

Destiny 1401

Chapter 1401: Scroll of Eclipse

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Shin stared at the scroll in his hands before inspecting it with True Sight.

[Item Name]: A Scroll of Eclipse

[Item Rank]: Special

[Item Type]: Miscellaneous

Description: A scroll containing the map of the hidden inheritance of the Fifth Envoy of the Church of the Sun and Moon, Altus.

Historical Note: It was said that Altus possessed the [Ring of the Brilliant Sun] and hid it along with his inheritance before he died in the battle against the Fallen Dark Dragon, Kardama.

Note: This is a special instance dungeon scroll (Solo).

Requirements: Level 150, Tier 3 Class, and a high-ranking official of any churches of the righteous faction.

Shin slightly raised his brows when he read through the description of the item. This scroll was without a doubt an item meant for him, an Envoy of the Church of the Sun and Moon.

Moreover, it was also related to another envoy of the church, which indicated that this should be a racial quest or a class-related dungeon exploration. It might even be a religion-related quest given the basic description.

At the same time, it seemed to be related to another special accessory given the historical note written on the description. Adding the clues that he had gotten from Longinus, it seemed to be a set along with the necklace that Shin was wearing, the [Proof of Eclipse].

Among all the equipment and items that Shin was wearing, his accessories were a little lackluster in comparison.

He was wearing a full set of Black Mithril Rank Equipment, a Sacred Relic as a Cloak that could continuously grow along with the wearer, and a racial-specific weapon, which was also an inheritance item at the peak of Obsidian Rank.

Among his accessories, the necklace was the only noteworthy since it was a Dissonant Wish item that could also grow continuously as long as he had enough similar items that could be sacrificed to it.

As for the other accessories, they had slightly decent stats, but they were quite unsatisfactory for someone like Shin. He just kept them due to the special effects that they had and skills that could be useful even in the latter part of the game.

With this scroll, he would get a decent ring that would be able to match the rest of his equipment.

"If this ring is in set with my [Proof of Eclipse], does that mean there are others as well?" he mumbled as he looked at the equipment panel that showed all his equipped items, particularly the slots meant for accessories.

In this game, players could wear seven accessories at maximum: two for a pair of rings, one for earrings, one for a necklace, one for the badge, one for an energy gem, and one for a combat rune.

The first five were already unlocked, but the latter two were still unavailable to the players, and no one knew what they were and where to put them. But the game experts were thinking that they would be available when the players reached the second continent since they only appeared after the most recent game update.

Setting that aside, Shin was thinking that along with his necklace, there were also the rings and the earring, which would make a set. If that was the case, then he had to make some time looking for the clues about this accessory set.

As for his badge, there was no need to talk about it since what he just received from Longinus was already beyond amazing. The passive skill 'Master of Energies' was already way beneficial for Shin, especially with the number of special energies that he controlled.

After considering his next plans, Shin kept the scroll before taking out a return scroll. "There is no need to use this right away. I should take care of the most urgent matters first."

He still had to head to the Storm Empire to inform their emperor about the Demon Portal as well as the involvement of their neighboring empire, the Dark Cloud Kingdom, with the Demonic Churches.

But before that, he had to find some evidence that he could present to the emperor and the members of their council. After all, they were talking about the betrayal of an entire kingdom, which could lead to a war between nations, so his position in the Church of the Sun and Moon would not be enough. He had to convince the other side with solid evidence.

This meant that he had to head to the Dark Cloud Kingdom first and record their suspicious actions with a spying stone or something more.

As Shin was dealing with his quest, Shiella, who finally found time to relax after the pile after pile of work that she just dealt with, received the compiled information that Shin had gotten from Longinus.

"Does this guy have some sort of alarm that informs him that I am relaxing? Whenever I am trying to rest, he always pops out of nowhere to give me more work," the corner of Shiella's mouth twitched when she saw the name of the sender.

She even looked around her office while saying. "Or perhaps he installed a spy camera somewhere here to monitor me?"

She voiced out a series of complaints as he opened the message. But her attitude immediately changed when she read through everything. Her expression instantly turned serious when she read more of the contents of the message.

She then turned silent as organized everything inside her head. The information that Shin had sent her would not only give them a lot of edge over everyone else, but it would also make them the strongest force in the Awakened Continent.

This would not only give them a massive head start over the other guilds and organizations, but it would also make them build a powerful force.

This information also came at the right time since she was already done preparing for the special forces of the guild that they were planning to establish.

Adding the information that Shin had shared with her earlier about how they would find the said Mysterious Instructors, they would be able to establish a decent gap between them and the other major forces within the game.

If they were able to monopolize all the available slots on the God-Slaying Army, or at least snatch most of it, they would be able to build a good foundation before they explore the second continent and the latter updates of the game.

After realizing all the benefits that they would get from this, Shiella immediately called Delusive Smile to make some preparations.

But they also had to be careful of this and only limit the number of people to learn about this matter to the ones that they fully trusted. This could not leak to the outside since it concerned their advantages over the other powerhouses within the game.

Meanwhile, Arthur was currently complaining about Shin disappearing somewhere again after his recent challenge against Ashura. He had a lot of things to tell Shin, especially consulting about their deal with the Wing's Alliance.

But since his brother went questing after the battle, Arthur could only discuss it with the others while complaining.

He seemed to have completely forgotten that he was also to blame since he got distracted by their sparring matches with the members of God's Paradise. He got too immersed in the duels these past couple of days, particularly Ashura, who issued a challenge against him after their team battles.

Leonard was also swept to it due to the competitiveness of both sides. He seemed to need to remember that he also had some businesses that needed to deal with.

The two adventurer teams were scrimmaging for quite a while, training and testing each other. This was what Cloe and Lia had arranged after discussing with each other.

Moreover, their top members were so competitive that they wanted to constantly challenge one another, especially Kallavan and Susanoo, who lost more than they won.

The only saving grace was Ashura won more, winning back some of their faces. Arthur and Leonard had more defeats than victories against this guy, but all the duels were as intense as the battle that the former had with Shin – some of their losses were also quite close that they almost had won.

There were also quite a few team battles that shocked the members of God's Paradise, particularly Lia, who was keeping an eye on everyone and paying extra attention to their battle videos.

She had discovered that the teamwork of the Empyrean Talons had grown at an astonishing rate, especially Diablo and Alucard, who were showing great progress.

These two were already quite strong as an individual player, rivaling the top members of God's Paradise. But after assimilating with the rest of the Empyrean Talons and battling alongside each other with the scrims that they had, the two show great improvements in their teamwork.

This almost scared Lia. Fortunately, the understanding of their team toward the other party was also growing, learning their other weaknesses and others.

Regardless, Lia had to label these guys as their greatest rival for the upcoming United Cup, especially when she knew that the other side had most likely understood them as much as they understood them.

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Lia was right about that since Cloe, Leonard, Alucard, and Diablo were thoroughly studying the battle videos that they had with God's Paradise.

"As you can see, we are still lacking in terms of 'unity' when fighting as a team. This is what we greatly lack as a new team. But we can deal with it as long as we work hard and get familiarized with each other," said Cloe as she looked at the others.

Among all the members of the Empyrean Talons, she was the only one who did not have any problem adjusting to the fighting and combat style of everyone. As a priest and the core support of the team, she had great environmental and situational awareness.

She had a lot of experience in teaming up and working with different people during her time as a freelance player in other games. She also used to work with other top teams like Silent Night and others with similar strengths, so did not have any problem adjusting.

Arthur and Leonard were in a similar situation, so they also were able to assimilate with the rest of the team without any issues.

The only problem that they had was the rest of the team coming together and forming a sense of 'unity' when fighting alongside each other. Your next read awaits at mvl-e-NovelBin

"We have quite a few members with decent teamwork like Owen and Ithilien, who were long-time partners, and Archimedes and Daulla. We need to let them get used to working with other team members to build an 'instinct' of helping each other or something similar."

"You two are the top experts on our team, so we hope that you can get along with the rest of our team more often. Hunting or doing a quest together should be fine as well," said Cloe as she was convincing the two to play the game solo less and team up with them.

She knew that these two experts were used to playing alone as they were solo players for quite a while. But since they were now a part of a team, they had to get along with the others so that they could have a sense of trust with the others.

Alucard and Diablo understood this very well, which was why they were trying their best to get along with the rest of the team.

While they were discussing, Arthur, who was listening to the side, suddenly injected. "You are lecturing them, but the guy, who is one of our key members is currently somewhere doing a quest by himself."

Hearing that, Cloe knew that Arthur was talking about Shin. She closed her eyes and massaged her temples. "Don't get me started, Arthur. I am already having a headache with all the problems that you are giving, so please don't remind me of that troublemaker for the time being."

It was fine that they were on their own for a while since the other members were still focused on doing their Tier 3 Promotion Quest, but it would be a problem if this continued.

It was essential for a team to run a dungeon, hunt in the fields, explore other maps, and do quests together to build trust and teamwork with one another, especially for a newly established team like theirs.

It was fine to do questing solo from time to time, but their team was currently in a stage where they still had to build teamwork crucially, so they had to play together most of the time actively.

But since everyone was a top expert in the game, they also had to consider their individual growth as well, so she could not blame Shin for that either.

This was the hard part of creating a team with strangers or online friends that they recently met – they had to build almost everything from scratch.

Fortunately, most of their members were also acquainted with each other in the real world, so the challenge of building their teamwork was greatly reduced.

Saving Cloe from Arthur, Leonard immediately chimed in. "That is fine. After all, we all agreed to do our own thing for the time being until everyone cleared their promotion quests. Then we will proceed to explore the second continent together."

"It is just bad timing that the United Cup is brought forward, which put us in this predicament," he added.

Arthur shrugged his shoulders before turning to Cloe. "So, what is your decision? Who will we send to help the Wing's Alliance with their problems."

"We have agreed to a deal and what they are offering us is quite alluring as well, so it will be a waste to refuse now," he added.

Cloe swept her gaze to everyone in the room before asking. "How many people do you think we need?"

Arthur thought for a moment and recalled the experts that the Grand Elder of the Wing's Alliance had on his side before replying. "Not many. Just enough to overpower a bunch of Peak Titled Rankers and lesser Godlike Players."

"You are not enough?" asked Leonard.

"Tsk! Their Alliance Leader is short of people because they focus on acquiring territory and dealing with a high-ranking quest," Arthur clicked his tongue before continuing. "That is also the reason why that sly fox of an elder is taking advantage of the situation."

"Actually, helping them will not only earn us a decent benefit, but the leader of the Wing's Alliance will also owe us a great favor. If you ask me, it is not bad of a deal," he added.

Hearing his tone, Leonard could not help but click his tongue. "You are starting to resemble Shin Bro with those words."

On the side, Cloe looked at the four before crossing her arms. "How about you four go?"

Hearing those words, Arthur and Leonard simultaneously turned at her before commenting. "Isn't it a little overkill?"

But before she could respond, Diablo suddenly chuckled. "Interesting. Count me in. I have a feeling that the Pandemonium Descendant has a hand in this matter."

Alucard, who kept silent up until now, suddenly nodded in agreement. "Let me join as well. It has been a while since I have a major task like this."

Chapter 1402: The Storm Fortress

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Shin appeared at the capital of the Storm Empire, the Hurricane City. It was a Capital Rank City just like the Holy City of the Saint Heaven Kingdom. Since the empire had more resources than a kingdom due to the larger territory that it covered, an empire's capital city was much larger and more advanced than what the latter had.

Right after stepping out of the luxurious teleportation hall, Shin quickly swept his gaze at the surroundings. He saw more advanced carriages, taller and larger buildings, and busier streets and bursting shops.

Even though the shops here were not as big as the branches of the Hand of Midas, the business was quite good. Given the number of customers, Shin could tell that they were profiting quite a lot.

