

Destiny 1371

Chapter 1371: The Legend of the Shunkai Forest (Part 8): Slaugther

.....

Boom!

"Hey! What are you guys doing? Surround him properly and block all his path to the backlines!"

"What are the tanks doing? Block him properly!"

"Protect the healers and mages!"

"Shamans and Dark Priests, use your debuffs or silence him!"

After experiencing the initial strike from Shin, the players that were swarming at him earlier full of greed immediately reminded that the 'monster' that they were 'hunting' was not someone that they could defeat by mobbing at him with disorganized attacks.

They quickly reorganized themselves after watching most of them getting slaughtered by a single person, who took the initiative to fight them head-on and even stood at the center of everyone.

As elites and experts, they were able to quickly organize into groups and form battle formations without communicating with each other. It was one of the advantages of being an expert, just a single look at the situation was more than enough for them what to do next and coordinate with the rest.

But despite having an organized and coordinated formation from the earlier chaotic mobbing, these people were immediately awakened from being blinded by their greed not long after.

No matter how hard they tried, Shin, who was already quite exhausted after the earlier battle, was still able to slaughter them one-sidedly.

But what was scarier about this was the fact that Shin was still gradually growing stronger as time went by. It was as if he was a sponge that kept on absorbing all the knowledge and experience during the battle. He was even adjusting to anything that was thrown at him, making him stronger by polishing his already unreasonably powerful style.

What was even more absurd about it was this style was not his true style. In a sense, this would only be a part of his 'Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship'.

Shin was killing every player around him when the Shamans and Dark Priests around, started casting spells, particularly debuffs and silencing ones.

But before they could even affect Shin, the 'Primordial Lightning' around his body suddenly crackled violently before forming an extra layer over his skin.

He activated yet another in-game skill while applying a unique method from the real world.

'Extra Skill: (Modified) Swordsman Resolve'

The skill made him invulnerable to all kinds of debuff and crowd-control skills for ten seconds. He had already learned his lesson from the earlier battle with Pogo. He might be powerful and had a lot of combat techniques under his arsenal, but that did not mean he could go against such a continuous swarm of players heading at him.

Even if he had used the potions that he had gotten from Adept Hands, he was still mentally exhausted and needed some time for the potions to fully take effect.

After activating the skill, Shin quickly took advantage of the immunity period to rush toward the backline players as his usual strategy.

The knights, swordsmen, berserkers, and the rest of the people at the frontlines knew what he wanted to do, so they quickly got ready and swiftly blocked his path. They could not afford to let him get to the backlines again since it would mess up their already unstable formation due to his repeated attacks.

Swoosh!

Shing!

Unfortunately, none of them were able to stop him no matter how hard they tried. Shin either killed the person in front of him to clear a path or used his movement skills to avoid unnecessary troubles and advance further.

A series of afterimages were left behind him as he moved ahead, confusing the opponents blocking his path.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Moreover, they also exploded right after the others tried to hit those afterimages, releasing a strong wave of electric currents that spread in every direction. The players who got hit by those electric currents were instantly paralyzed and unable to do anything.

'Yin-Yang Arts: (Modified) Ghost Evanescence – Lightning Apparition'

Not long after, Shin appeared right in the middle of the mages, supports, marksmen, and other players situated at the backlines. They were also a couple of swordsmen, assassins, and thieves, who positioned themselves to protect this area.

Everyone was ready for Shin's arrival and they quickly went into action.

The Mages cast their spells while the Supports prepared their auxiliary spells. On the other hand, the melee players guarding the backlines pounced at Shin without any hesitation, throwing their respective skills to attack.

But before Mages and Supports could even continue with their plans against Shin, they suddenly realized that something was wrong. They felt that the temperature of their surroundings sharply rose while the ground under their feet suddenly shone with a brilliant light.

Not long after, a pillar of flame with a radius that expanded up to twenty meters suddenly rose from the ground, reaching at least dozens of meters in the air.

'Grim Reaper Skill (Tier 2): Doom Verdict'

Swoosh!

The Mages and Supports, as well as the marksmen that were caught in it, were caught completely off-guard due to the sudden appearance of the pillar. Moreover, they were inside it, making them panicked.

But contrary to their expectation, they did not immediately die after getting caught in it. Instead, they were getting a constant tick of damage that was taking a certain percentage of their total health.

They instinctively wanted to get away from the range of the pillar, but the burning flames were interrupting them from using any kind of skills. The Mages and Supports were even more frustrated because they were unable to use even the most basic blink spells due to the flames burning them.

Without a choice, they could only try moving out of the range of the pillar without through their feet. But they also discovered that their already pitiful movement speed was also declining inside the pillar's range.

The marksmen, who had better movement speed, were lucky enough to escape the blazing pillar. But right after they stepped outside of its range, they suddenly saw a silhouette that appeared right in front of them before a swift and clean strike cut their necks.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin, who was supposedly surrounded by the melee players, used a series of movement skills and foot techniques to run around the pillar that he just summoned, killing everyone that dared to step out of it.

With that, the people who were trying their best to get out of the range of the blazing pillar were caught in a dilemma. They had to choose between getting toast inside the pillar and hoping that they would have enough health before it ended or try getting out of it but getting killed by the monster waiting outside.

In their panic, they were unable to make any judgment until the final tick of the duration of the skill finally fell. They realized that they were still alive somewhat, but they survived in the end.

At least that was what they thought until the final effect of the skill suddenly activated in the end – everyone who failed to escape the pillar found themselves under the effects of fear status.

The mages were about to use Blink to get away while the Support was already getting ready to cast heal to themselves and everyone, but almost cried when they realized that they were under such a fearsome debuff.

The Supports were about to use cleanse instead after recovering themselves, but they suddenly got a bad premonition.

With their senses, they subconsciously raised their heads and looked above them. All they saw were a bunch of tree branches covering the sky with their leaves while leaving a few gaps in between, where some lights were passing through.

They had seen knowing, but the powerful pressure suddenly fell on them, heavily pressing down and very suffocating.

Swoosh!

Then an unknown power suddenly down from the sky, covering a whole fifteen-meter radius. It was a little smaller than the blazing pillar earlier, but the targeted area was where most of the mages and supports were gathered.

They could only helplessly accept their fate when they realized that there was no escaping from this one.

Shin, who just escaped the players who were trying to stop him from executing this skill, suddenly swung his sword down in the distance.

Swoosh!

'Grim Reaper Skill (Tier 2): (Lighting Version) Ragna Blade'

Crackle!

First, there was a flash of lightning that struck down from the sky, which was immediately followed by a thunderous explosion that almost made everyone deaf.

Boom!

The area where the lightning struck left nothing but a bunch of equipment and items that were dropped by the people who had been killed by it.

Shin did not care about it as he was already moving toward his next target. He ignored almost every player that was trying to block his path while killing some with 'Flash of Light' to maintain the 'Reaper's State' almost all the time.

Each kill was also giving him more 'Death Energy' that was slowly accumulating for the special effects of his passive Tier 2 Skill called the 'Apocalypse Edge', which would give him a massive boost of attack and movement speed as well as increase his damage.

He was rarely able to take advantage of these skills now since most of his battles focused on fighting a single powerful opponent or monster. Although he had some skirmishes against a group of people or a horde of monsters, those battles either ended quickly or he had others to help him.

Shin resembled a ghost on the battlefield that could not be caught despite all the preparations that these elite groups and veteran experts did.

It was also at that time when they realized that they had underestimated an 'exhausted' opponent. The gap in skill, techniques, strength, and everything else was laid in front of them, yet they could not see it due to their greed.

They started to hesitate and doubted themselves, which quickly led to the crumbling of the formation that they had built earlier.

With all of these, Shin finally got the breathing space that he needed. He slightly slowed down his attacks but did not lower his guard since the next batch would surely be much harder than this one.

And sure enough... trouble immediately arrived right after.

As if they were waiting for this opportunity, the players were of the same caliber as Phantom and his group finally revealed themselves, planning to take advantage of Shin's exhausted state.

"Hah!" Shin could not help but laugh when he sensed their moments while blending with the remaining players who were fighting him.

Slightly licked his lips as he slowed down his pace and waited for them to finally act.

Then-... as if they had gotten the cue, they simultaneously pounced at him with a coordinated attack.

Thief-related classes such as Assassins, Hunters, and Twilights came out of their stealth and launched an ambush while targeting his vital parts.

The Swordsmen and Dual Bladers joined the ambush. They were slightly behind the previous group, but they were moving in a very coordinated manner despite not being strangers and not familiar with each other.

The Warriors' group which was composed of Knights, Paladins, Shield Warriors, and Berserkers had blocked all the possible escape routes that he could use. They had seen his capabilities, so they had to be in full caution.

Speaking of caution, the Mages and Marksmen had already learned their lessons after seeing how Shin had slaughtered the group of mages, supports, and marksmen earlier. They spread around and stood away from each other, making sure that Shin would not be able to target them in groups.

Among the Marksmen, the Archers and Snipers used a tracking skill on Shin, learning from their earlier mistake when they first encountered Shin. They would not be letting him get away with his stealth skills.

Such a coordinated ambush seemed to be almost impossible to escape, especially when each member of the opposing side was a highly skilled player.

But Shin was already expecting this to happen, which was why he had hidden this final move that he had.

As he was about to be besieged in every direction, transparent black swords suddenly appeared out of nowhere and covered the fifteen-meter radius around Shin and formed a cage. With such a distance, everyone trying to attack and trap him was caught inside, including those warriors.

Then everyone inside this sword cage realized that they had been silenced and unable to use any kind of skill.

'Extra Skill (Tier 2): Doom Blade'

The players panicked when they realized that they had been tricked, but they could not do anything about it since they had already been caught inside the cage. All they could do was to continue with this ambush and try to suppress Shin with their numbers.

Given their skills and abilities, they did not believe that he would be able to finish all of them off alone.

Moreover, there were also those mages and marksmen waiting in the distance. Even if he was able to kill all of them with a single move, those guys would have plenty of time to cast their spells and skills to bombard him from a safe distance.

Seemingly able to read what they were thinking, Shin grinned and mumbled. "Go!"

Receiving his orders, his remaining Elemental Spirits Companions, who had been hiding up until now, finally made their moves.

Given that most of the experts were around him and unable to use any skills, he was not afraid to that the Elemental Spirits would be forcefully unsummoned by Spirit Awe skill.

As for the scattered mages, supports, and marksmen in the distance, Hanzo, Grimrace, and Vladimir were more than enough to deal with them given their monstrous speed. There was also Solus, who possessed powerful spells of her own.

"Argh!"

"Ahh!"

"Urgh!"

Cries of pain and helplessness could be heard behind the melee players that were surrounding Shin.

They paused subconsciously as they felt that something wrong happened. But before they could even see what was going on behind them, Shin suddenly pointed his sword toward the sky which was immediately followed by a shower of light pillars falling from the sky.

'Self-Created Skill (Combined): Eclipse Shower'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The light pillars pierced through the bodies of the melee players around Shin, dealing massive damage. Some were quite nimble and able to dodge the shower of light pillars, but they still fell on the sword of Shin.

Without any skills that they could use, they had to face Shin, who was still under the 'Reality Manifestation' and dual' Elemental Spirit Possession'. He even used his Natural State, the Perfect Zenith, to make sure that none of them would be able to put up a fight.

Under such circumstances, the ending of these players was not that hard to guess.

In the online forums, the viewers could not help but shiver as they saw some Godlike Players and Maverick Gods die one after another. Most of them might be not on the Godly Ranking List or had a very low ranking, but they were still apex players in their eyes yet they all fell when faced with the sword of this monstrous individual.

Rankers were nothing in front of his eyes as even gods had to kneel in front of his might.

Chapter 1372: The Legend of the Shunkai Forest (Part 9): The Battle God

...

The people watching in the forums already switched on a different link since the live feed that Pogo was broadcasting had already been cut off after Shin had killed him.

The moment they switched channels where they were watching, they were immediately greeted by a horrifying scene when a single person was fighting an army of players – no, it could not even be considered a fight as it was more like a one-sided slaughter.

Shin had killed anyone he came across, switching between his in-game skills and other real-life techniques that he had turned into an in-game combat technique.

Then, there was the instance when the high-caliber experts launched a coordinated attack but still failed after falling into a trap.

They might be skilled themselves, but none of them could match Shin, who was in the combined state of Reality Manifestation and Dual Elemental Possession while also being influenced by his Natural State – the Perfect Zenith.

They could withstand a blow or two, but they would surely be killed when the exchange exceeded more than that, especially when they were silenced by Shin's skill. With no movement skills that they could use to escape, none of them were able to survive within the ten-second duration of the silencing skill.

It might sound short, but for experts of Shin's caliber, it was more than enough to dispose of anyone, who could not even put up a fight.

As for the mages, supports, and marksmen in the distance – none of them were able to survive the ambush of Shin's Elemental Reapers.

