled while taking out a bunch of potions and drinking them one after another.

These were the new inventions that Adept Hands had given him for a 'review'. Some of them were better versions of regular health and mana potions as they not only recovered the Health Bar and Mana Pool of a player but also somewhat relieved the fatigue that they felt inside the game.

There was also a special potion that focused on recovering his mental strength. Given the current stage of the game where combat techniques and other methods were commonly used, the willpower and mental strength of the players would be easily exhausted.

With these new inventions, Adept Hands felt that she would be able to solve these problems and create a new trend for option trading.

The result was somewhat effective as Shin instantly felt that he was recovering quite well. He nodded his head and drank a few more to see how much of a person could talk and recover by consuming more of them.

...

In the meantime, the players, who were watching from the distance, felt terrified after seeing the skill that Pogo had used.

But what was scarier was that strike that Shin had executed at the final moments of the battle. It sent shivers down their spine, making them regret coming here. How could they 'hunt' such a monster?

Most of them were about to retreat when they saw Shin almost falling toward the ground. If not for his sword, then he would most likely be lying on the ground already. They also saw Shin consuming a lot of potions, not caring about his surroundings.

Now one knew who it was, but someone had suddenly shouted. "He is already exhausted! That is right! How can he not be affected after such an intense battle!"

Hearing those words, the players who were already having second thoughts on this insane mission felt that they might still have the chance.

"That is right! This can be our chance!"

Blood quickly rushed toward their heads and adrenaline suddenly kicked in. They had become blinded by greed and stared at Shin like a bunch of savage beasts.

Seeing that everyone was still having second thoughts, the quick-witted ones quickly took action!

They started running and charged toward Shin. The ones, who could use movement skills, quickly used them one after another, trying to widen their distance from the rest. They want to capture Shin by themselves and monopolize the rewards from their factions.

Hearing the rumbling of the ground, Shin raised his head and looked at his surroundings. He then realized that the 'spectators' were finally making their move.

"Tsk!" he clicked his tongue as he knew that he would not be able to recover that much. But he was somewhat expecting this already, so he was not that surprised.

Instead, he smiled as he could at least show them that he was not someone that be trifled with, even if he was currently in such a state.

He pushed himself to stand straight before suddenly disappearing from his current location and appearing right at the center of the people leading the 'horde' behind them.

The group was frozen in place when they saw Shin suddenly appearing in their ranks. They were about to use their respective lifesaving skills to either escape or defend themselves.

But before they could even do anything, flashes of light suddenly rained down at them, piercing through their chest and crushing their hearts.

'Extra Skill: (Modified) Flash of Light'

The group surrounding Shin died in an instant without even putting up a fight. They did not even realize that they were dead until their vision turned dark.

Shin briefly glanced at the skill that he just used, recalling its description.

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Skill Name: Flash of Life

Skill Level: Tier 1

Skill Rank: Epic

Skill Details: Stab your sword forward, dealing 100% more Physical Damage at your enemy.

If the stab hits the enemy's vital part, an additional 100% Physical Damage will be added.

If the stab killed an enemy, the cooldown would reset back to zero.

Every time you kill an enemy with this skill, you will enter a 'Reaper's State' for 15 Seconds.

•Reaper's State: Every time you kill someone with the 'Flash of Life' Skill, the skill will receive an additional bonus of 100% Physical Damage per Kill (5 Stacks at most).

---

It was one of the overpowered skills that he had received during his earlier adventures in the game, especially when it was meant to complement his class. He remembered how broken it was when he was against multiple people.

It was just a Tier 1 Skill, but since it was of epic rank, its might was no weaker than a Tier 2 offensive skill.

Moreover, with the current update of the game, where it was easier to one-shot an opponent by targeting their vital parts, this was going to be one of the most broken skills that he would have.

Shin could not help but feel that it was a perfect skill given the current circumstances that he was in. He smiled evilly underneath his mask as he instantly entered the 'Repear's State' right after killing the previous group.

Without any hesitation, he charged toward the incoming swarm of players while executing his new movement techniques.

'Personalized Technique: Mystic Lighting Steps'

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Crackle! Crackle!

He dashed through the formation of the players with the speed of lighting while taking the lives of the unlucky ones that met the same end as the recent of the group.

Aside from the 'Flash of Life' Skill, he was also using other skills under his arsenal along with a series of combat techniques that he had not used for a long time.

He was constantly reassessing these skills and repeatedly polishing them, making them match his current style and swordsmanship.

Then the slaughter had begone. A one against an army of players started where the former was winning by killing everyone with mostly one or two strikes.

Shin fought against this army of players fearlessly, making him look like a lightning ghost or a merciless demon of a battlefield.

But to those, who were watching in the distance, had a better name for him.

The Grim Reaper.