He wondered when the Golden City would become like this.

He walked down the streets of the city, aimlessly wandering around and closely observing the situation of the city.

He came here first to observe the state of the city, and to see if the Emperor's Palace had any strange movements. But after observing everything for quite a while, it seemed like the higher-ups of this city had no idea that the enemies were currently setting up a base just beyond their borders.

Aside from that, he was also planning to see if they could set up a good spot where they could set up their temporary base. If a war broke out between the two nations, the Storm Empire would be the main hub for the players, who would be participating in it.

Since Shin was one of the main instigators of the quest, he had to participate in war whether he liked it or not. It was natural for him to see if the place would be good for the activities of their adventurer team.

"I guess there is no need to look around for more. I should head to the Dark Cloud Kingdom now," he mumbled after his aimless walk.

The other reason he came here first instead of heading straight to the Dark Cloud Kingdom was to avoid the prying eyes of the people there. If that kingdom was really in cahoots with the Demonic Churches, then it would not be strange for them to station some scouts to watch over their teleportation hall.

Any suspicious individual by their standards would be instantly noticed by their people, making it harder for Shin to move and gather more evidence.

Aside from recovering a video of them building their dark forces, Shin was also planning to capture a few of the high-rank officials of the kingdom with his prison prims before handing everything to the Storm Empire.

He was going to be monitored by those people, his movements would be greatly impacted. Having that in mind, he was planning to cross over the borders of the two nations to avoid any unnecessary attention.

After leaving the gates of the city, Shin activated his stealth before sprinting straight in the direction of the Dark Cloud Kingdom. He also summoned Whitie in his tiger form when he reached a secluded location. He then mounted on the white tiger and ran toward his destination as fast as he could.

Traversing the borders of the two nations would not be easy, especially when there was a neutral map filled with powerful monsters between the borders of the said empire and kingdom.

Normally, Shin would have to transfer to the most secluded city or town on the outskirts of the empire, which was also the nearest at its borders.

This was one of the uniqueness of the Storm Empire since their capital was situated near its borders unlike the other empires and kingdoms, which had their respective capital placed at the heart of their jurisdiction.

It was to prevent any invading nations from reaching their main base. The forces of their invaders had to penetrate multiple layers of defenses before they could reach the heart of their kingdom or empire.

The Storm Empire, on the other hand, did not follow this tradition since right behind them was a sea of mountain ranges, which acted as a natural barrier for them. All they had to was to build a tall, solid, and enormous wall stretching the entire mountain range, which would protect them from their enemies beyond their borders such as violent monsters.

They had also built an impenetrable fortress on top of the tallest mountain, which would act as their main shield for the invading forces.

Given the terrain advantage, any invading force would have a hard time attacking such a fortress, especially when the walls spreading the entire mountain range were connected to it. There were also main points connecting the walls, which made it easier to support each post and supply them with enough people during a time of need.

Aside from this, there was also a heavy storm that was repeatedly striking the land beyond these walls. It was another natural barrier that was protecting them from hostile forces.

This storm was going on all year long as if it was protecting the empire, hence the empire was named as such.

If Shin wanted to cross the borders of the kingdom, he had to go through this fortress, which was not going to be easy. There was also a special formation that would detect anyone approaching, who would be approaching it.

Taking a detour around the mountain range would take too long. Moreover, there was also a deep valley separating the two nations, which he could only cross if he used the sole bridge connecting them.

Getting there would take a long time, especially when there were no teleportation points connecting the posts of the two nations stationed to guard that bridge.

At the same time, it would also require him to register his name if he wanted to use that bridge, which could alert the scouts of the Dark Cloud Kingdom, especially when he was branded as one of the main 'obstructions' of the Demonic Churches due to his repeated clashes with them.

It would be better to cross the stormy mountain range than risk exposing himself to the enemy.

When he arrived at the foot of the Storm Fortress, he could not help but admire how majestic it was. It was not luxurious or anything, but the atmosphere enfolding the entirety of the fortress was giving him chills that could pierce through his bones.

"Halt! This is the Storm Fortress! No one can enter without permission!"

Right after Shin reached the gates of the fortress, he was immediately blocked by a pair of bulky knights, crossing their spears to prevent him from going further.

Shin observed them for a moment before using his True Sight out of habit. He then became shocked as he saw that both knights were quite high-level. Both were level 185 Special Elites, indicating that they were very powerful.

Seeing that he would not be able to cross the border unless he stated a decent excuse, Shin removed his hood to reveal his mask that signified his status.

Given his Fame Stats and Reputation Points, it would be hard for these NPCs not to recognize him. Even if only those with higher rankings could tell his status within the Church of the Sun and Moon, his current achievements were more than enough to make ordinary NPCs recognize him.

"Sir Envoy! We are sorry if we offended you in any way," said one of the knights in a hurry, bowing repeatedly while apologizing.

Shin immediately realized that this knight should be named NPC, given how respectful he was to Shin. He was treating Shin differently unlike the other knight, who was quite respectful, but also a little reserved at the same time. After all, Shin was not the one that they were served but the Great Emperor of their empire.

Only named NPCs could treat the players differently based on the status that they had in their respective organizations. At the same time, these NPCs also possessed hidden stats that the other NPCs did not have. One example of them was Saint Blacksmith Berlin, the Merchant Ribbit, and other NPCs that Shin had encountered with special statuses.

Shin slightly nodded his head while waving his hand. "It is nothing. You are just doing your job after all."

After that, he hung the hood of his cloak over his head once again before asking. "Is your commander inside? I want to ask him for something."

The knight, who was too respectful to Shin, quickly nodded his head. "The Commander is inside, Sir Envoy! Let me guide you to him."

After that, this knight gave a few instructions to the other knight before leading Shin. From the look of it, this knight seemed to have a special status within the fortress given how the others treated him.

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It did not take long for Shin to arrive at the office of the fortress commander with the help of the knight.

"Commander Taiga, the envoy of the Church of the Sun and Moon is here to meet you," said the knight after knocking on the door.

"Let him in," the voice of the commander could be heard from the other side of the door immediately after.

The knight then opened the door before gesturing for Shin to enter respectfully.

Shin slightly nodded his head before entering. Right after he entered the room, he immediately noticed that it was traditionally designed without any luxurious decorations or anything. Aside from a shelf of books and a rack for weapons, the room only contained a simple wooden table and a few wooden chairs surrounding it at the center.

Not far from it, a couple of steps away from the window was an ordinary wooden desk, where piles of paper were neatly placed. Behind this table was an old man with clean-cut hair and a properly trimmed beard, busily reading the documents in front of him.

The air surrounding the old man was quite fierce and heavy despite not being in his combat state. Shin could also feel the heavy scent of blood from this person, signifying that he had killed more than just a few people or monsters.

Using his True Sight to look at the details of this NPC, Shin had gotten a surprise.

[NPC Name]: Taiga Adad

[NPC Title]: The Protector of the Storm Fortress

Race: Conqueror (Ascended Human)

Class: Storm Guardian

Tier 4: Enlightened Being

Level: 450

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'An Enlightened Being? D*mn! No wonder those fools of Demonic Churches don't dare to invade this fortress carelessly,' he thought after seeing the basic details of the NPC.

With such a powerful protector, this fortress would be safe even if an army of undead monsters tried to invade.

Taiga put down the papers that he was reading before standing up. He stood for at least two meters and a half, instantly dwarfing Shin, who had a pretty decent height.

Shin could not help but gulp hard as he watched the commander walk toward him while unconscious emitting a suffocating aura.

Fortunately, that did not last long as the commander smiled amiably at him. "This is a surprise. I don't receive any request from the Church of the Sun and Moon for a visit, young envoy."

Shin quickly snapped out of his daze before humbly replying. "I must apologize for my unannounced visit, Sir Taiga. I have certain circumstances where I can't afford to pile a formal request for a visit."

Taiga gestured for Shin to sit while also taking a seat on one of the wooden chairs himself. "So, can I ask the young envoy what he needs from our humble fortress?"

Shin hesitated for a moment before replying. "It is not much of a trouble. My church has sent me here for a secret mission, so I can't afford to disclose anything. As for what I need from Commander Taiga – I only need you to permit me to cross the border of your kingdom."

Taiga knitted his brows a little before asking. "Can't the young envoy use the Bridge of Cloud and Mist instead? Isn't it more ideal?"

Shin smiled bitterly before shaking his head. "I am afraid that I can't use the bridge. As I mentioned earlier, I am on a secret mission, so the lesser the number of people know about my crossing of the border, the better."

"I also can't use the teleportation hall of any cities within the Dark Cloud Kingdom, so this is the only way," he also quickly added before the commander could say anything.

Commander Taiga paused for a moment as he deeply knitted his brow. Given his rich experience, he could instantly tell that there was something wrong with the situation. He knew that Shin was hiding something, but he could also tell that it would not threaten the Storm Empire.

He repeatedly tapped his finger on the armrest of the chair in silence before finally opening his mouth.
"I guess there is something wrong with the Dark Cloud Kingdom."

Shin, who was waiting patiently, was not even surprised that the commander was able to instantly figure out the situation. This was how the veterans of the frontlines perceived situations through their insight.

But he neither confirmed nor denied and kept his silence.

Commander Taiga did not mind Shin's silence as he contemplated something. He then shook his head and said. "I am afraid that your request will be hard, young envoy."

"There have been strange movements in the mountain ranges beyond our border. I first thought that it was because of the recent appearance of the mutated monsters. But with what you have said, it seems like there is something more into it."

Hearing that, Shin shook his head. "It is not as simple as it seems, Sir Taiga."

Commander Taiga contemplated for a moment, thinking about the hidden meaning behind Shin's words before suggesting. "I can't carelessly leave my post due to obvious reasons, so how about you investigate the cause for me?"

Ding

Right after Shin heard those words, a notification was immediately sent to him by the system along with a series of panels flashing in front of his eyes.

He could not help but smile as he agreed with the commander. Only an idiot would refuse such a free quest falling right in front of him.

Chapter 1403: Unexpected Encounter

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Ding

System: Quest has been generated!

[Quest Name]: Beyond the Storm Fortress

[Quest Type]: Investigation Quest

[Quest Difficulty]: Nightmare Discover hidden content at m,v l'e-NovelBin

[Quest Background]: As you were asking permission to cross the border of the Storm Empire, the commander of the Storm Fortress, Taiga Adad, realized that there was something wrong with the Dark Cloud Kingdom.

He could not grant you the pass for crossing the Storm Fortress, due to the strange movements of the monsters within the Stormy Mountain Range.

Commander Taiga could grant you a temporary pass if you help him investigate what was happening beyond the borders of the Storm Empire.

[Quest Condition]: Help Commander Taiga investigate the strange events within the Stormy Mountain Range.

[Quest Rewards]:

- Your relationship with Commander Taiga will improve greatly – you will be able to build a friendship with the commander of the Storm Fortress.
- Your influence in the Storm Fortress will reach the 'Worship' Level
- Special Title: Storm Raider

+2 Additional Level

+20 LP (Legacy Points)

[Quest Failure]:

- Destruction of the Storm Fortress

- A fallout with the Storm Empire

-5 Levels (Temporarily demoted to Tier 2 if the level falls below Level 150)

Seeing the details of the quests, Shin could not help but raise his brows a little. The rewards might look a little lackluster compared to the previous quests that he had, but it was quite good when the current stage of the game was considered.

One of the main rewards that Shin liked was the Legacy Points. He had accumulated quite a lot of them during all the previous high-level quests that he had, but he had to spend all of them when he was upgrading the 'Regan's Method' Legacy Skill.