The people watching the scene shivered as they witnessed the one-sided slaughter. Moreover, some of the viewers with keen eyes immediately realized that the strange phenomenon that was occurring in the different parts of the Shunkai Forest was due to these Elemental Spirits.

Some of the experts that were fighting against Shin and his group were able to realize those facts as well, but it was already too late to use their 'Spirit Awe' skill to forcefully unsummon the Elemental Spirits as the damage was already done.

When Hanzo and the rest were forcefully unsummoned, most of the forces that were attacking Shin had already been dealt with. What was left were a few scattered individuals, who were lucky enough to survive the slaughter.

The place where Shin was surrounded by the corpses of the low-ranking Godlike Players, Maverick Gods, and a few official and unofficial rankers. Some of these corpses were already turning into specks of lights, indicating that they could no longer be revived.

The scene was captured by a certain scout who had decent photography skills before posting it on the official website of the game.

This particular image was immediately flooded with likes and shares, especially when the air of mysteriousness shrouded him. Adding the black-and-white lightning covering his swords and slightly illuminating his figure, this photo immediately attracted a lot of attention.

That was when the image was compared with the recent image that Miss Bunny had posted after Shin had defeated the God of Carnage 'Haowin'.

The fans of Shin, who was also known as the Battle God Sickarius, immediately reacted to the photo, claiming that it was indeed their idol. They even posted the photo on the official website of the Empyrean Talons, particularly on the web panel dedicated to him.

They even started a discussion in the forums and compared his signature moves and styles with the ones that were showcased by this mysterious expert.

There were a lot of differences between the two, but there were also some noticeable similarities at the same time. Those with keener eyes could also see that signature move 'Infinity Edge' Shin had used multiple times when fighting Pogo. This partially confirmed that this mysterious expert was indeed the Battle God of the Empyrean Talons.

Miss Bunny, who was the official manager or administrator of the website, immediately took notice of this before contacting Shin if she could use the image and add it to his album.

Shin, who just got a rare opportunity to catch his breath, could not help shaking his head after seeing the message and learning that his cover had already been blown up.

Since it was already like this, then he could only admit it, especially when the other forces that were after him could already guess his identity after a close observation.

He had already met his goal, anyway. He had delayed the discovery of his true identity as much as possible, so he did not have much problem with that.

Moreover, he could now use his true fighting style and unleashed his real strength without holding back.

His next opponents would most likely be the members of the evil factions, so he would not be showing any mercy to them.

Speaking of which, Shin suddenly sensed that the air had turned cold and eerie, indicating that the forces of the dark were finally making his move.

"I guess they have no intention of letting me catch my breath," he mumbled as he swept his gaze at his surroundings and realized that the eerie air was coming from every direction.

He was surrounded once again. But this time, the opposing force was fully prepared and had an organized and better formation.

Crack! Crack!

Rumble! Rumble!

He could also see that some of the corpses of the fallen players started standing up one after another, making them look like zombies.

Shin sighed before telling Miss Bunny to do whatever she wanted.

Miss Bunny happily thanked Shin as this would also boost their official website. Moreover, she also reminded Shin to give her a copy of his entire battle as she wanted to create a short 'movie-like video' of this particular event.

Shin shook his head as he did not reply. He just turned his attention to the new forces that would be challenging him. But this time, he would be showing them a whole different experience than they would be expecting.

He had consolidated all his knowledge and experiences by applying his new lessons in battle. It was time to put them together and use all of them in practice.

Fusing the black and white swords in his hands and turning them back to their original form, the [Yamato], Shin stood in the middle of the battlefield with a straightened back.

He was releasing an immeasurable pressure that made the air heavier. The remaining experts immediately realized the sudden change in the atmosphere. They also noticed the appearance of the evil forces that were gradually stepping out of the dark.

With the appearance of the Corrupted Cult, the experts immediately realized that they were now trapped between a monstrous individual and a group of lunatics. They did not know what to do as either choice would not be good for them.

Rumble! Rumble!

The ground was trembling as the giant undead monsters and corrupted creatures were marching steadily toward Shin. They had a steady yet chaotic rhythm, which added to the eeriness that was filling the air.

Hum~! Hum~!

There was also a simultaneous humming of the dark mages and necromancers as they walked behind the formation of the undead monsters and corrupted creatures. They seemed to have chanted a series of cultist prayers that were reverberating in the air.

As if responding to their incomprehensible words, the place suddenly turned dark while the already chilling air became colder.

The experts were getting a strange feeling from listening to those chants. They felt that their skins were being stabbed by tiny needles, sending shivers down to their spines.

It was at that moment that they knew that they had to leave this place as soon as possible.

Shaking off the uncomfortable feeling that they had, they quickly turned around and started rushing out for this place. The zombies that were made from the corpses of the fallen players also moved, responding to their actions.

Roar!

"Ahh!"

Battle cries and horrific roars mixed in with the chants of the members of the corrupted cults as the battlefield became even more chaotic.

Shin, however, did not care about any of that. He kept standing in his place while focusing his gaze along with his 'True Sight'. He kept sweeping his gaze as if he was looking for something.

He did not respond to the proposal that Immortal's Apostle had passed to him. Aside from not trusting the latter, he also did not have the time to consider it either.

He was also quite curious why these factions wanted to capture him, but at least had a rough idea of what it was given the clues that he had gotten from Hanzo earlier.

The Sea Soul was meant to be used to heal someone. As for who it was, he could only say that they were a very influential figure that could affect the balance between the Evil Faction and the alliance of the Righteous Churches.

If the Supreme Temple and Martial Alliance could go such lengths of issuing a bounty quest just for him, then he could at least deduce that the NPC that needed the Sea Soul was somewhat related to a special event, or even a major one at that.

But since he already had some clues on his hands, why not use his connections instead? He could contact the 'Secret Recipe', which was an organization specializing in gathering information regarding NPCs, special creatures, and others.

He could also ask Molton, who was already a grand scholar.

But at the same time, he could also use the information that Immortal was plotting something behind the Demonic Churches and Corrupted Cult. If he used this piece of information to his advantage, he could foil the plans of this notorious Lich God once again.

...

Shin was busy looking for the signs of the top experts of the Corrupted Cult when the undead monsters and corrupted creatures started increasing their pace.

Bang! Bang!

Their heavy steps started reverberating throughout the whole place, making the already noisy and chaotic battlefield become even more of a mess.

At this point, Shin suddenly noticed something and directed his gaze at a certain figure, who was naturally blending in with the group of hooded individuals.

He smirked before facing that direction and moving his head.

His steps were slow yet steady at first, but he was gradually increasing his pace with each passing second. It reached until he was sprinting forward, fearlessly charging toward the horde of undead monsters.

Swoosh!

When he was about to reach the opposing force, his figure suddenly transformed into a streak of light that cut through the air before passing through the horde of monsters.

Crackle! Crackle!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Lightning) – Moonlight Splitter'

Shing!

The vertical line that his sword had drawn connected the starting and the ending points of his action.

Roar! Roar!

It cut through all the monsters in its path, making them cry in pain before collapsing on the ground one after another.

The people who had seen this scene – both the viewers and the people on the battlefield – could not help but gulp hard.

They could only describe that strike in a single word or even two – fast! Extremely fast!

Shin seemed to have instantly traversed tens of meters while also cutting through the monsters that were on his path.

Shin had already done it in the past, but there was a clear difference between this one and the previous versions that he had before.

Not only did this sword contain the principle of a swift sword, but it was also extremely sharp and accurate – he had sliced through the tough bodies of the undead monsters in a single stroke while also targeting their weak points.

In the eyes of the average player, such a move was amazing and worthy of praise. But for the top experts of the game, this sword strike contained profound mysteries that were converging into one.

What was even scarier about it was how Shin made it so casual and ordinary despite how flashy it was.

Shin, who just executed the attack, was aware of what caused all of this. It was the 'Sword Heart' that he had just recently acquired.

He did not notice it earlier when fighting against Pogo because he was too focused on closing the distance between them and suppressing the latter with his aggressive attacks. He was also polishing the sword principle that he just recently learned at that time.

But now that he had already consolidated everything and combined what he just learned with what he had accumulated in the past, the signs became more obvious to the eyes.

The result of the fusion of his accumulated knowledge and experience and the abilities of the Sword Heart was much more amazing than he had expected.

That earlier strike felt like he became the sword itself. It might be brief, but it was already a good sign.

Riding the momentum that he had and forcefully maintaining the state that he was in, Shin flipped the sheath on his left hand, holding it into a forehand grip before changing its form.

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

Right after the sheath turned into a greatsword, Shin swiftly raised it above him, channeling his energy into it while also applying the principles of the heavy sword at the same time.

Then, while he was simultaneously using multiple circulation methods and breathing techniques, the channeled energy became heavy and domineering as Astaroth fused with it.

'Elemental Spirit Possession (Earthen Metal): Earth Warden'

The monsters surrounding him seemed to have been frozen in place when the greatsword was raised in the air. It was as if the gravity in the air around Shin seemed to become stronger, pulling everything down and restraining the movements of the monsters.

Swoosh!

Shin then swung the greatsword down with unstoppable momentum until it was slammed into the ground.

Swoosh!

'Perfected Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon – Earth Crushing'

It was as if the air contracted and a powerful pressure locked all the monsters around him in place, no one was able to move.

Boom!

Not long after, there seemed to be an invisible hammer smashed to the ground, cursing everyone that was within its range aside from Shin, who was standing dead center of it.

The ground sank and a huge crater was formed expanding at least dozens of meters around Shin while the monsters that were caught in that attack slammed into the ground and crashed into meat paste.

Two moves – Shin just executed two moves, but it was more than enough to send a message to everyone.

This was the new and true might of Battle God Sickarius.

Chapter 1373: Scheduled Duel (Part 1)

...

Shin continued to slaughter all the undead monsters and corrupted monsters that were beings sent to him by the necromancers of the Corrupted Cult without showing any hint of exhaustion.

The people watching this scene could not help but gulp hard. They even looked at the digital clock to make sure that they were not imagining things, but it was true that Shin had been fighting in this place for hours already. Heck!

It was even a whole day and a half if they included the first few hours where Shin's Elemental Spirits were dealing with the initial wave of players and his time ambushing the other groups earlier.

If this were a battle between guilds or sieging cities, then they would not be surprised about how long it was since such timeframes were very normal on those occasions. It could even last for weeks or even a whole month if both sides gave their all.

But those were large-scale wars that involved larger forces. Compared to this ongoing battle, where there was a single person fighting army after army of elite players and powerful monsters, the viewers could only think that this was absurd.

Even if the time difference between within the game was much faster than the outside world, the mental exhaustion from fighting continuously like this would without a doubt, be exhausting. It was quite burdening as it would put a heavy toll on the mind of the player.

Yet, here was Shin, showing no hint of exhaustion. On the contrary, he seemed to be much stronger than ever. He seemed to be more domineering compared to the start of the battle.

Moreover, the battle that he was showcasing was much more complicated than what it used to be yet also quite powerful.

The Quick Draw was already tricky to deal with. But if he added the ever-changing sword style that he had, which improved by a great margin since he last showed it in public, his opponent would surely have a headache during the battle.

And given the number of elites and experts who died in this battle and were forced to be logged out, the scale of this battle was no different from a full-scale guild war, or even worse since there were big factions involved.

Yet, the person who was fighting alone was the one on the winning side.

"This is crazy! Isn't this the same as those legendary battles when the top gods are still in the middle of building up their fame?"

"There is no need to tell. Simba and Siegfried have done similar things in the past."

"I seem to be remembering that time when Khing steamrolled his way toward that capital city and killed the guild leader of that Powerhouse Guild."

"Isn't this similar to the mountain slaughter incident that took place in «True Era» Online?"

"It is more like the Heavenly Castle Massacre that was committed by Blood Carnival in that particular game, but alone."

Floods of messages and comments appeared on the live feed broadcast of the battle, voicing out their reactions and reminiscing the previous incidents that took place in previous games.

They had also started comparing Shin with the other top gods who had done similar feats in the past even before they became Godlike Players themselves, which was also the time that solidified their fame.

At the same time, the top guilds, who were keeping an eye on this 'event', could not help but shake their heads as knew that Shin was becoming more and more of a proper Godlike Player. They had already expected this to happen, but it happened a little too early compared to their estimated time.

They were now starting to get worried that more and more powerhouses were appearing one after another. But this was also a good opportunity that they could use to develop their forces. They could use Shin and the other new experts as an example to put pressure on the emerging talents of their respective guilds, urging them to improve as well.

They could also start recruiting those talented players who still did not belong to any powers within the game.

As for those people from the dark forces, they were getting greedier as these types of people were the ones that they wanted to take down the most.

A few of them were the kings of the dark guilds such as Blood Carnival, Death Skull, and Dark Thoughts. The former was already active as they kept getting involved in different incidents and even teamed up with the Corrupted Cult multiple times while the latter two kept a low profile.

However, those two dark guilds were not active near the Saint Heaven Kingdom as they were operating in a faraway Empire.

But since the Blood Carnival was revealing that their founding members were starting to get involved in the virtual world once again, the two dark guilds were expected to become active as well.

Speaking of the Blood Carnival, the higher-ups of the guild received a report from Pogo, who had just been defeated by Shin. He did not feel any ashamed of what happened since it was normal for experts of their caliber to suffer defeat in a battle, much less losing to such a great player like Shin.

They were unlike those sore losers, who keep being bitter after suffering such a setback. They were all professional in their field and they would not last here if they kept such a mindset. They had been in this business for quite a long time already, so this defeat was not a big deal, especially when he put up such a good battle.

Pogo also sent recorded videos of the battle, letting the team that specialized in analytics study the fighting style of Shin.

He also later received a report that was telling him the true identity of his opponent, which also confirmed their suspicions.

When he logged in to the official forums of the game and watched the still ongoing battle, Pogo could not help but click his tongue and felt a little bitter. "Tsk! Tsk! So, I still lose despite my opponent holding back their strength."

He also could not help but remember his battle against David, known as Khing within the game. At that time, was also clear that the latter had yet to reveal his true strength. Heck! David even drew a circle that he could use to move, limiting his movements – yet Pogo still lost that battle.

Losing two big battles consecutively, Pogo could not help but shake his head and smile bitterly. "I will not hear the end of it from Jester and Fool. I guess I have to keep a low profile for the time being to avoid getting their attention."

After that, he recovered his usual composure and mumbled. "I guess I have to hone my skills a little more and find a way to overcome my weakness."

This recent battle not only helped Shin improve himself but also exposed a fatal weakness in Pogo's style, which made the latter reevaluate himself. He realized that he still had to improve himself if he did not want to be left in the dust.

...

Pogo was not the only one, who was thinking this way. Some of the Godlike Players, who had seen the battle video, also started evaluating themselves.

The ones, who discovered that they were still behind top gods, started looking into the combat states more seriously. They all realized that even if they had gained such special states during unique quests and after clearing their respective promotion quests, they were still a clear gap between them and those standing at the apex of the game.

They realized that there were also some divisions between the combat states that they commanded. They had started exploring more about these new mechanics added to the game.

Meanwhile, those experts, who were already of the same caliber as Shin and Pogo, realized something a little different.

They saw a new light in the battle that took place just now. It was clear that both sides had similar strengths, but their control over their combat states was different.

It might not be too obvious to most of the people, but for these gods, who possessed sharp eyes, there was a distinct difference between the two.

During the entire battle, Shin showcased a better understanding of his combat state than Pogo, which led him to his victory. They realized that having better control and understanding over their respective combat states would let them gain a newfound strength that they had never experienced before.

Aside from that, they could also see the skills and combat techniques under their arsenal in a new light. One example of this was how Shin kept on converting most of his skills and techniques into something different and even made them much stronger than what they were supposed to be.

Even if most of this was due to the uniqueness of Shin's combat state, the Reality Manifestation, these apex gods had gotten a rough idea of how they would take advantage of their respective combat states.

After all, they were also top gods themselves, so they had their unique way of seeing things. If other experts of the same caliber could achieve such a feat, there was no reason for them not to produce the same result.

With that thought in mind, they even started re-evaluating the other battles that Shin had fought, particularly that one battle that he had against Haowin, the God of Carnage himself.

Just like this, Shin's battle videos became a classic to the Godlike Players and Maverick Gods of the game. These videos became study materials for these apex experts as they tried to uncover more about the combat states.

...

Shin, who was already feeling slightly fatigued after the long and continuous battle, glanced at the digital clock in the corner of his eyes and saw that it was about time to log out. There was still a total of eight hours before this 'hunting event' ended.

Sweeping his gaze at the surroundings and seeing that the real experts of the Corrupted Cult were still unwilling to make their moves, Shin felt that it was time to call it a day.

He knew that these cunning people of the cult were waiting for him to fully exhaust himself before making their move. But they did not expect that Shin would consume a special potion that would relieve the mental exhaustion after an intense and continuous battle.

The extended period that the potions had brought Shin, greatly disrupted the plans of the Corrupted Cult.

Meanwhile, those guys from Demonic Churches refused to reveal themselves until the final moments, which was why they had still yet to make their appearance.

Seeing that these cunning foxes were not willing to take the initiative up until now, Shin decided to retreat for a moment and recuperate.

He smirked before disappearing in front of everyone's eyes after warding off a series of attacks from different directions.

He then rushed toward a secluded place within the region before looking for a good spot to log out.

After making sure that he was not being followed and no one was around, he closed his eyes and logged out of the game.

That was also the time when all the players participating in the event received a notification that their target had logged out of the game and the timer would be paused until he came back online once again.

The members of the Corrupted Cult and Demonic Churches, who were patiently biding their time could only stare blankly at the notification right in front of their eyes full of disbelief.

It took them quite a while before they were able to process the notification before suddenly cursing out loud, calling Shin shameless and everything else.

They seemed to have forgotten that they were ganging up against a single person – or a monster.

...

In the meantime, Shin did not care anything about it as he was already standing up from the gaming cabin.

That was also when he remembered something and logged in to the special portal that was meant for the top gods of the game.

He browsed through the long list of members until he found the name that he was looking for – Martial God Ashura.

After thinking for a moment, he clicked on the name and sent a direct message saying that they had to slightly delay their scheduled duel since he wanted to recover his peak condition before it.

Shin waited a few minutes for the reply of the other side. But after seeing that there was no response, he shrugged his shoulders before going for his usual morning routine.

He was not in a hurry anyway as he also had to attend classes and training. However, he was not planning to train that hard since he had to rest before logging back into the game later.

He had to be thoroughly prepared before challenging the current champion of the Hegemon Cup for a duel.

Chapter 1374: Scheduled Duel (Part 2)

.....

Shin's day passed quite early as he wrapped up his training earlier than the usual time. It was because he wanted to rest a little and recover his peak condition before logging in to the game.

But surprising enough, he seemed to have learned more of the sword principles during this shorter period of training. He did not only learn more wills that he could infuse with his sword, but the training itself became more efficient.

He suspected that it might be because of the earlier enlightenment that he had gotten inside the game. Applying what he learned in his battle style and putting it into practice greatly increased his understanding of different sword principles.

He could even combine them, producing surprising results. He just felt pity that he could not use all of them along with his innate attributes. It was because some of the wills were not suitable with the ones that he had already awakened like the flexible sword that was more suitable to be used for water attribute and somewhat effective when used with wood attribute.

But setting that aside, his training reached another level. His swinging of different weapons for at least a thousand times seemed to pass without him knowing while writing the word related to them became much easier.

It was for this reason that he felt that he was starting to master this training method that Old Ryong had given him.

He immediately went back home after wrapping up his training. He originally wanted to wait for Arthur and the rest, but after remembering that they were all preparing for the exploration of the ancient

cultivator's tomb, he quickly disregarded that thought and went back home alone. He would be able to contact them within the game anyway, so there was no need to rush.

Little did he know that Arthur was quite upset about something. After learning that Shin was doing something fun alone, he almost went to Shunkai Forest and joined those so-called hunters.

The guy also learned that Shin had gotten another title from the people, making Arthur almost go crazy.
– "Come on! That guy possesses three individual titles already aside from his official Godlike Title!" –

Fortunately, he suppressed his urge to join the 'event' before things could go something chaotic.

Meanwhile, in the Silver Wing Continent, where the headquarters of the World Government was located, there was a school with the same level of curriculum and training facilities as the Magic Ace Academy and Top Military School of the Soaring Continent.

This was one of the world-class schools that could produce high-quality talents. They were also renowned for being one of the top schools across different continents.

But unlike most of those world-class schools that were tied to their respective continents, this particular school was under the direct jurisdiction of the World Government. It was an institute where the government nurtured their young talents before joining them.

It was called the Central Institute, a place where geniuses were said to gather.

In one of the special programs of the institute that was meant to prepare the elite students for the next Empire Wars and Battle for Supremacy in the upcoming years, there was a certain group of students that shone the brightest among the rest.

And the one who was leading this group was the current leader of the ranking board, indicating that he was the most talented person in the class.

This student was currently sitting under the shade of the tree while resting. He was even leaning on the tree with his arms crossed in front of him.

Ding

While he was resting, he suddenly received a notification that made his advanced watch vibrate.

He slowly opened his eyes and raised his wrist, opening a virtual screen to check what it was. He then realized that the notification was from the secret portal meant for the apex experts of the game such as the top Godlike Players or well-known Maverick Gods.

Raising his brows a little, he checked the direct message that was sent to him and realized that it was an interesting person.

Battle God Sickarius: Our duel may be delayed a little. I need to log out a little to attend my training class before recovering to my peak condition.

Reading the message, he could not help but smile as found this person more interesting for every encounter that they had.

He thought for a moment before sending his reply.

Martial God Ashura: I am worried that you will be too exhausted to issue the Godly Challenge Rights. Let's meet at 8:00 pm. I will come and find you.

After that, he closed the virtual screen before going back to his nap. But before he could even dwell on it, someone suddenly called him from the distance.

"There you are, Michael! The professor is looking for us. It looks like they want us to join the sparring match with the seniors from the State University."

Opening his eyes, he turned his head and saw a muscular student with a height of two meters. This guy looked like much older than his actual age due to his fully fit physique and mature features.

Michael shook his head and said. "Tell them that I will not be joining. Unless they issue a challenge to Imperial University, I will not be joining any kind of martial practice."

The muscular guy tilted his head to the side and frowned before sighing "I agree with you. The institute became boring when Diel and Falcon left for the exchange program. Dylan also doesn't choose to come here and go to the Magic Ace Academy of Soaring Continent instead."

"There is also that trio that popped out of nowhere and then left again before also heading to the Soaring Continent. I wonder what is in that continent to pull a lot of talented people."

"I will be dying of boredom if the Imperial University is not around," he added while shaking his head.

Just like the Magic Ace Academy, Top Military School, and Central Institute, the Imperial University was also one of the world-class schools that could produce talents that could shake the world.

The only difference of this university was they only accepted the young talents from noble families within the Silver Wing Continent, particularly the imperial family that had a long history.

Within the Silver Wing Continent, aside from the World Government, the other major force residing in this place was the Imperial Palace that was living here for centuries already. They were said to be one of the earliest to reside in this continent even before the government set their base here.

There was an initial conflict between the two forces. After all, no mountain could be ruled by two tigers. There were always clashes between the two forces, resulting in deep grudges with one another.

But the two forces suddenly got along for some unknown reason.

Even though there was still a dividing line between the two, they were now living in harmony aside from a few skirmishes that happened from time to time, which were instigated by the revolutionaries who wanted to sow discord between the two forces.

Setting that aside, the geniuses and talents of the two schools were almost at each other's throats because they wanted to prove that their side was better than the other. This also resulted in frequent competition between them and the schools, making the students become rivals.

After voicing out his complaints and dissatisfaction, the muscular student suddenly said. "Anyway, let's go and have a look. I feel like there is going to be an interesting show later."

Michael ignored those words and was about to return to his nap. But he suddenly remembered something and said. "Oh, right! Before I forget. You guys can finish the Empire Quest without me. I have some matters to attend later tonight."

The muscular student looked at Michael in full suspicion. He might be a musclehead and a battle maniac, but he was not stupid. He immediately noticed that there was something strange with the words of his friend.

Looking back at their last exchange before logging out, he suddenly realized something. "You! You go ahead and join the mission of the Supreme Temple, don't you?"

"D*mn! I know that there is something wrong when you don't log out of the game along with us! It turns out that you go to the Saint Heaven Kingdom and have fun yourself!"

Michael smiled helplessly when he saw this knucklehead suddenly become smart at times like this. He shook his head and said. "There is nothing you can do. I have already scheduled a duel with the target later this night."

"D*mn it! You always act this fast! I should have headed over there earlier when I received the news!" cursed the muscular student before smirking. "Well, it doesn't matter. I will pull the others and head there to watch the show. Who knows if we can also join the fun?"

"I heard that the Corrupted Cult and Demonic Churches are also involved in this. I will have my fun playing with them while you are busy with your thing," he added as he suddenly became excited.

After that, he quickly turned around while contacting someone. "Hey, Susanoo! Guess what, our commander ditches us and goes ahead challenging the expert that we are talking about. How about we clear the quest with the others now and follow him in the Saint Heaven Kingdom to stir up some trouble?"

"Don't worry. We have more than enough time to clear that Empire Quest. We only have one island to clear anyway. Contact the others and tell them to gather as soon as possible. We can let him have all the fun by himself."

Michael stared at his friend's back before repeatedly shaking his head. The guy seemed to have completely forgotten his reason for coming here. But since it worked well for him, Michael just ignored it and went back to his nap.