It might be a little costly, but it was worth it since the true form of 'Regan's Method' was of great help to him, particularly the 'Elemental Sword and Armor' that helped him increase his mastery when using controlling the higher form of Mana and other powers under his arsenal.

There was also the 'Magic Swordsmanship' that greatly increased his mastery over his Elemental Possession along with their powers.

Adding the 'Elemental Unification' that came along with the Legacy Skill, further improved these areas while also increasing his understanding of different elements.

After experiencing such benefits and great improvements, Shin wanted to upgrade his other Legacy Skills as well.

He was looking to upgrade the 'Mondi's Style' to unlock another form of it, which seemed to be the final form of this Legacy Skill, the 'Ethereal Form'.

He could also upgrade the 'Duplicator's Eyes' if he wanted to, expecting to get more sub-abilities from it. But after getting the serious warning from Longinus, he had to set it aside for now and focus on the other Legacy Skill.

But he was greatly lacking in Legacy Points at the moment, so he had to save them as much as he could and look for as many high-level quests as possible to earn more.

This new quest just happened to arrive at the right time.

At the same time, there were also additional levels that he would get after completing the quest. After reaching Tier 3, leveling up became insanely hard, so these additional levels would be of great value.

The other thing that piqued his interest was the special title that he would get. At this moment, he was already in possession of a lot of titles, which gave him decent stats and additional skills. Gaining another would not be much help for him, but he would never refuse something for free, particularly if it was a title that grants him additional stats.

Recently, when he was done rescuing those captured people from the hands of the Corrupted Cult, he got the title – Duke of Valor, which did not give him any additional stats, but it gave him great influence within the Saint Heaven Kingdom and even granted him great diplomatic relation when conversing with NPCs.

This Duke of Valor title might be one of the reasons why Shin was able to converge with the NPCs without a problem and even gained extra information during the conversation.

Of course, his Envoy of the Church of the Sun and Moon Title was also helping greatly in these situations, but this new title was boosting those effects greatly.

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Shin stood outside of the Storm Fortress currently while looking at the mountain range in front of him. The storm that was constantly hitting the mountain range was making the visibility of the place quite low. It would also make moving within the map hard and more troublesome.

Shin tossed the token in his hand before looking at it. It was the special pass that Commander Taiga had given him so that he could cross the border without facing any issues. It also possessed a blessing that would protect him from the raging storm of the mountain range, so it would be a great tool that would help him when exploring the region.

Of course, the effects of this badge were quite limited, so he could not go too far from the region and head to the Dark Cloud Kingdom straight away.

Checking the details of the quest once again, Shin kept the token inside his inventory before dashing toward the mountain range.

While Shin was currently heading to the Stormy Mountain Range, there was a certain female elven player, who was already investigating the place.

She walked out of a dimensional portal behind her, which led her to this place.

After seeing the current climate of the region, particularly the raging storm that kept on 'attacking' the environment. The gust of wind was blowing strongly, bending the surrounding tree, while the downpour of the rain was making the ground wet, creating a sticky mud that could hinder one's movements.

This elven player knitted her brows deeply before casting a Mana Barrier that protected her from wind and rain. She also used wind magic that helped her levitate in the air, preventing herself from stepping on the muddy ground.

These two skills might continuously burn her mana greatly, but given her large Mana Pool and fast Mana Regeneration, such consumption of mana was nothing to her.

After sweeping her gaze at the surroundings and looking at her position on the map, she turned to the side and asked. "Are you sure that we are in the right place, Sir Rajin?"

There was none there with her, but a voice answered her. "We are at the right place, Great Sage of the Elves. This is where we felt the presence of a fellow elemental like us."

Another voice quickly followed, seconding the words of the other. "Elven Sage, we can feel the presence of great 'Gaia', one of the Spirit Kings of the Spirit Realm that descended on this world during the Ancient War."

"We don't know what form they have in this era, but their strength will never be weaker than any of us," said a gentle voice.

This elven player was Alice, or rather known as the Elemental Goddess Charlotte inside the game. She was currently in the middle of a special mission granted to her by her elemental spirits companions right after reaching the third tier of her class.

As for the three voices, they were her elemental spirits, who were currently in the form of specks of lights circling her.

But from the original five lights revolving around her, there were currently three of them right now. These three were the Storm Brothers 'Raijin' and 'Fūjin', which were the Lightning and Wind Elemental Spirits respectively, and the Sea Deity 'Suijin'.

Seeing that she only now had three elemental spirit companions, Alice could not help but bite her lower lip in guilt. She felt that her previous Earth Elemental Spirit and Fire Elemental, which were Kaolin and Xin respectively, had permanently perished due to her.

Sensing the mood of their host, the three remaining elemental spirits quickly tried to comfort her, particularly Suijin. "You can't blame yourself for what happened, Miss Charlotte. No one expected that an Abomination King would be ambushing us right after the completion of your promotion."

They did not know how an Abomination King, a fully evolved abomination spirit, was waiting for them right outside the portal of the instance dungeon where she was taking her promotion quest.

Alice did not know how it happened, but she was suddenly ambushed right after she stepped out of the instance dungeon. Moreover, the Abomination King was so powerful that Kaolin and Xin had to sacrifice themselves so that she could escape along with the three remaining Elementals on her side.

They might have survived, but the two poor Elementals were devoured by the Abomination King in exchange for it.

That was when Alice received a special quest to take down the Abomination King, who was currently on the hunt for more Elemental Spirits.

It was an event quest that would continue until the Abomination King was killed. It would continuously come after her and other people with Elemental Spirits as their companions, which were specifically the players with Transcendent Race.

She just happened to be the unluckiest one among everyone for being the first target of the Abomination King.

The other thing that upset her was this event quest was triggered right after meeting a set number of Elemental Spirits reaching the rank of Supremes and Monarchs.

The three Elemental Spirits Raijin, Fūjin, and Suijin were all Ancient Elemental Spirits, which were comparable to Supremes and Monarchs. All of them were directly promoted to their previous ranks right after she cleared her promotion quest.

One of the reasons was because she was an elf, particularly Ancient Elf, which had a deep connection with the Elemental Spirits. This made most of the sealed powers of the three elementals get unlocked right after she became Tier 3.

From the quest description, it was said that it would only be triggered once a certain number of Elemental Spirits became Supremes and Monarchs was reached. It seemed to be a system restriction that would prevent the players from getting too many powerful companions in the early stages of the current patch.

It was a balancing system that would prevent the gap between the Transcendent Race and other races from being too wide.

The trigger limit seemed to be at least five Supreme Elementals and Elemental Monarchs combined, which would start the event quest after being met.

She had gotten three right after her class promotion while the rest came somewhere she did not know.

She was annoyed and helpless at the same time when such a disaster happened to her. She felt like beating up the person who put her in a miserable position, but she also knew that it was not their fault either and just wanted to vent her frustration.

She could only sigh and accept what happened. At least she had gotten the event quest that only she could clear with the buffs she would be getting when facing the Abomination King due to the special conditions of the quest, or at least until others somehow killed this Abomination King.

At the same time, the permanent death of her fallen Elemental Spirits – Kaolin and Xin – led to Elemental Spirit Quests that would allow her to get a replacement for the two, which happened to be two Spirit Kings.

One of them was the Earth Spirit Queen 'Gaia', who seemed to be sealed somewhere here in the Stormy Mountain Range, while the other was the Flame Spirit King 'Ifrit,' who was in a deep slumber in a dormant volcano in an Ancient Archipelago in the middle of Sea of Death.

...

After adjusting her moon, Alice gazed at the surroundings again before closing her eyes and focusing her senses.

At the same time, she placed her Elemental Scepter in front of her, holding it with both of her hands. Channeling her mana into it, she chanted out a series of elven prayers, which summoned a series of elven runes revolving around her.

When she opened her eyes once again, a blinding light came out from them, illuminating the surroundings. The elven runes that were revolving around her also flew in every direction, seemingly looking for something.

In this state, Alice's elemental sensitivity seemed to have reached another level while also boosting her Mana Sense to a larger scale.

While she was looking for the traces of the Earth Spirit Queen 'Gaia', her senses picked up a familiar aura from far away distance.

At the same time, the other party seemed to have also sensed her presence as they looked in her direction.

– "Eh!? What is he(she) doing here?" –

Their 'gazes' seemed to have 'met', shocking each other. – "What a powerful Elemental Sense!" –

Chapter 1404: Always the Center of Trouble

.....

Shin was experimenting with the other special effects of the 'Elemental Unification' ability when he suddenly sensed a strange fluctuation in the air. The Elemental Mana in the surroundings seemed to have been disturbed, but very gently, which was why the movements were barely noticeable.

The moment when he set his gaze toward the direction where he felt the strange fluctuations were coming from and following its main source, he happened to 'see' a familiar person in the distance. "Eh!? What is she doing here? I thought she was busy doing her Elemental Spirit Quest."

It then comes to him in the very next moment, "Hmm. Don't tell me this place is the setting for that quest. Is it somehow related to the strange movements of the monsters within the region?"

As he was discussing with himself, he realized that the other party had also noticed his presence.

He thought for a moment before deciding to go and greet her. She could also be a great help to him when dealing with his current mission. At the same time, he could also help her with her task in exchange.

He was about to head in her direction when he suddenly heard the voices of Solus and Hanzo.

"She must be here to free the sealed Elemental Spirit King somewhere in this place."

"Only an Elven Sage like her can build a connection and form a contract with an Elemental Spirit King."

Shin could not help but pause his tracks while looking at the two in surprise. He then smiled and nodded. "Now this is interesting. I guess I should tag along with her while investigating the area to see what a Spirit King looks like."

...

At the same time, Alice was currently confused about what Shin was doing here. From what she had heard from the others, he was supposed to clear a quest, which seemed to be an Empire Quest level. "What is doing here? This is supposedly a neutral region based on the map."

"Don't tell me he is here to release another content of the game," she added after remembering every trouble Shin made in any place he went.

She suddenly felt a little nervous when she thought about this. Everything that Shin got involved with always became a big event, or some sort of trouble whenever he appeared. "There will be no accidents this as well, right?"

Swoosh!

When Shin arrived at her location, Alice could not help but step back a little. It was her subconscious reaction after thinking the line of thoughts that she was having just earlier.

Seeing her actions, Shin could not help but look at her confusedly. "Why are you so surprised? You just noticed earlier in a distance, don't you?"

Alice smiled awkwardly before responding. "I just don't expect you to be in this place. Aren't you busy dealing with your follow-up quests?"

Shin stared at her for a moment before throwing his suspicion at the back of his head. He then answered honestly. "One of my quests leads me here. I have to investigate some of the suspicious movements of the monsters around here before I am fully authorized to cross the borders between the two nations – or at least freely leave or enter the borders of the Storm Empire."

He then shifted the topic to Alice and asked. "How about you? What are you doing here?"

Alice hesitated for a moment as she was not that close to Shin. She did not know how to have a proper conversation with him, especially when she had this strange feeling within her whenever she saw him.

But since Shin was taking the initiative and leading the conversation, she felt that it would be rude to not say anything.

"I am also here for a quest," she paused for a moment as he looked at her three Elemental Spirit Companions before sighing. "It is an Elemental Spirit Quest..."

After that, she explained what happened to her. She started with her experiences in her Promotion Quest, particularly what led her Elemental Spirits to be promoted to their previous ranks, which was equivalent to Supremes, Monarchs, and Spirit Kings.

Shin was not surprised about it since a similar thing happened to Solus and Hanzo as their strength was closely connected to his. Moreover, he had also completed other Elemental Spirit Quests, which helped him promote the ranks of his Reaper's Retainers.