Soaring Continent, Ace City

Within the dorms of the Magic Ace Academy, Diel Hendrickson just came back from the special training classes and was about to rest when someone knocked on the door.

He slightly knitted his brows and was about to ignore it when he realized that the knock was done in a special rhythm. He did not need to look through the pinhole and the camera to know who it was since that particular knock was a special code.

He knew that it was his close friend and personal assistant – or back home, a personal butler – Falcon.

Opening the door, Diel immediately said. "What are you doing here? Are you not exhausted after that intense training?"

He then walked back inside his room, leaving Falcon to close the door. "I know that the world-class schools are working a little differently compared to the Imperial University, but I don't expect that it is at this extent."

"Young Master, you are a student at Central Institute and not of the Imperial University," said Falcon before adding. "And we are from the Dark Continent. Why are you talking as if it is the other way around?"

Diel clicked his tongue as he knew that his identity was quite complicated as someone who was born with parents married with an arranged marriage. His mother was a noble from the Silver Wing Continent while his father was of a humble background and from the Dark Continent.

Like the usual drama, the family on his mother's side was against his father, but since his maternal grandfather, who was the head of the family at that time, had already agreed to the marriage as a sort of promise paternal grandfather, there was nothing the family members could do about it.

The reason why he did not join the Imperial University and entered the Central Institute instead was to avoid any conflicts with the other nobles, particularly with the members of his mother's family. But who would have thought that they would see him as someone who betrayed his roots instead?

This was the reason why he accepted the mission to join the Magic Ace Academy and spy on them. He did not want to get entangled with the political issues happening in the Silver Wing Continent.

As Diel sat on the sofa, Falcon closed the door behind him before saying. "I received a call from the Palace. It seems like they will be sending a few people to join the external forces that will be exploring the ruins. They want us to assist them."

Diel paused before realizing something. "Tsk! They must be here because of that 'thing'. They are just using the current exploration as a cover."

He then fell silent for a moment before saying. "Get ready. It seems like we have to prevent them from getting their hands on it. I will be reporting to the base in the meantime."

Chapter 1375: Scheduled Duel (Part 3): Arrival

.....

Coffin Maker, who was currently disguising as one of the students of the Magic Ace Academy, was currently inside his temporary hideout. He was sitting in front of an advanced computer, looking at the series of data displayed on the screen.

After a long time, he suddenly contacted a number from his advanced watch. It did not take long for the other side to answer the call, and he quickly said. "The intel is true. The World Research Center is currently in possession of the 'Black Heart'."

"I don't know where they have hidden it, but all the research data is under heavy protection of the multiple security measures. If not for me sneaking inside to steal the data, I don't think I will be able to find it."

"And even with all of that, I am only able to steal a portion of the research. It even pokes the hornet's nest as a lot of forces are already on high alert because of this. I don't think I will be able to get the rest of the data."

The person on the other side remained silent for quite a long time, waiting for Coffin Maker to complete his report.

Not long after, they suddenly said. "Keep a low profile for the time being and wait for the huge 'event'. I am sure that you can make your move at that time as everyone will have to focus on it."

Even before Coffin Maker could give his reply, the person on the other side of the line immediately ended the call.

Coffin Maker clicked his tongue before mumbling. "Then it is no different from going with the plan. Tsk! I've got a bad feeling about this."

...

World Research Center

Elias Stuart just arrived at the scene where the said thief had stolen the data from the center. He swept his gaze at the surroundings while using an observation Mentalism Technique. His eyes shone brightly as his eyes scanned the entire place, looking for clues that were left behind by the thief.

But to his surprise, he could not find anything – not even the tiniest clue. "It seems like we have underestimated this little thief."

At that moment, one of his subordinates entered the room and reported. "Sir, all the security cameras don't get anything. Even those that can detect even the stealth skills of the strongest assassins have not caught anything."

Elias slightly nodded his head before asking. "How about the data that are stolen? Have they already checked which data are stolen?"

His subordinate raised his wrist and opened a virtual screen before reporting. "Based on what we have checked, it seems like there are a lot of data that are stolen. But the most important ones remain protected aside from a few that we suspected to be the real target of the thief."

"Which data are they?" asked Elias.

"Most is about the research on the Black Heart while the rest are research about the Revival Project and Vessel Project," answered the subordinate before pausing to open more virtual screens.

A few moments later, he continued. "There are also more, but most of the projects are still in their early stages unlike the first three that I have mentioned."

"We have also discovered a similarity between all of the stolen data – all of them are projects led by Professor Henry, so we suspect that the thief is targeting the projects under the professor's name."

Elias nodded his head before instructing. "Continue looking for clues, but make sure to make it as discreet as possible. Follow the arrangements of Senior Henry and act as a volunteer for a joint project."

"Report directly to me if you find anything no matter how small it is. I will accompany Senior Henry for the time being," he added before leaving the room.

Elias felt that the thief was not only targeting the projects that Professor Henry had. He felt that this initial incident was just a probing tactic before showing their real objective.

Since they could not find any crucial clue, he would then stick close to the center of everything while patiently waiting.

...

Meanwhile, Shin just woke up from his nap. He stretched his body right after standing up before going for a quick shower to freshen up.

After that and changing into comfortable clothes, he quickly headed to the gaming cabin, quite excitedly. This time, he would be challenging another apex expert, which would test his limits once again.

After lying inside the gaming cabin, he quickly set everything up before closing it and getting in a more comfortable position.

When he relaxed his mind and felt that he was already at his peak form, he closed his eyes and mumbled. "Initiate Login!"

Swoosh!

His consciousness was immediately sucked toward another world, arriving back inside the virtual world.

...

Swoosh!

When he opened his eyes once again, he found himself in the place where he left. He quickly heightened his guard up and spread his senses in every direction, scanning the surroundings.

But after quite a while, he did not find any presence within the vicinity, which indicated that there was no enemy around.

He then glanced at the digital clocks in the corner of his eyes. He saw that there was still a full hour before the agreed time with Ashura in the real world, which meant that he still had to kill three more hours within the game.

As for the event itself, a total of eight hours before it ends.

Based on the rules that the system had given him before the start of the event, he would be kicked out of the independent place if he exceeded the designated time for it. It would also pause the timer until he exited the said place and resumed the hunting game.

But since he will be issuing an official challenge against Ashura, he felt that it would most likely pause the timer and wait for him to exit the said place before everything resumed.

There would still be five whole hours remaining before the event ended, so he would be most likely to fight a little longer after his duel with Ashura.

But Shin was not worried that he would be ambushed by his opponents right after he exited the duel grounds since he trusted his friends.

He knew that given Arthur's personality, this brother of his would surely head to this place and join the fun after learning that Shin was having fun on himself once again. Leonard would be the same as he would not miss such a huge 'party'.

They would most likely drop whatever they were doing and head here, especially when Shin had already revealed his identity to everyone.

He was not sure about the rest of the Empyrean Talons, but he felt that they would most likely join too, especially with the current situation at hand.

Glancing at his friend list, he saw that, aside from Arthur and Leonard, Cloe, Alice, Diablo, and Alucard had already finished their respective promotion quests and became Tier 3 themselves.

He was aware that Diablo was already in command of the Hyperactive Immersion given that they had already fought each other, which was also the time when the latter fully awakened his potential and reached that combat state.

As for the other three, he was not sure about them. He had already taught them about the Reality Manifestation and even gave them information about the Mysterious Instructors and how to find them. He was just wondering which path they had taken.

As for the rest of the group, he was not sure about their current statuses, especially when none of them informed him or shared their experiences in the team chat channel.

He could only guess that Akailu was following the clues that he had given and seemingly trying to walk the path of Perfect Demonification since Shin felt that it was most likely the perfect combat state for the guy, especially when the latter's class was related to beasts and summoned monsters.

Owen and Ithilien seemed to be still busy with their respective tier 3 promotion classes while the duo of Archimedes and Daulla was still unreachable.

As for Chaotic Luck, this insanely lucky guy seemed to be off the grid after informing the rest that he wanted to explore more of the Kingdom while doing his promotion quest.

The last time Shin heard from the guy was the latter saying that he wanted to try playing «War Tactics» Online because he wanted to learn more about war strategies and battle formations.

It had been a while since the group had gathered, so Shin felt that it was about time for them to meet.

However, he still had to leave it to luck since he was not sure if they were done with their respective businesses. Aside from Arthur, Leonard, and Cloe, who would drop anything and lend him a hand without question, he was not sure if the others would do the same.

...

"I guess I should burn the first two free hours in the city. I can also resupply my potions and scrolls before heading out," he mumbled as he glanced at the clock once again.

"I logged out of the game after the system last revealed my coordinates, so I have exactly two hours before the next one. As for the final hour, I can take it as a warm-up before the main event."

After making plans inside his head, Shin went along with the plan and crushed the return scroll to head back to the Holy City.

...

In the meantime, the moment when he re-logged back into the game, the parties involved in the event immediately received the notification from the system.

They quickly went on full alert while the leaders of the Corrupted Cult and Demonic Churches issued a series of commands.

"He is online! All units proceed according to plan!"

"The target appeared! Move! Move! Move!"

"Set up the formation! Don't let him escape this time. Summon all the undead beasts! We are going all out this time!"

...

On the other hand, those players from the Supreme Temple and Martial Alliance felt a little confused.

The target finally appeared, yet the notification that they received from the system was rather strange. It seemed like both factions gave up on capturing Shin and recalled the issued quest.

"What the heck is going on?"

"Why does the faction quest suddenly disappear? It neither informs us of our failure nor our success! This is strange."

"What the heck? Even the mission issued in the faction board disappears!"

"Is this for real? I haven't received my contribution points yet!"

...

While these people were proceeding with their respective businesses, there was a group of hooded players appeared at the Teleportation Hall of the Holy City.

The moment this group appeared, the entire atmosphere of the hall was suddenly affected. It was as if their appearance had changed the entire place.

The air either became very heavy or somewhat suffocating.

"Hey! What are you doing, you musclehead? Are you announcing to the world that we are here?"

"As if you are the one to talk, you sword maniac! Keep that sword intent of yours under control or else you will be branded by red name for accidentally killing players inside this hall."

"Ah! Sorry about that. We just finished an intense battle on the island, so I still haven't exited my combat mode. You can't blame me for that."

"Can you guys keep quiet? Given your loud voices, I doubt that we still haven't blown our covers."

"Sigh~! Let these idiots do whatever they want. It is not like we are here for trouble anyway."

"That is exactly the reason why we are here, slowpoke."

"Eh!? Then are we going to be punished by the commander? I suddenly regret coming here with you guys! Let me go back!"

"Idiot! We precisely come here much earlier to avoid the commander. There is still at least an hour before he comes online – that is three hours inside the game. That's plenty of time already, we can find the target before it happens!"

"How dare he go back on his word and look for fun alone, leaving us behind? We will spoil the fun before he can have it!"

"Tsk! I have a bad feeling about this. I really shouldn't have come."

Chapter 1376: Encounter with the God's Paradise

...

VJ Miss Bunny was in a very good mood these past few weeks due to her current job. She might be swamped with work due to the number of videos that she had to edit for the entirety of the Empyrean Talons, but she did not complain even a bit since she loved this job.

Each member of the said adventurer team was the best of the best. Even their so-called weakest members were at least a peak Titled Ranker or highly skilled Maverick Ranker, who could hold their ground even against Godlike Players.

The group was regularly sending her battle videos where they fought against an equally strong opponent or powerful monsters, which had to be edited before uploading them on their official webpage.

The quality of these videos was very high, which barely needed her editing skills. Each battle and adventure that the group had gone through was thrilling, which made her put a lot of effort into editing them.

She was full of passion as she loved this kind of work. She loved editing such high-quality battle videos and immersing herself in them, seemingly making her experience what the group had gone through.

She had already a line of videos that she needed for each member of the group, but they had to wait before they could be uploaded. It was because most of these videos contained some content that involved some secrets that the team wanted to monopolize for the time being, including their adventures in the Frozen Kingdom.

That particular video that looked like a movie needed to wait until the players settled in the neutral kingdom before it could be uploaded.

Aside from editing these battle and adventure videos, Miss Bunny also had to regularly visit the webpage, managing it while making sure that there were no trolls that would mess it up.

She had quite a lot of work, but she had the assistance of her little team that followed her when she left her previous company.

Her life was fulfilling these days since she did not only have a job that she loved, but the salary itself was not bad either.

She even had some sponsorship from the Flying Dragon Corporation, which was one of the largest and most influential corporations on the continent.

She there was something that she said that she missed in her previous job, then it would be being a commentator in large competitions and battles between top experts.

But she would also have the chance later since the United Cup was able to start, and she could be the exclusive commentator of the Empyrean Talons at that time. Aside from this, she could also host some of the events that concerned the members of the group, especially their individual battles and competitions.

Miss Bunny just finished all the videos that she needed to edit along with her team and was about to relax. But before she could even have the time for that, she suddenly received a message from one of her bosses.

Looking at the name, she could not help but smile as this guy always gave her the greatest news that would also be a sensation all the time.

She excitedly opened the message and impatiently wanted to see what this was about. After all, this guy rarely contacted her aside from getting involved in big events.

But what she had seen was more of a shock than what she had expected.

"I will be using my final Godly Challenge Right. My opponent is Martial God Ashura. Would you like to cover it for a live broadcast?"

Miss Bunny's head went back for a moment as she failed to process the message due to shock. But she immediately gave her reply without any hesitation, full of enthusiasm.

"Of course! I want to cover it! I will immediately make the necessary preparations! When are you going to issue the challenge."

She was very ecstatic about this since this battle was going to be another big hit. It was a battle between a new and emerging god, who had attracted a lot of attention recently, and the current title holder of the previous Hegemon Cup!

But the reply that she received next was a complete shock. She felt like her brain had short-circuited.

"In about an hour (real-world's time). I will send you the invitation inside the game so that you can connect to the live broadcast later."

She could not help but curse out loud after she recovered her composure. "Oh, my dear boss, can you at least tell me something as important as this much earlier next time?"

Regardless, she still said that she would be preparing everything needed for it before busying herself. She even asked her team to drop everything that they were doing to assist her.

"Fortunately, there is still an entire hour left before it starts," she almost cried thinking about this. She also had to thank her previous job for having experience on how to set up for the live broadcast.

She also had to look for a partner, but it was impossible to find one with such a last-minute notice. She wanted to invite Arthur as he had another persona, which was meant for this kind of situation. But the latter unfortunately declined her invitation while saying that he had to deal with something first.

Inside the game, the first one and a half hours of the three free hours at hand had already passed. (In-game time)

After resupplying his potions and scrolls in the Holy City, he sneaked back to the Shunkai Forest in the remaining time before his coordinates were broadcasted by the system once again.

Along the way, he ambushed a few poor groups that were still trying to look for his traces. He also found a few necromancers from the Corrupted Cult and demonic players of the Demonic Churches, who were unlucky enough to bump into him.

Shin had disposed of them without trouble, treating them as some sort of appetizer.

While roaming around the forest, Shin suddenly felt something and halted his steps. His danger senses suddenly went on extreme, putting him on high alert.

Swoosh!

That was when he heard the sharp and violent sound coming from above.

He did not even hesitate to jump backward, hopping multiple times to distance himself away from that spot.

Boom!

Then he saw something fell from the sky and landed on the spot where he previously stood. The explosion was like a small meteor as a thick cloud made of dust, dirt, and rock fragments blocked his view.

Swoosh!

He did not have the time to check on what it was when someone suddenly stepped on his Sensing Circle and went straight to him.

Shing!

He then sensed a sharp sword cutting through the air, leaving an ear-piercing whistle on its trail.

Without further ado, Shin lowered his stance and placed his right hand on the hilt of his sword while turning his body to face the incoming assaulter. He then saw a player clad in a samurai's armor swinging a katana at him with both of their hands.

Seeing that the sword of his opponent was blazing with a violent flame, Shin pulled out the [Yamato] without any hesitation and swiftly swung it in a horizontal fashion.

Shing!

His actions carried different sword principles with the swift sword being its center.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw – Flash Horizon'

Swoosh!

Clank!

The two swords collided, sending sparks in the air.

Shin was forced to skid backward, drawing a deep trail on the ground, while maintaining the final posture of his previous attack.

In the meantime, the samurai that assaulted him had his sword recoiled back along with his arm due to the powerful impact. He then followed the direction of his sword and flipped multiple times in the air to relieve the stress on his muscles.

Ta-ta!

Then, right after his feet touched the ground, he suddenly propelled himself back toward Shin with a much stronger momentum than his previous attack.

Swoosh!

But when he leaped in the air, he suddenly saw a gorgeous flame coming out from the tip of his opponent's sword and heading toward his direction.

This attack was perfectly timed as he was already in midair and heading straight to it. He was in an awkward position, but he remained calm. He did not show any intention of dodging or swinging his sword as he calmly flew straight to the incoming wave of flames.

Swoosh!

It was at that moment when a transparent golden sphere suddenly surrounded his body and protected him from the flames. Due to that, his speed was not affected by the flames as he continued flying toward Shin.

Shin slightly raised his brows as he glanced at the direction where he sensed the fluctuation of mana was coming from. Then he saw a female player of the human race holding a scepter in a distance. Based on her clothes and the skill that she just cast, it was clear that she belonged to the priest class.

What troubled Shin was he could feel that the samurai and this priest were both Tier 3 while their skills could be ranked at the top of the Godly Ranking List.

"Apex Experts!" were the only words that Shin could think of, especially when he saw how coordinated the two were.

Moreover, their coordination was different from the ones that he had seen from the group of random experts that he fought previously. This teamwork and trust in each other were built with time, which indicated that these two were long-time partners.

What was worse was they were not alone. Shin could already feel that he had already been surrounded from all sides.

While he was having this string of thoughts, the samurai was already upon him. Hold the katana with both of his hands, the latter executed a diagonal slash that seemed to be capable of cutting through the space.

Shin was about to respond when he sensed something else. He then smiled under his mask while mumbling. "You guys took quite a lot of time to come here."

It had been days (in-game) time since he was being hunted. Even if he did not ask for any help, these battle-crazed guys would never miss such a fun event.

Swoosh!

As the samurai was about to reach Shin, he suddenly sensed a flying object rapidly approaching him. Then from his peripheral vision, he could see the pointed tip of a spear that was about to hit his temple.

Even if he tried to tilt his head to the side to avoid it, he would still be hit by this spear since it seemed to have a quite large tip due to the golden mana covering it.

His head would without a doubt explode if he persisted in attacking Shin.

Without any hit of hesitation, the samurai twisted his body in the air while changing the trajectory of his katana. He spun midair while swinging at the incoming spear, sending it flying back to its owner.

Clang!

After that, the samurai skillfully landed on the ground before distancing himself from Shin with successive and zigzagging steps.

At the same time, he was looking in the direction where the spear was heading.

The spear flipped multiple times in the air before falling into the hands of a knight clad in pitch-black armor with golden runes tracing its edges and highlighting each of its segments.

This knight had a round shield on his other hand, which had the same patterns and design as his armor. Meanwhile, the crimson cape with golden embroideries on its edges flapped along the wind as he walked majestically.

The knight's helm that he was wearing resembled a dragon's head, which added to the majestic air that he had. He looked like a real dragon in human form.

This knight looked at the samurai and said mockingly. "I don't know that you have become fond of ganging up on a single person, Susanoo. Don't tell me Kallavan's idiocy and shamelessness rub into you."

The samurai looked at this Dragon Knight and felt that his blood was boiling due to excitement. His fighting spirit was suddenly aroused, making him eager to fight.

He then said with a low voice. "Siegfried."

...

In the meantime, the cloud of dust in the distance was suddenly cleared by a gust of wind as someone broke through it.

There was a two-meter tall muscular guy that came out of it and charged toward Shin with an extreme speed.

Swoosh!

He left a strong sound of the wind being ripped apart as he approached his target. The tight and bulging muscles of his arm were outlined and highlighted as he flexed them to prepare for a powerful punch.

But before he could even throw his first forward, someone suddenly appeared between him and Shin, carrying a momentum that was no less than his.

Seeing the signature Lion's Helm and sensing the overwhelming scent of a beast, this two-meter-muscular giant grinned excitedly and quickly swung his fist.

At the same time, the other party in front of him also threw a powerful punch, meeting strength with strength and force with force.

Boom!

A deafening sound erupted as their fist collided.

The muscular giant was sent to take a series of heavy steps back to relieve the stress of his muscles and lessen the force that he got from the impact, leaving deep footprints on the ground.

On the other hand, the other guy had his feet sink on the ground, sending gravel in the air and spreading long cracks that headed in different directions.

This Beastman Berserker raised his head and said at the giant. "You never change Kallavan. You are still as shameless as ever!"

Kallavan, the two-meter and muscular giant, suddenly grinned. He then bumped his iron gauntlet with each other before shouting with a booming voice. "I originally wanted to annoy our commander by getting involved with his duel. But since you are already here, how about we give it a go, Simba!"

Then behind him, behind the receding cloud of dust, a group of people was suddenly revealed.

Along with Susanoo, the samurai, and the Female Archbishop who assisted him earlier, there was also a Human Knight, a Female Elven Archer, a Female Wolfkin Hunter, an Elven Elementalist, a Fallen Human Wizard, a Human Sniper, an Elven Swordsman, a Dire Naga Spearman, Foxkin Shaman.

This was most of the members of their adventurer team. They might still be missing some of their members, who were somewhat busy with their respective businesses, but this number was more than enough to make most of the players tremble in fear.

This was the might of one of the strongest Adventurer Team within the virtual world, and the current defending champions of the United Cup – the God's Paradise.

Chapter 1377: Encounter with the God's Paradise (Part 2)

.....

Given the terrifying pressure that God's Paradise had, it was clear that all of them were apex experts. It was also obvious that more than half of them were already promoted to the third tier of their class given the clear differences that they had compared to the rest.

But among this group, aside from Kallavan and Susanoo, who were cut above the rest, four more people had a similar level of threat.

One was the Female Archbishop. Despite her class being an auxiliary one, which focused on supporting her team, the pressure that she had was no less than the two fighters beside her.

Then there was the Dire Naga Spearman, which carried the air of a real expert. He was silently standing on his spot but the aura that was surrounding his body carried a scent of death.

There was also the Female Elven Archer, which was surrounded by a gentle wind that was circling her. It seemed like she was the child of wind as they moved under her command.

Then last, but not least, was the Fallen Human Wizard, who seemed to be shrouded by darkness. He seemed to be someone standing between the boundaries of illusion and reality as his figure repeatedly flickered along with the shadows.

These people might not be as famous as their three leading figures such as the Combat King Kallavan and the Storm Samurai Susanoo, who were as well-known as the apex gods within the game despite being Maverick Gods, and their commander, the Martial God Ashura.

The two were known to be the left and right hands of Martial God Ashura, who somewhat overshadowed them with his overwhelming might.

Regardless, these two Maverick Gods were as powerful as Godlike Players with official titles. They just did not join any ranking events due to personal reasons.

Other people might be afraid of this powerful group, especially when some of the big guilds within the game were also wary of them.

But this did not apply to the current people that they were facing as they were also people who stood at the very peak of the game.

Shin, Arthur, and Leonard gathered as each member of the Empyrean Talons also started to appear one after another.

Diablo was the first to make an appearance as he was the fastest to arrive after Arthur and Leonard, who rushed toward here as soon as they could.

Right after he materialized beside the three, he suddenly felt a 'resonance' and raised his head. His eyes were immediately attracted to a certain figure standing on the opposing side. It was the Dire Naga, who was hugging a black spear in front of him.

He was not sure why, but he felt a sudden urge to fight this person as soon as he saw them. He had just been promoted to Tier 3 and even mastered harnessing the portion of the Ancient Shadow Power that he had gotten from the previous battle, so he wanted to test his current strength.

Meanwhile, Cloe suddenly appeared beside Shin after using Blink. She smiled at him before sensing a gaze that was directed to her.

Raising her head, she saw a female archbishop standing in the middle of the other party. When their gazes met, the latter smiled at her while waving her hands. From the look of it, she was quite familiar with Cloe.

Cloe was surprised at first before nodding her head as a greeting. She knew that person as they used to be rivals for being the greatest healer in the previous games. She was not expecting that they would meet like this.

At this point, Alice, or rather Elemental Goddess Charlotte inside the game, floated down and stood along with the others. She was currently carrying a noble aura that seemed to make the surrounding elements worship her.

Right after her feet touched the ground, she immediately sensed a hostile aura coming from the opposing side. That was when she saw the Fallen Human Wizard shrouded with dark elements. There seemed to be a disgusting feeling coming from that person that made her think that she had found her nemesis.

Invisible sparks seemed to be formed as the gazes of the two sides met in the air.

During this, another person arrived. He was a person with a pale skill wearing a seat of exquisite clothes under an elegant black coat. He had a gentleman's hat that covered his eyes with its shade.

Holding a sniper rifle in hand and resting it on his shoulder, he walked toward Shin and the others. His other hand was resting on the silver rapier sheathed on the side of his waist.

This was Alucard who finally finished his promotion quest after digesting the inheritance that he had gotten from Dracula, the Vampire King of the Frozen Kingdom.

Sensing something, he slightly raised his head to look at the opposing side and saw an Elven Archer, who was glaring sharply at him.

Confused, he slightly tilted his head to the side before remembering something. He then smiled at the female elf in a provoking manner, which irked the latter even more.

After that, more members of the Empyrean Talons come out one after another.