Currently, he had six elemental spirits on that level, namely: Solus, a Fallen God Spirit; Hanzo, an Ancient Void Spirit; Astaroth, an Obsidian Guardian Spirit; Blackie, an Abysmal Penumbra Spirit; Whitie, a Sacred Radiant Spirit; and Grimrace, an Eldritch Psychic Spirit.

Vladimir, who was already a Noblesse Crimson Spirit, was also not that far from their levels and was only lacking one final push that would help him reach that level.

After hearing what Alice had said, Shin felt that having Elemental Spirits with such levels and ranks was something 'very' normal.

Little did he know that the two of them just happened to belong to the abnormal ones.

Shin was still listening attentively until Alice mentioned the incident that happened right after her promotion quest, particularly how the Abomination King had ambushed her and how her two Elemental Spirit Companions had to sacrifice themselves so that she could escape with the rest.

That was only when Shin realized that Alice's original five Elemental Spirits revolving around her were now down to three.

Then Alice mentioned when the event quest was triggered right after the specific number of Elemental Spirits reaching the level of Supremes, Monarchs, and Spirit Kings was met.

Based on what the quest details had mentioned, the number of Elemental Spirits reaching that level needed to be at least five before it was triggered.

Hearing that, Shin could not help but sweat profusely as he suspected that he was one of the reasons why that event quest started.

Calculating the time, he had already three Elemental Spirit Companions on that level. He was already done promoting Astaroth into a Supreme Elemental at that point, so adding the other three that Alice had, it was without about their fault.

Realizing this, Shin could not help but awkwardly scratch the back of his head while subconsciously dodging the gaze of Alice.

Girls were quite sharp in these cases, so she immediately noticed the sudden change in the atmosphere. Even if she could not see what expression Shin was making due to his mask, she was still able to feel that he was acting a little strange.

Then she suddenly noticed the specks of lights circling Shin. Other people might not be able to notice it at first glance, but given that she was an Elven Sage, which had quite a close relationship with the spirits, she was able to instantly notice their difference compared to the other elemental spirits.

Alice immediately realized that all of them were either a Supreme Elemental, an Elemental Monarch, or something on a similar level.

Putting two and two together, her eyes suddenly turned wide while pointing at Shin. "You-...! You-...!"

She was unable to complete her words as she was not sure what to say. She wanted to blame Shin for what happened to her, but she also knew that it was not his fault as it was only an unfortunate accident.

Suddenly closing her eyes and forcefully calming herself, Alice could only sigh in defeat and accept her fate. "Forget it. It is not like you did it on purpose."

Shin chuckled nervously as he understood how scary this woman could be. He had experienced it at least twice or trice before. In fact, he was quite surprised that she did not explode and managed to hold herself back given her temper.

After recollecting herself, Alice went back to her topic. "As I said, it is also an opportunity for me to get a chance to form a contract with two Spirit Kings."

"And one of them is sealed somewhere here?" asked Shin.

Alice nodded as she added. "That is right. I noticed your presence earlier when I was investigating the area."

Shin slightly nodded his head before falling in deep thought. He was thinking that this piece of information might be related to his quest.

But after thinking a little deeper into it, he felt that it was most unlikely to happen. It could only be some sort of coincidence.

But at the same time, he also would not overlook this clue as the mutated monsters seemed to have started appearing when Alice's quest had started.

There was also another instance where the Demonic Churches might also have something to do with this, so he had to cover every angle to avoid any accidents.

After organizing his thoughts, he then turned to Alice and asked. "So, what is your plan? Are you going to survey the surroundings while looking for clues about the Spirit King sealed somewhere here?"

Alice nodded her head. "Yeah. I need to look for the traces of that Spirit King while also looking for a way to break their seal."

Shin thought for a moment before saying. "Should we investigate the area together? After all, our purpose is somehow similar."

He was quite hesitant since he was not comfortable to converge with Alice yet. He was somewhat awkward, especially when he knew that Alice was the younger sister of that first girl who was close to him.

Alice, on the other hand, was hesitating whether to accept the offer or not for various reasons. One of them was she was afraid that she would be swept with Shin's 'bad luck'.

Everything that he got involved with always became a big event, so she was afraid that her simple quest would turn into something very different.

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Gulping nervously, Alice struggled hard as she nodded and accepted the offer. "S-Sure. We... can help each other that way as well."

Shin found it weird as he saw Alice looking at him nervously as if she was afraid of something. He tried to recall if he had done something to her, but he could not seem to find anything.

But seeing that she seemed to be fine, Shin forgot about it and prepared to move. He got the feeling that these quests that they had were not going to end smoothly given the current clues that they had.

What he did not know was it was exactly what Alice was afraid of.

Somewhere in the other part of the Stormy Mountain Range, on the entrance facing the Dark Cloud Kingdom, a group of people were currently crossing the border and rushing toward the mountain range.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The leading person of the group suddenly took out a talisman and quickly right after. A transparent barrier was quickly formed and covered the entire group, protecting them from the raging storm of the mountain. The barrier also isolated them from the surroundings, preventing any kind of tracking or detecting skills to find them.

"We must move fast as the seed that Sir Paimon has planted here is about to sprout. It will help us break the seal protecting that dungeon," said the person running at the forefront of the group.

"There are four guardians that we have to defeat before the seal is broken. They have already been marked on our virtual map, so we will be moving separately to increase our efficiency."

"Each of the guardians is a powerful Overlord, so dealing with them will be quite troublesome, especially the final guardian."

"But if we stick to the plan and deal with the other three first while feeding their lifeforces to strengthen the Demonic Seed that Sir Paimon has planted, everything will be fine. Make sure to listen to my orders and don't stray from them to avoid any accidents."

While he was giving his instructions, one of their scouts, who was ahead of them, suddenly reported to him.

[Sir Leviathan, it looks like we have some company. Two people are already investigating the area. Given their pace, they may even stumble upon the location of one of the guardians.]

Leviathan, one of the seven Sinful Devils of the Pandemonium Troupe – the Envy Devil, was the one leading this operation. He was not sure why Paimon had instructed them to clear the isolated dungeon in such a troublesome area. But given the investment that the latter had put in this operation, he could tell that it was something of great importance.

"Look into their details," he instructed.

He was not in a hurry to take off the two players. This was a high-level neutral map, so there was a high chance that these two were top experts – apex experts even. Only those with abilities would dare to explore such a map.

They had to know their enemies first before making their move against them.

It did not take long for his subordinate to reply. [We can't see through their disguise, Sir. It seems like they are using high-quality items to hide their identity.]

Leviathan frowned deeply as he realized that this operation was not going to be as easy as they had expected. Only those overly powerful experts could possess such high-quality items that could hide themselves from the observation treasure that their scouts possess.

"Don't make anything rash. Follow them secretly in a safe distance and continue to observe their movements. Wait for us to arrive," he instructed, seriously warning the scouts about making any move against the two mysterious experts.

He then turned to the other person traveling with him. They were a mage riding a witch broom while lazily sleeping on it. "Hey, newcomer. It is time to work!"

"It is your time to show us that the leader is not wrong at choosing you for occupying that seat of Sloth."

Chapter 1405: The Envy Devil and The New Sloth Devil (Part 1)

...

Shin and Alice explored a large portion of the Stormy Mountain Range and encountered a lot of Mutated Monsters along the way such as Death Trees, Man-Eating Vines, and a lot of plant-type monsters. There were also a couple of beast-type monsters, but most of them carried the properties of nature-related elements such as wood, grass, and others.

Mutated Monsters were slightly different from regular monsters of the same type or breed. They possessed other abilities that were somewhat different from what the monsters of the same type had. These new abilities could be from a different type of power or a unification of the original and newly acquired powers.

Most of the time, Mutated Monsters were born when they met another source of power that triggered their mutation.

These monsters were different from a Variant Monsters which was an evolved monster of the same type. These monsters possessed their original powers and abilities, but on a different scale and might.

Within «Destiny's Fate», these two categories of monsters were on equal terms, not having that much advantage over the other. They were equally powerful but also had unique advantages and weaknesses. However, most of them overcame their weaknesses after their mutation and constant evolution.

Some of these Mutated and Variant Monsters were equally strong as Lords, Overlords, and even King-Class or Emperor-Class Monsters, depending on how much mutation or evolution they went through.

Most of the monsters Shin and Alice encountered were only as strong as regular monsters with a couple of Elites and Special Elites in the mix. They had also encountered a few Mutated Monsters that were equally strong as Lords, which gave them a little challenge during the battle due to the terrain and environmental advantages that these monsters had.

Even if Shin and Alice were strong, especially when they had reached the Tier 3 Class, they were still having some trouble dealing with these monsters due to the region's climate, which limited most of their abilities. The environment was also advantageous to plant-type monsters, so the powers that these monsters had were greatly enhanced.

Alice could take advantage of the storm present in the region. After all, her elemental spirits were called 'Storm Brothers' for a reason, so such an environment greatly enhanced their abilities instead of weakening them.

Her third elemental spirit was also not restricted by the storm since she was a water-type elemental, so most of her abilities were somewhat strengthened with such a storm hitting the region.

Even though Alice could only limit her Elemental Magic to Lightning, Wind, and Water Elements, her firepower and other abilities were not much affected since the environment greatly enhanced magic with such elements.

Moreover, she could also use her version of Elemental Spirit Possession, where her Elven Companions fused with her magic itself when fighting.

On the other hand, Shin was greatly restricted by such an environment, especially when he could only use the Primordial Lighting and the Chaos Slasher Possession.

Even if the might of these powers was also somewhat enhanced by the storm, his other abilities and elemental possession were somewhat limited. Even the 'Dimensional Cutter Possession' was greatly restricted by the strange powers surrounding the entire mountain range.

With the limited powers on their hands, Shin and Alice could not fully showcase their peak potential.

Meanwhile, the monsters that they were encountering were greatly enhanced by such an environment, increasing the challenge of each of their battle.

But the two of them were still apex experts of the game, so they fully welcomed these challenges and faced them head-on instead of avoiding them. They were treating this as some sort of obstacle that would greatly help them improve themselves.

...

As they were exploring the region, Alice suddenly sensed a strange fluctuation in the mana lingering in the air. They followed it and realized that there was a powerful monster at the end of their destination.

"Based on my estimate, this monster can be as strong as an Overlord," she assessed after focusing her elemental sense on the location of the monster.

On regular occasions, any of them could solo an Overlord Monster of this level. Even if it was a Mutated Overlord comparable to a King Class Monster of the same level, the two of them would not be backing down on a battle and would welcome the challenge instead, especially given their current strength.

But with such an environment advantageous to the Mutated Monster and the restrictions that they had, the two fully understood that this would not be an easy battle.

They had to work together if they wanted to go through this hurdle.

Shin and Alice were discussing their strategy when they fought when both of them noticed some small movements coming from the distance.

Alice was constantly employing her Elemental Sense to make sure that they would not encounter any ambush, so she was able to sense any kind of movements in the surroundings so long she heightened her senses.

Shin, on the other hand, was experimenting with his new abilities. With the new Elemental Skill: Demonic Telekinesis, he could now employ a few more Mentalism Techniques that he had in the real world, and one of these abilities was his Spiritual Sense.

By secretly releasing the telekinetic powers that he had and spreading them in all directions, forming an invisible net, he could sense any movements in the surroundings no matter how small it was.

Adding these abilities with his Sensing Circle and Elemental Unification Skills, he was able to clearly pinpoint the exact locations of his targets and even see through stealth, which was quite overpowered.

He was even a little better compared to Alice when it came to this area.

"It seems like we have some company," mumbled Alice as she was about to direct her gaze at the location of their 'stalkers'.

But before she could fully turn, Shin suddenly stopped her actions and said. "There is no rush to expose them this early. I am sure that they still have a few more friends heading in our direction."