Owen and Ithilien appeared together and calmly walked toward the group, Akailu, who was now wearing the set of armor that Berlin had crafted for him, Archimedes and Daulla, who gently landed after flying to this place, and Chaotic Luck, who clumsily joined the group.

There was a standoff between the two groups, creating a heavy and intense atmosphere.

A fight between these groups was about to break out when someone finally broke the atmosphere.
"Tsk! Tsk! I know that something like this is going to happen when all of you suddenly disappear."

Ashura walked toward Susanoo and the others while glaring fiercely at Kallavan. He then turned toward the opposing side, Shin in particular, before apologizing. "I am sorry for the trouble that my team has caused."

"They just have nothing better to do, so they come here to mess around," he added before fiercely sweeping his gaze at everyone in his group, making them lower their heads in silence.

Shin, who had seen that scene, found it funny before saying. "It is fine. I fully understand," while giving Arthur and Leonard a meaningful glance.

In response, the two rolled their eyes, seemingly saying that he was no better.

Cloe even hit Shin and glared at him as if she was telling him – "You have the gals to talk? You are the one who is always at the center of trouble!" –

Shin quickly shut up and just smiled.

Ashura chuckled as he saw what was happening on the other side before saying. "How about we proceed with our schedule so that we can get this over with?"

Shin was about to agree when he noticed the fierce glares that Arthur and Leonard were sending to the Susanoo and Kallavan.

He then smiled helplessly before suggesting. "How about we move to a safer place for now? I am afraid that these guys will go out of control once we start."

Ashura smiled in understanding and was about to agree when Susanoo and Kallavan simultaneously opened their mouths.

"You can go and have your duel while we will have fun with these guys."

"Do hog all the fun by yourself. At least let us have our own."

At the same time, Arthur and Leonard also voiced their thoughts.

"Yoh, Shin. Don't mind us. We can handle ourselves."

"Shin Bro, you should know that is hard to find suitable opponents who can test our skills. Let us have a go with those guys."

In the meantime, Cloe, who was the real or named commander of the Empyrean Talons could only sigh when she heard those words. She wanted to scold these three, but she could also understand what they were feeling.

She then looked toward the archbishop of the opposing group before falling into deep thought.

While everyone was in their respective thoughts, the archbishop of God's Paradise suddenly suggested. "Then how about applying for an official challenge, Commander?"

"It will be a pity not to challenge such a worthy opponent. It will be a waste if we don't give it a go when we are already here."

"Moreover, the United Cup is already around the corner. Don't you think it is a good opportunity to test our current strength and coordination while also checking on the abilities of one of our greatest rivals," she added in a whispering tone.

Ashura was surprised at first before nodding. "That is a good idea, Lia. Let's see what the other side thinks."

Before he could even voice it out, Arthur and Leonard, who both had sharp senses immediately responded.

"That is a great idea!"

"Perfect!"

These guys seemed to have forgotten that Cloe was their commander and did not even consult her about her thoughts.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Empyrean Talons also became interested, seemingly eager to give it a try. There was an intense blaze in everyone's eyes, especially Diablo and Alucard, who were staring at their 'counterparts' on the opposing side.

They were overflowing with competitiveness.

"That sounds interesting," commented Shin before turning to Cloe with a smile. "What do you think?"

Cloe gave him meaningful eyes before nodding. "Let's try it."

After that, she turned to Ashura and the others and suggested. "But I think it is better if we keep this upon ourselves. No broadcast, and no live feeds. We can record the battle, but we can't leak it to any other party – at least until the United Cup concludes."

Ashura nodded without hesitation as he understood what she was thinking. They wanted to keep their current strengths secret from their other competitors.

Cloe then turned to Shin and said. "Then you can go ahead and do your thing. We will handle ourselves."

Arthur and Leonard quickly ditched Shin and invited the others.

"Then let's head back to the city and do the necessary preparations."

"We will leave the official challenge to our reliable commander!"

Cloe rolled her eyes at the two and said. "And now you remember that I am your commander!? Hmph!"

Ashura, on the other hand, turned to their archbishop and said. "I will leave the rest to you, Lia. These guys are all unreliable as you know," while pointing at Susanoo and Kallavan.

Lia nodded before leading the group. She also turned to Cloe and asked. "What rules and format are we using?"

Cloe thought for a moment before sweeping her gaze at everyone. She then answered. "Let's go with the most straightforward one, where everyone can join."

"No champions from each side and go straight to team battle?" asked Lia in response.

"Let's go with two team battles with six members each," nodded Cloe.

As the two healers of the group discussed the rules for the competition, the rest of their members were already bickering with each other, especially the four gods who were familiar with each other.

"Don't chicken out this time, Simba. I will beat you this time!"

"Tsk! You can try any time, Kallavan. As if I am afraid of you."

"I will let you experience the might of my real power, Siegfried. You better be prepared to lose."

"Hah! As if you have won against me before. Mind me reminding you of our current standings?"

The two groups that were close to breaking into a war against each other suddenly became somewhat friendly with one another due to these four battle maniacs.

Shin and Ashura watched them disappear one after another after using their respective return scrolls.

When everyone left, the forest finally returned to its usual silence.

After that, the two exchange glances, seeing the intense fighting spirit in each other's eyes.

Shin then immediately issued a challenge through the system, finally using his last Godly Challenge Right, which Ashura accepted without any hesitation.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

After that, the two suddenly disappeared and were sent to an ancient battleground.

Chapter 1378: The Battle God against the Martial God (Part 1)

.....

Miss Bunny was able to prepare everything needed for the live broadcast at the last minute. However, she could not find any professional commentator or famous fighting analyst due to limited time.

All the people she knew in the field were busy with their respective jobs. Even if the offer was quite alluring, especially when the matchup was quite legendary – a battle between Battle God Sickarius and Martial God Ashura – who would not want to watch it? Much less commentator the entire battle.

But since most of the people Miss Bunny knew in the field were bound by their respective contracts they could not accept any job for commentating battles like this unless their companies gave their permission.

Even if those companies were interested in this battle and wanted to propose a collaboration to cover it, it would still need to go through proper procedures. They still needed to prepare the necessary paperwork and others before they could proceed to the collaboration with Miss Bunny.

Given the short notice that Miss Bunny had given them and the little time that they had before the battle, no company was able to finish the necessary procedures, leading to her acquaintances to unable to answer or respond to her.

She never had experienced something like this in her previous work since it was a big company. The company would always be able to deal with these kinds of problems even if it was on short notice. Visit m,v le,mpyr today

She was sure that they would be able to help her with this as well. Unfortunately, she was unwilling to ask for their help.

She was also quite bitter about them.

The good news was she was quite quick-witted and found a solution before the scheduled duel started. She followed some of the usual trends before and invited a high-ranking player.

In her contacts, she had quite a lot of them, but she went for the best choice. She contacted Shilla, who was also known as the Frost Goddess Snow White in the virtual world.

But Shiella was quite busy as she was already at the final procedures at opening the Golden Mountain. She was only lacking the final touches for the relocated Calderock Town and converting it into a Port City.

Because of this, she could not accept the invitation, but she introduced someone whom Miss Bunny would be satisfied with. She had introduced David, who was previously known as the King of Virtual Games.

Miss Bunny was quite ecstatic about this and agreed. She invited David, who just finished telling Alyssa the ropes for playing the game.

Since he was free, David agreed as he also found this interesting.

...

"Good Evening, my friends who are watching this broadcast. I must thank you for accoupling us in this event!" greeted Miss Bunny as she started the live broadcast after getting the signal from Shin.

"There are quite a lot of people watching this broadcast despite it being announced late, so I must thank all of you for this," she added as he looked at the number of viewers from the corner of her eyes.

The number of views already exceeded a million and still counting, so she was quite excited.

Well, who would not want to watch this battle when the matchup was quite eye-catching? Moreover, Shin just finished a big battle just recently, so the hype that he could provide was still at its peak.

She smiled at the camera as she calmed herself before continuing. "Before we start, I want to introduce my partner for this broadcast."

"I know a lot of you are familiar with him since he is quite famous," she started with how a professional commentator introduced their partners, starting with their previous achievements and current standing.

She then proceeded to name her partner. "Who else could it be? But the one and only King of Virtual Games, Khing!"

Then the camera switched to David, who was using his in-game persona. He smiled at the camera while greeting everyone. "Thank you, Miss Bunny. And hello to my friends and enemies all over the world. This is Khing in the flesh."

He joked around for a moment as the live chat box exploded in different comments. Some were admiring him, some were making fun of his introduction, some were cursing him, and so on.

David was quite humorous, so he played along and joked with the viewers while exchanging views with Miss Bunny about the upcoming battle.

They mixed their jokes along with their analysis of two players who were about to fight, making the live broadcast quite lively.

Since the official website of the game also announced this battle since it was a formal challenge from Shin through the Godly Challenge Rights, they had the obligation to inform everyone about it.

There was also the selling of tickets for the live audience, who would want to watch the battle first-hand and experience the might of the two contenders with their own two eyes.

Since Miss Bunny and David were officially recognized by Shin to cover the battle, the gaming company also put them on the official broadcast of the game, attracting more attention.

It did not take long for all the tickets to be sold out, especially when the diehard fans of Shin and Ashura jumped it and grabbed one for themselves.

Not long after, the viewers watching online exceeded the billion mark and still counting, creating a record-breaking sensation.

Miss Bunny was quite overwhelmed as this was her first time experiencing something like this, especially now that she was only an individual and not representing a big company.

David, on the other hand, did not care about that as he continued to give his insights and predictions for the upcoming battle.

"As I said, Sickarius is quite a powerful player, but his opponent this time is the current title holder of the Hegemon Cup, so this battle will be quite a struggle for him."

Hearing that, Miss Bunny could not help but ask. "Are you saying that he will most likely lose this battle?"

David smiled bitterly as he shook his head. "I am not saying that. What I am saying is the odds are a little against him."

"They are equally powerful if we based on stats alone, especially when both parties are in Tier 3 Class. Their techniques and skills will most likely be on equal terms as well while their experiences can at least match each other."

Following along, Miss Bunny asked. "If that is the case, they are most likely to be on equal terms. Then why are you saying that the odds are against the Battle God?"

David paused for a moment before answering. "I am sure that most of us here are already aware of the talents that Sickarius has. He will be most likely to win if it is a prolonged battle, especially with his Battle Genius Talent."

"But that will only work in his favor if his opponent underestimates him, which is most unlikely to happen since Ashura is known for always having respect for his opponents. He will always go all-out at the very start of the battle, which will not give Sickarius the time to adjust."

"Moreover, our Battle God here is quite famous with his battle videos becoming a classic everywhere, which will give his opponent more understanding of his style."

He paused and pulled out the battle video between Shin and Pogo. "Just like this one for example. Even if he won in this battle while also holding his strength back, it can still give Ashura more idea of how he fights."

Then he pulled out another battle video when Shin was fighting against the undead monsters, corrupted beasts, and necromancers of the Corrupted Cult. "And this one as well. Look, he is also showing this ever-changing style that he has in this battle.

"Those sword draws and that switching of weapons and swordsmanship is unique and hard to adapt with, but Ashura most likely has watched this already, giving him a rough idea of how to deal with it."

As if they had a script, Miss Bunny suddenly injected. "On the other hand, there is a limited number of videos about Martial God Ashura. We are not clear of his true strength and skills, much less his other talents."

Nodding in understanding, Miss Bunny suddenly asked. "So, what is your prediction on this battle."

David went silent for a moment before saying. "I say 60-40 with the odds in favor of Ashura."

Hearing that, Miss Bunny suddenly laughed. "You said that the odds are against Sickarius and make it sound like the difference is overwhelming. But isn't this quite a close one based on your prediction?"

David chuckled and defended himself. "I am saying that the odds are against Battle God Sickarius, but I never say that he will surely lose."

"If Martial God Ashura fails to completely suppress his counterpart at the start of the battle, and once the other party has adjusted himself, then this battle is going to be more interesting."

Then Miss Bunny suddenly cut in skillfully. "But you also say that if the battle goes on for an extended period, the odds will most likely be in Sickarius' favor since he will only grow stronger as the battle progresses."

David smiled mysteriously before saying. "That is one of the reasons. But it also depends on how Ashura will handle the situation. After all, he is also aware of this problem."

"Moreover, we are also unaware if he is also a Chosen One, a Mighty One, or even a Mighty Chosen One just like our challenger," he added, further mystifying his words.

Playing along, Miss Bunny suddenly smiled. "Now I am getting more and more curious about how this battle will play out, and also excited given how you are describing it."

After that, she turned back to the camera as she saw the signal of her team. "It looks like everything is ready."

She cleared her throat before continuing. "Once again, I welcome everyone on this live broadcast covering the battle between Martial God Asura and Battle God Sickarius."

"Let's jump into the field!" she added as the screen of everyone showed the fading out of their studio and switching its perspective to the battlefield.

The chosen battlefield for this matchup was an Ancient Battlefield called the Immortal's Burial Ground.

Based on the background of the battlefield, it was a region where a war between high beings took place. A lot of Immortals and other equally strong individuals fell on this burial ground during that war.

Due to these fallen Immortals, the entire region became a cursed place. The resentment, rage, and grievance of these fallen Immortals enveloped the entire region, turning it into a holy ground for evil beings and other related beings.

According to the rules of a Godly Challenge, Ashura would have the right to propose the rules of the duel as Shin was the challenger. But to the surprise of the latter, Ashura gave up on that right in exchange for choosing a battleground.

What surprised Shin even more was that the battleground that Ashura had chosen was not only favorable for him but for both sides as well.

It seemed like Ashura was telling him that he did not need any kind of handicap or advantage for this battle. He wanted for both sides to be on equal terms and have the same standings.

With this kind of battlefield where both sides could take advantage of the surroundings and the atmosphere, Shin and Ashura would be able to showcase their true prowess and skills.

Shin liked this as well as he wanted to see the real capabilities of the current champion of the Hegemon Cup.

Swoosh!

Appearing at the center of the battlefield, Shin swept his gaze to the surroundings while trying to adjust himself to it.

He then turned toward a certain direction where he saw his opponent calmly walking toward him.

Seeing the overwhelming confidence from the actions of the latter and sensing the powerful air that surrounded their person, Shin could not help but loosen up his joints and relax his muscles.

"Let's see what a standard for a champion looks like."

Chapter 1379: The Battle God against the Martial God (Part 2): Initial Clash

.....

As Shin gazed upon Ashura, who was in the distance, he suddenly saw a giant apparition manifesting behind his opponent. It was at least dozens of meters tall giant that was towering over everything around it. Even Shin felt small and insignificant in front of it.

Moreover, it possessed a powerful and intimidating aura that was starting to affect its surroundings – even Shin, who was quite a distance away from it.

This giant apparition looked like a sacred immortal given the aura that it had. But that was only the start since its distinct features were starting to appear as time went by.

Upon closer inspection, Shin could see that this giant apparition of an Immortal possessed three faces. The one facing the front was an ordinary human face with an emotionless expression. The one facing its right looked like a demonic face with evil and horrifying features while the one facing the left looked like a kind and amiable deity.

Shin could feel three different kinds of auras coming from this giant apparition, and each of them was as strong as the strong opponents that Shin had faced up until now. It was as if he was facing three powerful enemies at once.

This three-faced apparition had a muscular body with six thick arms, which held different weapons each – a holy sword that possessed a dense sacred aura, an ancient-looking bow that looked very heavy given its size, a luxurious shield that seemed to be used for display rather than protecting its owner, a polearm weapon that was a combination of an axe and a spear, a Buddhist ceremonial dagger with an exquisite design, and a thing called vajra that looked like a small club weapon with ribbed spherical heads.

Each of its weapons had distinct features while also carrying a dangerous might that was unique to each of them.

"A Battle Spirit?" mumbled Shin solemnly as he looked at that deity-yet-demonic figure, thinking that Ashura might be someone on Ethereal Opening Stage Martial Artist.

But he immediately rejected the idea as he could still feel some gap between this guy and the Ethereal Opening Stage Experts or someone of equal strength that he had encountered in the real world.

Forget about Shiella, David, Jerimiah, Vincent, and his seniors in the Research Department, this kind of pressure was not even on the same level as Shaun, who he fought during his last special mission.

But Shin could also tell that despite that being the case, this suppression was already getting close to that level.

This could also mean that whatever Martial Arts attainment Ashura had, he was most likely to break through from the Core Formation Stage and about to reach the Ethereal Opening Stage, which was also the indication of graduating from in Foundation Building Realm and stepping into the Ascension Realm.

This also meant that the apparition behind Ashura was a reflection of his breaking through, indicating that his Aura Manifestation was about to become a real Battle Spirit.

That was impressive given that Ashura was the same age as Shin and the others.

The three-faced giant apparition that was sitting cross-legged behind Ashura suddenly started chanting out a series of mantras that Shin could not comprehend. He was not sure if it was a Buddhist, a Hindu, or Taoist mantras or a combination of the three, but he could feel a powerful suppression just by hearing them.

Shin did not know if it was a special technique of his opponent or just a mental suppression of the latter's Quasi-Battle Spirit, but it was quite effective against him.

He could even feel that the range of his 'Sensing Circle' was getting smaller due to the presence of the apparition while the effects of his 'True Sight' were becoming limited because of the sudden headache that was making him a little dizzy.

Seeing that he was starting to get affected, Shin could not help but also show his opponent his current Mentalism Attainment.

He started with the mind-cleansing technique of the Jade Kirin Scripture to make his head much clearer before also releasing his version of Quasi Battle Spirit.

Swoosh!

First, there was a humanoid figure that appeared behind Shin, who was slightly taller than him. It was a little vague due to its slightly shaking and constantly flickering figure, but it had a distinct feature. It looked like Shin but with a slightly older age and mature demeanor.

Roar! Shriek! Howl! Wail! Grr!

Then there were five distinct cries before five mythical creatures manifested behind Shin, which were the Azure Dragon, the White Tiger, the Vermillion Bird, the Black Tortoise, and the Yellow Dragon.

They surrounded Shin and revolved around him as they carried different auras along with the elements that sovereign in. Among these five divine beasts, the White Tiger, the Vermillion Bird, and the Yellow Dragon had more distinct features and a slightly stronger might. This indicated that Shin's mastery of their respective elements was slightly better than the remaining two.

The five beasts around Shin were noticeably smaller than the three-faced apparition, and their individual might be considerably weaker too. But together, they were comparable to it and even slightly stronger in certain areas.

They would not lose to it in the slightest.

Boom!

There was a powerful suppressive aura that came out from them, fighting against the might of the three-faced apparition.

There was even a strong collision at the center of the two sides when their respective auras clashed against one another. It even created a small storm, which sent violent ripples in the air that spread in every direction.

This was the clash of their momentum, and neither of the sides got the upper hand as they were equally strong.

The formation of the Quasi Battle Spirits was not seen by the spectators since it was just the manifestation of the martial and mentalism insights and attainments of the two. The only ones that could see them were the opposing side, which was the target of their momentum.

Unless Shin and Ashura attained great mastery over their Battle Spirits, and their wills were strong enough to affect reality, they would not be able to properly project these manifestations into the physical realm.

Regardless, the live audience and viewers of the broadcast could see the collision of their momentum due to the violent wind and strong air currents that were wreaking havoc on the battlefield.

Aside from the few, who could guess what was happening, the players seeing this sight could not help but become amazed.

The two sides had yet to move, but the field was already being bombarded by their respective auras. That was a clear indication that these two were apex experts of the game.

...

"Hoh~!" Ashura slightly raised his brows when he saw that Shin was able to project such a powerful manifestation to counter his own. This also gave him a clear indication that Shin had a similar attainment in his respective discipline.

This also gave him a clear idea of how strong the opposing side could be.

He could not help but smile when he saw that before unsheathing the huge rectangular sword on his back.

It was a sword that looked like a giant ruler with blunt edges but possessed mystical and profound patterns on its surface. It had a charred color but possessed a series of glowing engravings that seemed to be swimming on its blade.

It had a crimson tassel attached to the bottom of its hilt giving an elegant air to this weapon despite its rough appearance.

Bang!

A powerful pressure came out from the sword when it was unsheathed, that spread in every direction. The pressure was like a tidal wave as it headed toward the opposing side where the opponent stood.

Hum!

On the other hand, the [Yamato] on Shin's hand suddenly released a gentle yet strong humming sound as it felt the incoming pressure. It released its aura while being sheathed, fighting against the Sword Ruler of the opposing side.

Boom!

Yet another collision erupted as it also produced a secondary explosion that added to the chaos that was sweeping through the battlefield.

The collision between the might of their weapons surprised Shin and Ashura a little since this was their first time experiencing something like this. It was as if their weapons found an archrival that they had never seen for a very long time.

Ashura could not help but find Shin more and more interesting in every encounter. He found that Shin always gave him something new every time he saw the latter, both in the battle videos and personal encounters.

After adjusting himself, Ashura finally took the initiative to start the battle.

Zheng!

The sound of the sword cutting through the air could be heard as he swung that huge ruler-like sword in his hands.

It released a long and distant noise that seemed to have exploded beside Shin's ears, making his ears unable to hear temporarily. It was like a monstrous roar that shook him to the core.

When the howling of the huge sword ruler sounded, Ashura's figure seemed to have flickered. It was as if each of his movements were being captured frame by frame in everyone's eyes.

He twisted his waist and pulled his shoulders while twirling the sword ruler from side to side.

When he swung his sword ruler forward, a striking beam of light suddenly flew straight toward his opponent. It cut through the air, traversing across a distance of more than fifty meters.

This sword beam seemed to have absorbed the surrounding light as it cut through the air. For every meter that it traveled, the light it possessed grew brighter and purer. It was as if it was a stroke of a deity in a mortal realm.

Shin then felt that the surroundings within the radius of fifteen meters, with him as the center, suddenly grew darker. It was as if he was trapped within a dark room filled with various kinds of danger hidden behind the curtain of the shadows.

Shin grew more alert as he stared at the incoming beam of light. He felt that he could dodge it despite how mighty it was. But if he did that, he would be greatest by the surrounding darkness that suddenly enveloped him.

This single attack alone was more than enough for Shin to realize that his current opponent was different from the rest of his opponents inside the game. It was as if he was facing an equally strong and talented individual in the real world.

This attack even reminded him of those experts on the same level as his seniors despite it being greatly inferior in terms of might.

This seemingly ray of light from heaven carried the might of a powerful expert. It was brilliant and dazzling. It was sending a throbbing feeling that made Shin feel suppressed and overwhelmed.

An attack that came from the front was threatening while the dangers hidden in the darkness made him wary

It seemed to be a highly tactical attack that made full use of its coordination with the surrounding environment.

It was a type of attack that Shin had never experienced before from the people of the same generation.

It also carried a certain profoundness that he had felt before, albeit carrying a noticeable difference.

It was similar to the demonstration of Professor Henry when he was telling Shin about his future path. It carried an essence similar to the unification of Martial Arts and Mentalism but in a different sense.

Or to be more precise, it was a combination of modern Martial Arts and a different discipline.

Shin's conclusion was somewhat right, but barely off the mark as what Ashura had used for this attack was from a long-forgotten discipline called Cultivation. However, it was greatly modified to match the current principles of modern Martial Arts.

After appreciating the attack of his opponent and concluding what to do in response to it, Shin quickly assumed his signature sword drawing stance while watching the incoming sword ray.

Hu~!

As he inhaled and exhaled deeply to regulate his breathing, both Blackie and Whitie fused with the [Yamato], triggering the dual Elemental Possession.

'Elemental Spirit Possession (Light and Darkness): Chaos Slasher'

Crackle! Crackle!

The Primordial Lightning quickly enfolded the sword before spreading throughout Shin's body, dancing like snakes.

He then used the circulation of the Jade Kirin Scripture according to his memory, triggering the black-and-white lightning around him to become more violent.

He then used one of his Awakened Skills as a model while executing a sword-draw attack.

Click!

As the subtle sound of the sword being separated from the lid of the sheath reverberated in the surroundings, a blinding light suddenly leaked out from the gap between the guard and the sheath and illuminated the entire place.

Shing!

Then, when the sword was fully unsheathed, the light suddenly spread in every direction and cleared the gradually closing darkness around him.

Roar!

When he swung forward and sent a powerful sword energy toward the incoming sword light, a huge tiger with alternating black and white furs and stripes suddenly formed. It pounced forward with full ferociousness, opening its mouth wide as if threatening to devour everything.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw – Eclipse Tiger Draw!'

Swoosh!

A devastating explosion erupted and wreaked havoc at the center of the collision when the Heavenly Ray and the Eclipse Tiger met.

A violent storm was formed and swept through everything in its path.

Shin and Ashura stood at both ends of this chaotic storm, looking upfront, and not removing their gazes away from each other.

Their cloak and cape violently fluttered along the wind as they maintained their respective postures.

Then their figures suddenly faded away before reappearing at the center of the storm, a meter away from each other.

Bang!

Their swords clashed against one another, sending strong ripples in the air that were followed by the sinking of the ground beneath them, which sent rock fragments flying everywhere.

The two stared straight into each other's eyes, seeing the burning fighting spirit from one other.

They smiled before putting more strength on their arms to force the opposing side to retreat.

Bang! Bang!

When their feet landed on the ground, they quickly charged at each other once again, officially starting this clash between two gods.

Chapter 1380: The Battle God against the Martial God (Part 3): Intense Battle

.....

Bang! Bang!

The collisions between Shin and Ashura were like bomb explosions as every time their weapons met, the surrounding environment would always be reformed or turn into complete devastation.