"Let's wait until then before taking action. Keeping an eye out for them is more than enough," he added as he resumed their exploration, acting as if he had not noticed anything.

Alice looked at his back confusedly for a moment but still decided to follow his instructions.

Seeing that she followed his lead, Shin inwardly nodded his head while saying. "This is also for the better. They may even lead us to more clues related to our quests... or at least for my quests."

"The number of mutated monsters in this region is too abnormal, so I am guessing that there is a major cause that is leading these monsters to evolve this direction. It is highly possible that it is done purposely."

"It is not a corrupted or demonic power, but some sort of strange power. But we still can't ignore the possibility that this is related to Corrupted Cult or Demonic Churches, especially the latter since already involved with the Dark Cloud Kingdom."

Shin was making the chat as casual as possible to avoid any suspicion from the people tailing them.

On the other hand, Alice listened silently while focusing her senses on scanning the surroundings. It was at that moment that she noticed the strange formation covering the entire area.

As a Mage and an Enchanter, she was able to recognize instantly that it was some sort of sealing formation based on the fluctuation of mana in the air... or at least a part of a whole, a much larger and more complicated formation.

She suddenly became excited as she finally found a clue for her quest. She quickly informed Shin of her discovery. "There is an advanced sealing formation covering this area. It seems to be connected to a more advanced formation... this can be my lead for my quest."

Shin slightly raised his brows as he fell in deep thought. He then turned to her and asked. "Can you investigate and figure out how to break it?"

Alice slightly knitted her brow before nodding her head. "It will require quite an effort, but it take a few minutes at most if I can focus on it."

"How about if we walk around while you are investigating the formation?" Shin asked again.

Alice was confused as to why Shin was asking this but still replied. "It will not be a problem. All I have to do is spread out my Elemental Sense to feel the formation, and I will naturally figure out the way to break it."

"This one of the advantages of an Elven Sage majoring in Elemental Magic Perception," she added.

Shin nodded. "Then we will do just that. We will take a full circle of the area while you are trying to figure the formation out. Then you can focus on breaking it down while I deal with those guys spying on us and the other possible distractions."

Alice nodded her head as she quickly got to work, releasing her mana, and spreading it in all directions, employing her special elemental techniques along with her Elemental Sense.

While she was busy inspecting the formation through her Elemental Sense, Shin was keeping his guard up and eliminating all the monsters that they encountered along the way.

At the same time, he had also secretly released Blackie, Grimrace, and Hanzo so that they could keep an eye on the people watching them from the dark while also surveying the surroundings to watch out for the other 'guests' that they were expecting.

...

It took at least a dozen minutes before Blackie reported to Shin that other people were heading in their direction through telepathy. She also informed Shin that there were at least two people, who were strong enough to threaten him and Alice.

She also added that these two people were emitting a dense Demonic Aura that was comparable, if not stronger, than any demonic players that he had encountered. She even compared him with Mephistopheles whom he had fought previously or Haowin, who had been defeated before.

Based on her observation, these two were as strong as Shin, or at least slightly weaker.

"If they are at least as strong as those two, then that means that they are highly likely part of Pandemonium Descendants – belonging to Troupe Members even," he mumbled after hearing the assessment of Blackie.

After thinking a moment, Shin quickly instructed. "Take out those scouts observing us in secret, then kill as many of the others heading this way as possible."

When the elementals received the instructions from Shin, the three quickly moved and took down all the scouts in the vicinity without showing any mercy. They only needed a single strike to dispose of these people. Even Grimrace, who liked to cause trouble, did not dare to waste more time on torturing his victims after hearing the serious tone from his master.

After making sure that they had not missed anyone, the three elementals quickly disappeared as they immediately headed to their next target.

In the meantime, Shin turned to Alice and asked. "Do you still have time to break the formation? It seems like our 'guests' are a little troublesome this time."

Alice felt somewhat dejected when converging with Shin since he always talked about business and nothing else. He seemed to have put up a wall that prevented her from getting closer to him.

She was not sure why she was feeling this way, making her quite confused and affecting her mood to a certain extent. But after remembering that they were currently in a serious situation, she set her feelings and thoughts aside before responding.

"This sealing formation is quite strange. It is very advanced yet also quite ancient; complicated, but also easy to solve," she paused for a moment while deeply knitting her brows. "We can easily break the formation by killing the Mutated Monster ahead of us."

"It seems like it is the center of formation itself, so it will instantly collapse if it is eliminated," she added before turning ahead of them, looking in the direction where the Mutated Monster was located.

Shin thought for a moment when he heard that. There were two members of Pandemonium Troupe heading in their direction, so it could be risky to fight the Mutated Monster, especially when they could be ambushed from behind.

His Reaper's Retainers could buy them some time, but it would not be long once the opposing side realized that they were only summonsed that could be forcefully unsummoned by the Spirit Awe Skill.

He also felt that the mutation of the monsters here was related to these people, so he could somewhat solve his problems with his quests once he dealt with them.

As for the Mutated Monster that was acting as a center of the sealing formation, it could be their crucial clue for Alice's quests.

Since they had mostly figured out where this was heading, Shin decided to deal with their possible obstacles before proceeding.

"Let's intercept those guys first before dealing with the Mutated Monster. It is our safest choice for now," he suggested.

Alice turned to him before nodding. She also understood that this was their best choice at the moment.

Chapter 1406: The Envy Devil and The New Sloth Devil (Part 2)

.....

Leviathan was currently leading the team while the lazy guy beside him was still sleeping on his witch broom while snoring. He was frowning deeply as he was quite dissatisfied with the actions of this hold of the Seat of Sloth within the Pandemonium Troupe.

He did not know what their leader had seen from this guy to give the Sloth Devil Title to him. He also did not understand why Paimon had let this guy come with them when this current operation was of utmost importance. He could not afford to babysit this newcomer when he was busy dealing with their mission.

He was currently lost in his thoughts when he suddenly sensed something. His eyes turned sharp while his senses went on high alert. He had also raised his hand and closed it into a fist, signaling everyone behind him to stop.

At the same time, the current Sloth Devil somehow opened his eyes at some point. He was sharply scanning their surroundings while releasing an invisible net of mana that would act as an extension of his senses.

But before the two of them could fully set up their defenses, their hidden enemies had already struck their group with full ruthlessness.

"Ah!"

"Urgh!"

"Wah!"

Some of the people in their group had their heads twisted more than a hundred and eighty degrees while others had a huge hole in their chests, showing their missing hearts.

Others had severed limbs that seemed to have been cut cleanly by a very sharp object or got separated from the rest of their bodies due along with spatial tears.

The rest, on the other hand, had ripped body parts as if they were ravaged by a savage beast. Their shredded bodies flew in every direction and scattered in every direction.

The attack came a little too sudden, not giving the group any time to respond.

Aside from Leviathan and the new Sloth Devil, only a handful of the group was able to survive. These people were the most elite members of their group, who had the sharpest senses and fastest reaction speed.

Leviathan looked around and saw that there were only a dozen members in their originally 30-man team.

He was spreading his senses in every direction when he suddenly picked up extremely fast movements heading toward their direction.

He quickly turned to the said and called out for the new Sloth Devil. "Oy, Belphegor! Put up the barrier! Hurry!"

"Tsk! I know it already! You don't have to tell me. So annoying!" responded the lazy mage sitting on the flying broom while drowsily rubbing his eyes.

He then raised his hand and made a snap with his fingers.

Snap!

When the sound reverberated in the air, the formless mana filling the surroundings seemed to have come alive and headed toward his direction.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Within an instant, a sturdy-looking and transparent barrier was suddenly formed, covering all the surviving members of their group.

Boom!

Clang! Clang!

Bang!

Then three simultaneous attacks arrived and collided with that barrier, resulting in a series of deafening sounds.

At the same time, Leviathan waved his hands releasing multiple invisible strings from the tip of his fingers. These strings attached themselves to the bodies of the surviving members of the group, seemingly making them a bunch of puppets controlled by Leviathan, who was the puppeteer.

These strings were made of special mana, making them impossible to cut by ordinary attacks. Not even regular magic worked on them along with the advanced elemental spells.

Most of their properties were strong enough to make them a deadly weapon while the rest possessed enhancing effects that boosted the stats and battle capabilities of any that their puppeteer controlled.

Leviathan's hands and fingers danced as he controlled the surviving members of their group to attack their assailants. He could not see the appearance of their attackers due to their insane speed. But with the attacks that they had launched just now, he was able to perceive their movements.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The elite members of their group divided themselves and went to chase the two shadowy figures that just attacked them while leaving the remaining enemy to Belphegor.

Grimrace and Blackie were slightly taken aback when they saw that these players were able to catch up to them despite their current speed. This was the first since they were promoted to their current ranks.

Realizing that they would be caught if they continued to run, the two elementals quickly turned and fought the members of Pandemonium Descendants that were chasing after them.

An intense melee quickly broke out as Grimrace and Blackie suppressed their opponents with their overwhelming advantage in stats.

But despite that being the case, they were still unable to finish off any of these people as their teamwork seemed to be seamless and did not have any visible flaws. It was as if their minds were linked with one another, making them able to read the thoughts of the others and move as one. This also helped them save the others who were on the verge of being killed.

The group fighting them was able to hold their ground against them with this strange teamwork of theirs.

If Shin had seen this scene, he would be very surprised. The individual strength of these people was mediocre at best based on his standards, but when they were fighting together, especially when they were under the enhancements and control of Leviathan.

On top of this, every individual in this group seemed to have gotten a special ability related to ice elemental along with the rest of the enhancements that they possessed. Each of their attacks carried a magic power of this elemental, which was not losing to any other higher form of Mana. They were comparable to Shin's Power of Abyssal Moon at the very least.

The more Grimrace and Blackie exchanged blows with these people, the more they felt that their movements were being greatly restricted. These ice-elemental attacks were starting to stack and affect their powers.

If not for them possessing a similar level of elemental powers, then they would have long suffered at the hands of these people.

Meanwhile, Hanzo was busy dealing with Belphegor, who seemed to possess a strange magic power.

Belphegor seemed to possess an ordinary magic power that the regular mages had on the surface. But looking a little deeper into them, Hanzo could tell that there was hidden power mixed in each magic spell that Belphegor cast.

What surprised Hanzo was how easy this person was able to cast a series of intermediate to advanced spells without using any chants or gestures. It was as if a single thought for more than enough to cast a spell and summon a magic circle.

Belphegor still wore that lazy and drowsy look on his face, but the constant barrage of spells that he was throwing at Hanzo never stopped. These spells were also not randomly cast either as they had systematic patterns and followed a certain rule.

Some of them were even a series of combination spells that could enhance the effects of the other. Their accuracy was also insanely high as they were able to follow Hanzo's movements despite him constantly moving everywhere through his version of 'Void Steps'.

After exchanging a little longer, Leviathan and Belphegor finally noticed that the three that they were fighting were nothing but summoned elementals.

Leviathan frowned deeply while Belphegor yawned lazily. Then they both used their Spirit Awe skill, forcefully unsummoning the three and sending them back to their master.

At the same time, they simultaneously turned toward a certain direction where they could sense a pair of presence rapidly heading toward their direction.

Leviathan was rather annoyed and frustrated as he had lost most of his subordinates against a few summonses in a simple ambush. This was a disgrace and a humiliation that he would never forget.

If he could not kill the master of those elemental spirits and use a special skill to turn their bodies into shadow puppets, he would be a laughingstock in front of the other Troupe Members.

Not long after, he could finally see the silhouettes of the opposing party. One was a hooded swordsman running toward them in extreme speed while the other was an Elven Elementalist wearing a set of luxurious robes while half of her face was covered with an elegant veil.

Leviathan raised his brows as he could not read their statuses despite his special ocular skills. Given the level and rank of his observation skill, there were only a limited number of people who could hide their information from him. This could only mean that the identity of these people was not simple.