The air would explode for every collision, sending violent ripples everywhere, while the ground would sink even deeper, creating more craters underneath their feet.

In terms of speed, Shin had the absolute advantage due to his style greatly relying on it. He was not utilizing the ever-changing sword style of the Myriad Manifestation Swordsman as he could not find the right opportunity to use it.

Ashura was fast, but that was only for his burst speed which was meant for a straight line. His foot techniques such as 'Burst Step' and 'Surge Step' were meant for catching up to running opponents or surprise attacks. The former was for long-distance travel, covering almost twenty to twenty-five meters, while the latter was meant for short-distance ambush.

Both foot techniques possessed explosive speed that could catch most of his opponents off-guard. But they were lacking in terms of mobility, which Shin was taking advantage of.

His foot techniques focused not only on instantaneous bursts of speed but also flexibility, which greatly helped him overwhelm his opponent to a certain degree.

This was one of the reasons why he was mostly using his quick draw techniques and the other sword movements under the Jade Kirin Scripture, especially when most of them focused on speed and quick assaults.

Moreover, his speed was further applied by the 'Primordial Lightning' which greatly complimented this style of fighting.

But this advantage was not absolute since Ashura was covering his weakness with his explosive strength and absolute power.

If Shin had the advantage when it came to speed and mobility, then Ashura had the absolute edge in terms of raw strength and overwhelming power. Each swing of his sword ruler was like a strike from a giant, fully packed with physical strength and raw power alone.

Even Shin was not willing to confront such powerful strikes head-on.

Aside from that, Ashura was also launching a series of attacks that were empowered by his unique mana manipulation, which was producing huge explosions with every swing of his huge weapon.

Bang! Bang!

Boom!

Each explosion covered a huge area which was forcing Shin to constantly be on the move to avoid the range of those strikes.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Utilizing their respective advantages, Shin and Ashura were stuck in a deadlock.

One was sly and cunning, patiently waiting for an opportunity to counterattack, while the other was violent and straight-up destroying everything around him in hopes of catching his opponent with it.

Shin circled Ashura with his 'Mystic Lighting Steps', leaving a series of electric afterimages and lighting trails on his path, while the latter continued to swing his sword ruler, using his 'Cosmic Wielding' to further destroy the already ruined surroundings with each of his strikes.

After a few more minutes, the two understood that they could not afford to let this state continue. Both were suffering great consequences while maintaining their current states.

Shin had to be constantly on high alert and in full focus to make sure that he would not be caught in the explosive strikes of his opponent while moving at high speed. This was consuming his concentration at an alarming rate.

Ashura, on the other, had to continue attacking violently to put constant pressure on Shin so that the opposing side would not be able to launch an ambush with ease. It was effective, but it was consuming a lot of his stamina to a great degree.

They both understood that they needed to do something to change the flow of the battle, so they simultaneously adjusted their styles as if they had had a tacit agreement.

They seemed to be following the same script as they made their respective move at the same time.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Ashura held his sword ruler with both of his hands, placing it in front of him horizontally, while pulling his shoulders back. Spreading his feet apart from each other, he slightly leaned toward his left while twisting his waist a little.

At the same time, a shadowy flame surrounded his sword ruler before patches of lights appeared on its surface, resembling the starry sky of the calm night.

This was the advanced version of his unique mana manipulation, and he called this power that he was wielding the 'Cosmic Energy' – the Power of the Primal Stars.

It was derived from the unique energy that he was using in the real world, which greatly complemented the Cultivation Techniques that he was using.

However, the cultivation method that he was using was widely used in their country, particularly by those from noble and aristocratic families, which also indicated that he was not only the one who commanded such powers.

Others also possessed similar energies, albeit carrying certain differences due to the unique characteristics of an individual.

Ashura was just a little more talented compared to them, which was why he could wield these powers much better in comparison.

Bang!

Right after Ashura's 'Cosmic Energy' was manifested, the surrounding air suddenly became much heavier along with the immense pull of the gravitational force.

The ground sank even further due to this while a few small fragments of earth bounced upwards and hovered in the air before gradually being crushed by the pressure surrounding Ashura.

Ashura stood patiently on his spot while steadily maintaining his stance, waiting for his opponent to make a move and reveal himself.

While Ashura was preparing himself, Shin seemed to have merged with the surroundings as he controlled his breathing and erased his presence.

He used a stealth skill to disappear from the sight of his opponent while maintaining his extreme speed as he circled around the latter.

He also switched off the 'Primordial Lightning' to not leave any trail behind that could lead his opponent to find him. Instead, he swapped it with the 'Eternal Flame' of Solus as he also switched the dual Elemental Possession with hers.

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

In terms of might, Solus' flames were slightly inferior to the 'Primordial Lighting', but Shin could control it very well and even keep it hidden while the [Yamato] was kept inside its sheath.

Moreover, his mastery of this element was much better compared to the previous energy. He might also not have his signature 'Eclipse Wielding', but he could at least bridge the gap between the two powers with the help of the 'Solar Breathing Technique'. He could also enhance it with other elements by applying all the tricks that he had learned up until now.

If he wanted, he could also use the triple elemental powers by combining the three breathing techniques. But he had to release the elemental possession at that time since the balance would collapse because of the fire element being more powerful compared to the other two elements due to Solus' powers.

Shin seemed to have merged with the surroundings due to the series of techniques and tricks that he had used. Ashura could not find any trace of him even with his heightened senses – not even the slightest bit of sign or the tiniest movement from the surroundings like the vibration of the ground could not be found.

That was something suddenly hit Ashura.

He quickly adjusted his stance, turning his sword ruler and twisting his waist toward the opposing direction as he swung upwards.

A beam of light flew toward the sky as he swung the sword ruler. This light devoured the surrounding light once again just like the previous attack that Ashura executed at their first exchange.

Swoosh!

'Mystic Cosmic Method: Heavenly Sword Ascension'

He did not even bother to look if his opponent was indeed there or if he was going to hit someone. He was confident with his actions as he was sure that Shin would appear there.

Shing!

And Shin did not disappoint as he came out of a little spatial rift after using 'Void Steps'. He flew straight toward Ashura while unsheathing his sword and swinging it down during his descent.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw – Blazing Final'

Swoosh!

The gorgeous flame danced along the wind as the sword continued to press forward. These flames mimicked the movements of a dancing dragon, twirling and coiling around his sword and arm while pressing downward.

Bang!

The collision immediately led to another devasting explosion that created a storm of chaotic energy once again.

Circles of shockwaves were sent in every direction, making the flames and cosmic energy spread everywhere and create circles in the air.

Ashura was about to follow up with another attack since Shin would most likely be pinned in the air for a moment due to that clash.

But he was quite surprised that Shin seemed to have disappeared once again. He mysteriously disappeared as if the previous attack never happened.

Ashura's intuition of danger intensified suddenly. Exerting his strength on his legs and flipping back, he distanced himself from this spot several meters away.

Swoosh!

At the same time, he placed his sword ruler in front of him, using its surface as some sort of shield to block the flashes of flames that were coming after him.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The raging flames were warded off by his 'Cosmic Energy,' absorbing a portion of it to strengthen itself. The specks of light that were surrounding the shadowy flame of his sword ruler turned brighter each time it blocked the flames.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

After several collisions, Ashura suddenly stopped retreating. He found a tiny gap between the flashes of flames that were assaulting him, so he quickly swung his sword ruler casually and naturally.

Boom!

This swing finally hit something solid for the very first time since the time Shin had started avoiding his sword strikes.

Sparks flew in the air while the flames filling his surroundings scattered.

Shin, who had disappeared previously, finally revealed himself once again to the eyes of everyone.

Due to the powerful strength behind Ashura's swing, Shin had to retreat to nullify most of the force behind that strike. The [Yamato] also strongly recoiled because of the strong collision, forcing Shin to land on the wrong foot.

Ashura naturally would not let this opportunity slip away from him. It was now his turn to dictate the rhythm of this battle!

Swoosh!

He slightly bent his back before swiftly pouncing forward and repeatedly swinging his sword ruler during the process.

Shin knew that he could not face these strikes head-on as the recent clash was more than enough of a lesson. He quickly executed one of his foot techniques to maneuver himself and skillfully dodged the sword ruler with the tiniest margin possible.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Shin could hear the sharp and powerful sound of each swing as the sword ruler brushed past his face, cheeks, or head every time he dodged.

Aside from that, the 'Cosmic Energy' surrounding the sword was also clashing with the 'Eternal Flame' that was protecting his body, consuming some of his energy and concentration.

"This can't go on," realizing that he could not let this continue, he quickly switched his elemental possession once again along with his breathing technique.

"Guardian Reaper!" the moment when he released Solus, he immediately called out Astaroth while transforming the sheath of his sword into a great sword.

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

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

Bang!

With the help of the 'Great Dominator Technique' to control the element of the earth and enhance his physical attributes provided by the 'Judgement Form' and 'Summit Shaper', Shin was able to barely able match the physical strength of his opponent.

Swinging the greatsword at hand, Shin was able to forcefully halt the continuous barrage of Ashura.

However, his feet sank deeply on the ground, reaching his ankles.

Shin slightly frowned as he noticed another problem – Ashura had never used his elemental possession since the very beginning of the battle!

He could tell that the latter also possessed a Transcendent Race given the little specks of light revolving around his body. There were merely three of them, but each of those elemental spirit companions seemed to carry the same air as Solus and Hanzo or even the fusion of Whitie and Blackie.

And as if responding to Shin's thoughts, Ashura suddenly mumbled. "First Servant."

Swoosh!

Shin then saw that one of the specks of light revolving around Ashura, which represented one of the Elemental Spirit Companions, suddenly separated itself from the other two and flew behind the latter.

For a split second, Shin briefly saw a manifestation of a humanoid silhouette behind his opponent before quickly turning into a light that fused with Ashura.

But instead of weapon possession, physical possession, or body metamorphosis like what Shin, Leonard, and Arthur had, Ashura's Elemental Possession was materialization similar to what Zero had.

Swoosh!

'Elemental Spirit Materialization: Sacred Wings'

"Sh*t!" Shin could already guess what kind of boost Ashura would get after seeing the four angelic wings that grew from the latter's back.

Ashura with powerful physical prowess was already troublesome, much less if seraphic speed was added to the equation.

'Weapon Skill (Main: Yamato): Nephilim's Wings'

Without any hesitation, Shin quickly summoned his version wings in response to his opponents' actions. He could not let his advantage disappear just like that, so he had to match the opposing side with his own.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Taking advantage of the brief pause of his opponent during the possession, Shin quickly retreated to create a certain distance between them.

But Ashura was able to respond in time and caught up to him.

Ashura moved at high speed around Shin and left a series of shadows surrounding the latter at the same time.

Each shadow had the same appearance as Ashura, wielding his huge sword ruler and possessing four angelic wings on their back.

Shin then saw these shadows slash their sword rules simultaneously and fiercely. A light cutting through the air was horrifying despite the holy aura that they possessed. They rained down at Shin like a downpour, completely covering all the possible escape routes that he could use.

From Shin's perspective, these sword lights seemed to transform into a group of golden dragons with their heads circulating from above before all of them swopped down at Shin with their mouths fiercely opened.

'Mystic Cosmic Method: Heavenly Dragon Collapse'

Facing attacks from all directions with devasting might, Shin could not find an opening to dodge. Even with the help of his escape and movement skills, he would not be able to break through this blockade as the flow of mana was being disrupted by these dragons.

All he could do was to go in an offensive – fighting fire with fire.

He flipped the greatsword and held it in a reverse manner while releasing Astaroth and the Judgement form, turning it back to its sheath form.

At the same time, Shin proceeded to sheath the [Yamato] while using the fusion of Whitie and Blackie once again and switching his energy with the 'Primordial Lightning' for another time.

Following the familiar stance, breathing, and energy circulation technique, Shin swiftly unsheathed the sword and skillfully swung it with great force.

This time, the energy that came out from the sword did not fly forward as he skillfully controlled its movements, making it revolve around him instead.

The movements of the sword energy resembled a dragon that coiling around him. He was using another Awakening Skill for a model to supplement this sword technique.

Roar!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw – Eclipse Dragon Draw'

That was when the energy surrounding him turned into a majestic dragon. It followed through the movement of the sword energy, tracing the path that it took.

Unlike the 'Eclipse Tiger Draw', this awakening skill was slightly inferior in terms of might and offensive power. But it was more flexible and easier to control, which was why Shin was able to achieve such a result.

Roar!

The dragon opened its large mouth devouring the smaller dragons around as it coiled around the space surrounding Shin.

It crushed everything while protecting Shin inside.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Amid the explosions, Shin suddenly broke through and decisively took the initiative to attack Ashura, not giving the latter any opportunity to have enough space for large and powerful swings.

An intense exchange immediately broke out, making the live audience and online views go crazy!

This battle did not disappoint as it not only met their expectations but even surpassed them to several levels!