Recalling the three elemental spirits that ambushed them, Leviathan suddenly remembered something before focusing his gaze on the hooded swordsman.

After getting a clearer look at the latter, Leviathan seemed to have gotten an idea of who it was. "It seems like he is indeed a fated enemy of our Pandemonium Descendants."

Meanwhile, Belphegor's lazy and drowsy look seemed to have livened up a little when his eyes landed on the Elven Elementalist. It was not because he could not read the information of the latter or the deadly figure that the elf had, but due overwhelming mana that was surrounding her.

Through his special eyes, Belphegor could see the other details that other players could not, particularly when it came to magic and elements. From his perspective, he could see that the elemental mana in the surroundings seemed to be gathering toward this Elven Elementalist as if they were attracted to something.

What was even more interesting was the feeling that Belphegor was getting from these elemental mana – they seemed to worshipping her.

"Interesting!" he mumbled as he stared at the Elven Elementalist intently.

He then stood up and hopped down from the flying broom, holding it with both of his hands. "You deal with the dude while I take care of the elven girl."

Hearing those words, Leviathan was slightly taken aback as he was not expecting that this lazy guy would take the initiative to work when all he was interested in was sleeping and lazing around – aside from magic-related topics and mysteries.

Leviathan turned to the elven girl and thought of something. He then turned to the hooded swordsman and then back to the elven girl once again.

After having a clearer look at her, Leviathan shook his head as he could feel that this was not going to be as easy as they expected. At the same time, he also felt rather fortunate since this could be a good

opportunity to see how strong this newly appointed member of the Sinful Devils of the Pandemonium Troupe was.

He then cast his focus on the hooded swordsman, who was currently the greatest obstacle to their organization.

With a wave of his hand, the surviving members of their group gathered around him, forming a battle formation.

...

Meanwhile, Shin and Alice, who just arrived, could not help but frown deeply after seeing the opposing party.

Shin had gotten a detailed report from Blackie and Hanzo, who exchanged a few blows against the opposing party. Based on the assessments of the two elementals, it seems like their opponents this time would be much more troublesome than they had expected.

He particularly focused his gaze on Levithan who was controlling the other members of their group through his special strings.

Aside from his curiosity about the fighting style of the latter, Shin also felt that it would be a good opportunity to put his new abilities into practice, especially against the odd fighting style of his opponent. Discover more stories at m.vl'e-NovelBin.net

On the other hand, Alice could not take off her eyes from Belphegor in the distance. Through her Elemental Sense and Mana Eyes, she could tell that the other party was not as simple as it seemed on the surface.

She could also see the storm-like mana that was gathering around this person. This flood of mana seemed to resemble a savage beast that was waiting for an opportunity to break free from its cage.

She instantly recognized that this opponent would be much more powerful than her previous opponents.

Chapter 1407: The Envy Devil and The New Sloth Devil (Part 3)

...

Shin shifted his gazes between Leviathan and Belphegor as he listened to the assessments that Blackie and Hanzo had reported to him. His gaze lingered on the latter one for a couple of seconds before sending a voice message at the party channel.

"Be extra careful when facing that Dark Mage. He seems to have a strange skill that can affect your mind or something."

Hearing his warning, Alice slightly nodded her brows as she could already see that ability from this strange Dark Mage through her special eyes. She could feel that her mind was constantly being disturbed whenever she was staring at the opposing side, particularly the feeling of drowsiness and exhaustion.

This strange feeling seemed to be pulling her to a state of sleep and relaxation. This feeling was so powerful that she would be instantly pulled into it if not for her strong mental fortitude forged by her Mentalism Training in the real world.

Applying the techniques that she had learned from the real world along with the tricks that Shin had taught the rest of the Empyrean Talons on how to enter an ideal combat state within the game and find her path to take, Alice was able to forge a firm will that was strong enough to fight against the strange ability of Belphegor.

Seeing that Alice was able to fight against his secret technique, Belphegor could not help but become more interested in her and look forward to fighting her.

In the meantime, Leviathan was frowning deeply as he observed the other party. He could not help but admit that this particular variable that the other members of Pandemonium Troupe had encountered was quite formidable.

The air surrounding Shin was indeed different compared to the rest of the targets that they had put on their list of utmost observation.

"No wonder the others keep on warning us to be careful if we encounter him," he mumbled as he recalled the warnings of the other troupe members who had already crossed swords against Shin.

He was also starting to understand why most of them suffered a loss when facing Shin. He also came to understand why Paimon and Belial were too careful with their movements recently, avoiding any frontal conflict with Shin and Empyrean Talons as well as the other powers supporting him from behind.

"It looks like the new rankings released by the Mystery Pavilion will have some drastic changes," he mumbled as he recognized the fact that there were more and more experts appearing one after another that were greatly disrupting their plans.

"Tsk! I guess I can't underestimate him," he continued to mumble to himself as he looked sharply at Shin. "I guess I have to reveal my trump cards to avoid any accidents."

Right after he said those words, he suddenly activated one of his buffs that boosted the stats of all the members of his group who had their bodies connected to his strings.

Boom!

A powerful pressure quickly exploded from the bodies of the group, releasing a visible flow of mana that disturbed the already chaotic surroundings due to the raging storm.

Not waiting for Shin and Alice to respond, Leviathan quickly waved his hands as his fingers danced to control the people around him.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Seeing the opposing side take the initiative to attack, Shin quickly kicked the ground and charged forward, facing the incoming group head-on.

Shing!

Unsheathing the sword and swinging it horizontally, a brilliant crescent wave was released from the tip of his sword and flew toward the opposing side.

He infused the Power of the Abyssal Moon on this attack since he wanted to check on something.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw – (Frost) Lunar Flash'

Swoosh!

Boom!

The group was immediately swallowed by the sword wave as they jumped straight into it. A cold mist was also formed right after the energy wave exploded, blocking the line of sight on both sides.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

But not long after, a series of gusts of wind broke through the mist as the silhouettes of the 'puppets' of Leviathan continued to head toward Shin, brandishing their respective weapons.

Shin's eyes turned sharp as they shone with a gentle glow, activating his True Sight in combat mode to read the movements of his enemies along with his Sensing Circle Skill. He even added his Demonic Telekinesis to generate the same abilities as his Spiritual Sense in the real world.

From his perspective, he could see a gentle flow of mist shrouding the bodies of the group. It was a little different from the one that was produced by the explosion of 'Lunar Flash' earlier. He could feel that they were formed by a different source of powers with similar ice properties to his previous attack.

As he was observing the energies surrounding the bodies of his opponents, Shin constantly moved to counter each of the attacks that were being thrown at him.

He waved his sword in a circular fashion to deflect the strikes of his opponents while constantly moving side to side to dodge the rest of the attacks that managed to sneak through his defense.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

A chaotic fight quickly broke out as the group surrounded Shin from every direction. Shin swiftly moved, exchanging blows with the opposing group while dodging the sneak arrows and magic spells that were being thrown at him.

He was constantly shifting between different breathing techniques during the exchanges while applying all the sword principles that he had learned to match each of the sword strikes he threw and the defensive moves that he performed.

The effects that the produced by the combination of these two surprisingly, or unsurprisingly, had surpassed Shin's expectations. Even the most basic sword movements became much stronger and more profound with this combination.

The final result became even more amazing when he applied everything in combating along with Mentalism Techniques.

After adjusting these techniques, Shin started using his new fighting style, particularly the Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

With the constantly changing swords and styles along with the skillful shifting of breathing techniques and sword principles to match them, Shin started suppressing the group even with the most basic sword techniques and movements.

He had yet to use any of his Elemental Spirit Possession, but he was already overpowering the group that was constantly moving in systematic movements and synchronized attacks. Even with their seamless formation and perfect teamwork, they were still unable to break through the solid defenses of their opponent and instead got countered every time they tried something.

Shin even managed to eliminate two of them in the process.

Leviathan, who was orchestrating the movements of his 'puppets', wore a deep frown when he saw that he had lost more of his people without forcing Shin to reveal more cards during the initial clash.

Understanding that he could not let this continue, he had no choice but to get involved.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Taking out a scroll from his inventory and crushing it, Leviathan was suddenly shrouded with a barrier purely made with the densest mana in the surroundings.

At the same time, the 'puppets' that were surrounding Shin started exploding one after another, sending shockwaves and raging energy that swept through every direction.

Shin was immediately swallowed by the explosions while the area where the battle was taking was continuously being bombarded by ice spikes that came out of nowhere.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Boom! Boom!

Everything came a little too sudden, making it impossible for most of the people to escape.

But Shin was an exemption as he was able to quickly notice the slight movements of mana in the surroundings, particularly the violent waves that were boiling with the bodies of the 'puppets' that were surrounding him, with his sensing skills and techniques.

Before the explosion could even occur, he had already formed the Psychic Barrier with his Demonic Telekinesis.

Leviathan, who was standing near the explosion and being protected by his barrier, watched the explosions with a deep frown as he knew that Shin somehow survived.

Swoosh!

When the mixture of mist and cloud started to recede, Leviathan could vaguely see a silhouette in the middle of a chaotic storm of mana, seemingly completely unharmed.

When Shin's figure was finally revealed, the expression on Leviathan's face became even more serious, especially when he could feel that there was an invisible barrier that was protecting Shin. This barrier was different from the information that he had gotten, and it was not even revealed in his battle against Ashura.

Without any hesitation, Leviathan took a few chunks of ice from his inventory and quickly threw them in the air.

Not long after, those chunks of ice rapidly grew and became giant ice blocks before coming alive and transforming into a bunch of Ice Golems.

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Bang! Bang! Bang!

They landed heavily on the ground, surrounding Shin once again.

Shin slightly frowned as he could feel the immense power coming from each ice golem, particularly the elemental mana that their bodies contained. He could also see demonic runes spread across every part of their bodies, giving Shin a slight idea that they were vastly modified and greatly enhanced.

He then twisted his neck left and right, producing a series of popping sounds, before licking his lips.

He rested the greatsword on his left shoulder while twirling the [Yamato] with his other hand. At the same time, there was an invisible wave revolving around his body, which signified his Demonic Telekinesis.

There was a dangerous glint in his eyes as smirked at the ice golems that were surrounding him.

...

Meanwhile, at the same time when the exchange between Shin and Leviathan had started, the two magic-class players had also started to move.

Belphegor suddenly disappeared from his position and appeared hundreds of meters away from the Shin and Leviathan, not wanting to get involved in the battle of those two.

At the same time, he seemed to be inviting Alice to come and chase after him.

Alice did not refuse as she was fully confident that Shin would not lose. She also used a series of Blinks to chase after Belphegor.

Along with her actions, a huge group of wind blades and icicles was formed behind her, which she quickly fired toward her opponent.

Belphegor smirked when he saw those spells flying in his direction. He did not even chant or wave his hands and broom when a strong gust of wind suddenly swept away the wind blades and icicles and dissolved them into nothingness.

Alice was slightly surprised at first before frowning her brows deeply. She tried to recall what just happened but could not find when and how her opponent had cast that spell.

Temporarily giving out that question, Alice suddenly tapped the bottom of her elemental scepter on the ground, summoning huge ice spikes from the ground that headed toward her opponent.

There was disdain in Belphegor's eyes when he saw the incoming ice spikes that sprouted out from the ground. And just like how he did earlier, a single thought was all he needed to cast another spell.

This time, a transparent cube was formed in the air before crashing onto the ice spikes and preventing them from moving forward.

Belphegor was about to give Alice a provoking look to challenge her with her understanding of magic. But before he could even do what he had planned, a slight frown suddenly surfaced on his face before turning his head to the side.

Bang!

There was a huge ice hammer heading his way from that direction. Fortunately, he was fast enough to form a transparent wall to block it.

But that was only the start as more and more spells flew in his direction, seemingly not showing any sign of stopping.

Belphegor continued to summon more of his spells to block each of his opponent's attacks, but the frown on his face was only growing deeper.

He was too lazy to deal with these simple spells and wanted to see Alice's advanced magic, so he was getting annoyed that he had to constantly deal with them.

"Foolish!" an annoyed shout came out from his mouth which was immediately followed by a violent storm of mana that disturbed the natural flow in the surroundings.

Due to this, all the spells Alice had prepared were instantly obliterated, turning them back into mana particles.

In the distance, Alice had finally realized how trick her opponent was using when casting those spells. But the expression on her face was currently extremely grave as she understood what it signified. "What a monster."

She now realized that she had encountered a mentalism genius that might even surpass her talent by a great margin.

Chapter 1408: Elemental Ignition

.....

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Shin danced around the group of Ice Golems as they bombarded him with a series of punches that destroyed the surroundings. The trees were taken down as well as the other plantation in the surroundings that were shielding them from the violent wind and intense downpour of rain that was sweeping through the entire place.

The strength of these ice golems was quite remarkable, but they were not enough to threaten Shin in the slightest. Their battle formation under Leviathan's control was also a little troublesome to deal with, but even that was still manageable.

What made Shin wary of these ice golems was they could divide themselves into multiple smaller golems after he cut them. Moreover, they would explode when they reached the smallest size that they could get.

The might of each explosion was so powerful that Shin was forced to retreat multiple times. Even his Psychic Barrier formed through his Demonic Telekinesis was not enough to withstand these explosions, especially when they were releasing a powerful ice wave every time they occurred.

The explosion froze the surroundings, which the barrier could withstand. But the sharp ice fragments mixed in the explosions were able to break through the barrier, forcing Shin to repeatedly retreat.

At times, he was also caught off guard by some slimmer golems that had a pair of arms formed into blades. They were executing complex and unorthodox swordsmanship that forced him to engage in a melee battle.

Aside from this, he also discovered that the Ice-Elemental Powers of his opponent were slightly stronger than the Power of Abyssal Moon that he wielded. It also carried the unique powers of Demons and Demonic Player, the Demonic Energy.

At first, Shin was not using his ice powers since it did not fit his current style and swordsmanship. Now, he had another reason not to use it – the opposing side was able to absorb his ice-elemental powers due to its superiority.

Fortunately, his other forms of mana and elemental powers were not affected by this. His Primordial Lighting was more than enough for him to hold his ground.

Regardless, the state of the battle was still in a stalemate as neither side could take down their opposition.

Shin had repeatedly tried to approach Leviathan, but the battle formation was so enough to block him. Even if he used his movement skills, the latter was cunning enough to maintain a decent space between them.

Even if Shin was able to break through the formation, the 'Puppeteer's Barrier' protecting Leviathan was sturdy enough to buy time for the ice golems to catch up to him.

Moreover, the barrier also possessed an ice aura that was affecting his movements once the freezing effects started to pile up. Even if his resistance coming from his equipment, titles, and battle physique was not enough to withstand these effects once they had accumulated enough stacks.

"Tsk! This is going to be a little troublesome," mumbled Shin as he dodged yet another bombarding attack from the ice golems.

At the same time, he also glanced in the direction where Alice and Belphegor were currently fighting. Then what he had seen was something he did not expect. The battle between those two mage-class players was much more intense than what was happening to his side.

"Woah! That is one hell of an exchange," he commented before focusing on his battle.

...

On the other side of the battlefield, Alice was somewhat having trouble keeping up with her opponent. She had to use some of her most advanced techniques to match the other party.

There were three elemental dragons surrounding her as she used one of the signature techniques that made her known as the Elemental Goddess.

'Legendary Combat Technique: Elemental Dragon Dance'

Just like Shin's 'Infinity Edge' and 'Eclipse Wielding', Alice had already promoted this technique to Legendary Rank and could even use them along with her spells, making it a part of herself and her overall style.

Currently, she could only summon three of the Elemental Dragons – the Wind, Lightning, and Water Dragons – due to the current situation and the environment that they were in.

Regardless, she was still able to use her three Elemental Spirit Possessions at the same time, making her 'Elven Partners' fuse with her magic.

This made the might of her Elemental Magic and the casting time of all her related spells reach another level.

But despite this being the case, she was still unable to force her opponent to move from his spot. She could not even force the other party to chant or make a hand gesture to cast a spell.

Moreover, even her innate talent – the Mind Reader that let her read the thoughts of her opponents – was ineffective against Belphegor.

Aside from that, there was also the strange power that kept bothering her since the start of the battle. She kept getting drowsy during the fight, making it hard for her to cast her spells. Her focus kept on slipping whenever she was trying to cast an advanced spell. Even if she tried to cast a cleansing skill to try to remove this debuff, it was still ineffective.

Instead of removing the drowsy feeling, it was only getting stronger as time went by. She could not even keep her eyelids from falling the more time passed.

She understood that she could not let this continue as she would only lose sooner or later. Once she could no longer keep her eyes from shutting, she would most likely lose consciousness and get killed later.

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Getting killed was one thing, but losing a level at this stage of the game would hurt, especially when leveling up became much harder.

Moreover, the 24hrs ban (real-world time) after getting killed would delay her progress greatly, especially when she was in the middle of clearing a quest. She could not let this happen as it was clear

that the opposing side was planning to do something in this place, which she suspected to be related to the Spirit King that she was trying to rescue.

Thinking that she was running out of time, she could only use her version of the combat state that she recently acquired.

She first disengaged from the battle and created a suitable distance between her and the opposing party before letting her Elemental Dragons protect her. Under the control of her Elemental Spirits, these dragons could move independently and fight for her.

At the same time, she was able to focus on herself, not caring about her opponent for the time being.

She closed her eyes and focused her mind, controlling the mana circulation within her body. Then she absorbed all the surrounding elemental particles in the surroundings, fusing them with the circulating mana within her.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Due to the abundance of wind, lightning, water, and wood elements in the surroundings, the mana within her matched these elements while circulating through her Mana Circuits.

Boom!

Soon after, they combusted with a silent explosion that created an Elemental Storm revolving around her body.

She then used the unique method of her family's mentalism technique to control the surrounding energies, making the elemental storm turn into a mana flame with an alternating blue and jade-like color that covered her body.

This was her self-created combat state after mixing the tricks she had picked up from the insights that Shin and the others had shared about 'Reality Manifestation' and the insights she had gotten when studying the elemental magic inside the game.

At that time, she knew that the 'Reality Manifestation' was not meant for her, so she found a way to modify it and come up with this after her experiences from the tests of the Mysterious Instructor and the battles within her promotion quests.

Adding the unique style within the game that she had along with her achievements in Mentalism in the Real World, she created her unique version of 'Magical Formation' Combat State.

'Special Combat State: Elemental Ignition'

She had ignited all the elemental energies that she had accumulated within her body, reinforcing her body and mind with the different elements that she had absorbed.

She was getting different buffs and boosts from different elements, which could make her stronger depending on how many types of elements she had absorbed.

Different elements had different buffs depending on their properties just like how the fire element could boost the firepower of her spells, the wind element increased their speed, the water element enhanced her control, the earth element made her defensive spells much tougher, and many more.

The more elements she absorbed, the stronger the power she could wield, and the more powerful she could be.

Levitating in the air, a whole meter above the ground, Alice looked like the real goddess of this place, especially with the elemental flame that was surrounding her body.

Her eyes were glowing bright due to the combined effects of Elemental Sight and Mana Eyes.

In her current state, the surrounding mana must obey while all elements had to worship her.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

The three elemental dragons danced around her while releasing aggressive roars, making the surroundings tremble.

Belphegor, who seemed to be waiting for this opportunity, suddenly became alive and excited. The drowsy look on his face and sleepy eyes disappeared as he looked at Alice. This was what he was waiting for, so he had to rip all the benefits before going back to his sleep.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A series of magic circles appeared behind him one after another while a huge magic formation was suddenly formed underneath his feet.

The surrounding mana gathered around him while a dark aura shrouded his body. The Mana that entered the magic formation was instantly corrupted and turned into dense Demonic Energy.

A pair of slender horns grew from each side of his temple and extended outwards, forming a wavy pattern.

'Racial Special Trait: Demonic Transformation (Perfect)'

He then sat on his broom lazily, but his eyes were full of savagery and liveliness. He stared at Alice, who was floating in the air while carrying a crafty smile.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

With a thought, the magic circles behind him released a blinding light before firing a barrage of shadow beams toward Alice.

Alice could instantly measure the might of each of these shadow beams. Each of them carried a power comparable to intermediate magic while the bigger ones would not lose that much against advanced spells.

Without holding back, she raised her Elemental Staff in the air commanding the surrounding mana to obey her command.

The Elemental Particles gathered in front of her before forming a sturdy wall made of wind elements.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At the same time, the plants under her suddenly grew at insane speed while the fallen trees seemed to have become alive after heeding her call.

The thick roots of the trees and the vines of the plants grew and merged before forming a cocoon that surrounded Alice, protecting her from any harm.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The shadow beams first collided against the wind wall, weakening their impact, before landing on the wooden barrier that protected her.

The roots were instantly corroded by the demonic aura mixed in those shadow beams, making them rot at an extreme rate. But before they could affect the rest of the barrier, the affected parts immediately detached themselves from the rest. Then the roots and vines continued to grow, patching up the holes that appeared.

Within that cocoon-like barrier, Alice was busy chanting out a series of elven prayers, summoning rune after rune of elvish language that arranged themselves in a specific magic sequence.

Swoosh!

When she was done, the top of the barrier suddenly opened itself like a blooming flower, matching Alice as she pointed her long scepter toward the sky.

At the same time, a beam of light suddenly shot toward the sky, connecting the clouds and the top of her scepter.

Boom!

Then a thunder roared in the sky while flashes of lightning danced in the dark clouds.

Swoosh!

Roar!

Then a huge lightning dragon fell from the sky and headed straight to the spot where Belphegor was standing.

'Elven Sage Skill (Tier 2): Advent of the Thunder Dragon'

Boom!

The thunderous explosion reverberated in the entire mountain range while the ground shook violently when the dragon struck.

Electric currents filled the air, causing the surrounding trees to be scorched while releasing a series of cracking sounds.

The might of this spell signified how strong her current state was.

Chapter 1409: The Might of The Battle God (Part 1)

...

Boom!

Shin and Leviathan could not help but pause their battle when they heard that thunderous explosion. The two of them turned at the source and saw the giant pillar of lightning that struck down from the sky, covering a large area.

Fortunately, the two of them were quite far from the explosion, saving themselves from the magic spell that Alice cast.

Through his True Sight Skill, Shin was able to see through the veil of lightning that was supposedly blocking his line of vision and saw Alice floating in the air while three elemental dragons were dancing around her.

She was staring up front with a deep frown as she could see that her opponent seemed to be completely unscratched from the earlier spell.

Following her gaze, Shin saw Belphegor calmly standing in the middle of the raging lightning storm that was bombarding his spot without any damage. He was completely unbothered by the chaos and destruction around him.

"Tsk! She sure is having a fun (hard) time there, huh?" mumbled Shin before turning his attention back to Leviathan.

He had his problem to deal with, so he did not have the time to concern himself with the others.

Meanwhile, Leviathan was slightly knitting his brows when he saw Belphegor go straight using his Demonic Transformation. This newcomer in the troupe might look like someone filled with laziness and

did not want to do anything but sleep. He even heard from their leader that the laziness in the bones of Belphegor was so 'dense' that he entered the game for the sake of prolonging his sleeping time.

The time ratio between the real world and inside the game was 1:3, which meant a single hour in the real world was equivalent to three hours within the game.

Belphegor joined the game just to sleep a whole day inside the game while spending only eight hours in the real world. It even went as crazy as sleeping two and a half days straight, making it twenty hours outside.

Leviathan thought it was just pure laziness, but he later learned it was some sort of unique talent or special physique.

People with this kind of talent or physique could cultivate their bodies as if they were training regularly, though the methods were different.

Inside their realm of consciousness, they could also train through their dreams. They could choose any opponent they had already fought or had seen multiple times and fought them in the dream world.

This kind of talent sounded crazy, and most of the people who possessed it were terrifying individuals when they got active when fighting. They would unleash all the powers and experiences they had accumulated within their dream world for who knew how long.

After all, the time difference between reality and the sea of consciousness was vastly different.

With the unique properties of this talent, people who owned it were mostly Mentalists. But there were still a couple of Martial Artists who happened to possess the same talent.

Leviathan was surprised when he saw that Belphegor used his Demonic Transformation during the battle because it signified that Alice was strong enough to push the latter to take this battle a little seriously.

This could only mean that his opponent was worthy enough to arouse the sleeping power within him.

Regardless, Leviathan was expecting that Alice would be having a much harder time in this battle now that Belphegor had unleashed the 'slumbering demon' within him.

Speaking of a 'demon', Leviathan suddenly sensed a familiar presence coming from a certain direction.

It was not the Demonic Powers that Demonic Players like him possessed, but a slightly different 'thing' with an odd similarity.

Rather than the power of a demon, he was getting the presence of a demon itself.

"What the!?" Leviathan quickly turned his gaze toward the direction where it was coming from and saw a lone figure standing in the middle of the formation of his Ice Golems.

Leviathan saw Shin taking up his signature sword-drawing stance – slightly crouching and leaning forward while holding a sheath with his left hand and placing his other hand on the hilt of his sword – while regulating his breathing.

There seemed to be a steam coming out from his mouth as he breathed.

Leviathan suddenly got a bad premonition when he saw this scene, especially when he could vaguely see an illusionary silhouette of a 'demonic figure' behind Shin.

That was only his limited vision as he was standing a little closer to where Shin was located. But if his field of vision moved back a bit and covered a slightly larger area, then he would see the five divine beasts revolving around him, which were the spiritual manifestations of his Mentalism, Swordsmanship, and other insights.

They were his Quasi-Battle Spirit, which was about to reach their perfection.

At the same time, the energies surrounding him were already coming closer to what he had in the real world. They were starting to resemble the properties of his Mental Energy.

It was because of his newly acquired Demonic Telekinesis. Along with the current powers that he already had, what he possessed inside the game was not that far from his real Mentalism Prowess.

Hu~!

As he breathed out slowly, Shin sensed the movements of the ice golems that were charging at him in a perfectly synchronized attack.

He spread his senses which was supported by the Sensing Circle and Demonic Telekinesis Skill, forming an invisible, dome-like territory skill. Within it, everything was under his control, and nothing could escape his senses.

While he locked his senses on every movement of the ice golems, he focused on the joints and other vital parts that these elemental creatures had.

Seeing that Shin was preparing something, the bad premonition that Leviathan was having was getting worse with every passing second. It was as if an impending doom was about to arrive.

He knew that he could not let Shin continue with what he was doing as it would be a terrible disaster for him – or even for their organization.

Leviathan felt that Shin was in the middle of breaking through something.

Not waiting for it any longer, Leviathan quickly waved his hands and controlled all the ice golems. His fingers danced as they manipulated the movements of the ice golems on a micro level.

At the same time, he was also preparing to detonate his Ice Curse imbued within every part of the golems if something went wrong.

Some of the ice golems paused in their tracks as they simultaneously opened their mouths, releasing a thick chilly mist that froze everything that they touched. The rest, on the other hand, continued to move forward while throwing their fists at Shin.

Shin's eyes were closed the entire time as he was focusing on feeling his surroundings. When he opened them once again, a brilliant glow suddenly shone from his eyes that briefly illuminated the surroundings.

After observing the perfect teamwork of these golems that seemingly have a single soul within different bodies, Shin seemed to have gotten a sudden insight.

Then, when he glanced at Alice and saw the current state that she was in, particularly her version of special combat state, that insight suddenly became a complete enlightenment.

Click!

When the subtle sound of the sword guard separated from the sheath reverberated in the air, Leviathan saw a series of sword flashes that were intertwining with each other, forming a crisscrossing net that warded off the frozen fists of the ice golem.

Shing!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw – (Lightning) Flash Firmament'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

It was one of the skills that Shin kept on using recently, but it carried a different sense this time. The sword principles, the elemental enchantments, and the breathing techniques seemed to have merged into one combusting the moment the sword slashed through the air.

As Shin swung the sword around, he copied the way Alice controlled the elemental particles in the air by utilizing his Demonic Telekinesis, absorbing them toward his sword before quickly releasing them right after along with one of his sword movements.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Sixth Movement (Lightning) – Sword Gale'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

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Sword crescents flew in every direction, cutting through the bodies of the golems while also targeting their joints.

The momentum of these sword waves might have weakened after cutting through the ice golems, but they did not stop and continued to move through the icy mist released by the golems and parted them.

Not long after, the icy mist was completely cleared, giving Shin a clear path toward his opponent as the cut bodies of the golems fell on the ground one after another.

Despite the positive result, Shin was still frowning deeply as he was not satisfied yet. "Too slow and a little lacking in power."

It might be ambitious of him to match the destructive power of a large-scale spell with these sword skills, but he felt that it was not far-fetched as long as he accumulated enough mana to support them.

Twirling the sword and putting it back to its sheath, Shin then focused on activating his Sword Heart along with his Battle Physique.

He then combined the sword principles with the Sword Heart to increase the might of his sword and enhance his sword skills, contained the elemental mana that he absorbed from the surroundings within his Battle Physique, then kept everything under control with the help of Elemental Unification and Demonic Telekinesis.

Boom!

Crackle! Crackle!

The Primordial Lighting that he was controlling along with the 'Chaos Slasher Possession' exploded and became violent, filling the area around him within the ten-meter radius with black-and-white lightning.

Shin could not explain what he was currently feeling in this state, but it was very amazing. He felt that he could do anything in this state.

But in exchange, he could also feel that his concentration was rapidly crumbling due to the difficulty of keeping it. He was even slowly getting kicked out of his 'Reality Manifestation'.

This was just one Elemental Powers – then what if he used the other elements and mixed them just like what Alice had done?

Alice's control over the elements was much better than his, so he did not dare to mimic her method. Moreover, there was another technique in the mix, but that was her secret so he could not ask for it later.

Aside from this, it was also one of the advantages of her class and race, especially since both were on the Transcendent Level. It was obvious that he would not be able to copy her method even if he asked.

He could only rely on himself and figure out a way to achieve similar results. That was where all his tools came into play. So long he was able to utilize everything the right way, he would be able to create something similar, but also different at the same time.

Since he was having a hard time, Shin quickly used his 'Natural State' to keep everything under control.

'Natural State: Perfect Zenith'

Right after Shin entered this state, Leviathan instantly realized that this was going to be a huge problem. He was a little familiar with a couple of the battles that Shin had, particularly those most recent ones, so he knew that this was one of his trump cards.

Without any hesitation, he quickly activated the ice curse imbued in the bodies of his golems and detonated them all at the same time.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Since Shin was in the middle of the battle formation of these Ice Golems, he was immediately thrown at the center of the explosions.

But under his skillful control, along with his Demonic Telekinesis, a spherical barrier made of lightning elements was immediately formed.

It was yet another version of his 'Eclipse Pulse' defensive skill, which was also further enhanced by the Demonic Telekinesis.

Amid the chaotic explosions, Shin walked calmly until reaching a few meters away from Leviathan.

The moment when he raised his head and looked up, he saw that his current opponent had undergone some transformation.

Leviathan's entire left arm was covered with ice which had scale-like a pattern. He was also donning a set of ice armor that formed an extra layer on his equipment.

The color of his eyes also changed into deep green while a slender demonic horn was sticking out from the center of his forehead and slightly curving upward.

He was currently in his perfect demonic transformation. Knowing that he could not let Shin take advantage in this battle, he had to go all-out as well.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Then a huge group of Ice Golems and Frost Puppets appeared around him one after another, forming a flawless and domineering battle formation.

Looking at them, Shin could not help but lick his lips under his mask. "This is just perfect."

Chapter 1410: The Might of the Battle God (Part 2): Graveyard of Swords

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Shin immersed himself in his current state, trying his best to familiarize himself with it. He then turned toward the army of ice golems and frost puppets before knitting his brow.

Given the opposing side's numbers, he knew it would take a lot of trouble before he could wipe them out. Moreover, he could also tell that they were much more powerful than the ones he had fought earlier.

Adding their perfect coordination and seamless synchronized attacks, Shin fully understood that this was not going to be easy.

There was also Leviathan in his demonic transformation, giving off a dangerous feeling.

Thinking about this, Shin decided to 'call' some reinforcements. Using the skills attached to his mask, he summoned the Sun and Moon Clones before fusing them.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

At the same time, he also summoned the Phantom Clone through the 'Phantom Apparition' Skill.

The two clones stood on each side of Shin while releasing a very dangerous air. The Eclipse Clone was emitting a purple glow that was flowing upwards continuously while the Phantom Clone was shrouded with a black mist that was making its body flicker repeatedly.

The strength of these clones had reached a whole other level after Shin had been promoted to Tier 3 Class. Their stats were slightly stronger than Shin while their respective skills represented different styles that their summoner had.

Even Shin was slightly confused as he found that these clones were somewhat different from what he remembered when he had summoned them. They were also starting to resemble the ones that he had fought during his promotion quests.

Or more like a fusion of the two phantoms and two clones at that time?

He now realized that there was something more to these clones that he was unaware of. "I guess I have to investigate more about them later when I have the time."

He had a vague suspicion that this might be related to his secondary combat class, the Phantom Swordsman Class. After all, he was repeatedly hinted that Kentas, the creator of his class, was someone on equal terms to the NPCs with the title of a 'Hero'.

He might even be a hero himself.

From what Berlin had said, Kentas was known as the Phantom King. Meanwhile, Longinus had casually mentioned Kentas being the 'First Fallen'.

These clues were already pointing to something, so all he needed to do was to follow it and reach the end.

...

Shin was not planning to manually control these clones just like how he usually did. After all, keeping his current state active was already putting a heavy burden on his mind. He could not afford to divide his attention in this current state since it would instantly collapse even with the slightest slip in concentration.

He would be living them to the Battle AI of the System. Given his strength and combat prowess, these clones would be strong enough to fight the majority of the Peak Titled Rankers or even a couple of the unranked lesser Godlike Players in the bottom ranking.

It might not be enough to clash against someone of Leviathan's caliber in a head-on battle, but it was more than enough to deal with these ice golems and frost puppets.

Even Leviathan himself could sense that he would be having a hard time suppressing these clones with his current puppets.

Regardless, he could easily distinguish which was the real body given the different auras that they were emitting, so it was much easier to focus on the real target.

Or so he thought-... Discover hidden stories at m.v1.e-NovelBin.net

Not long after that thought crossed his mind, Leviathan suddenly saw Shin and his clones summon nine phantoms each, resembling each other. Even if the 'main' bodies were releasing different types of auras that made them distinguishable from the other two, these phantoms were greatly identical to each other.

Leviathan was quite familiar with this skill since he had seen it from their database about Shin, especially when Shin was still known for being a famous Maverick Ranker with the moniker of 'Emperor of the Night'.

This was the very first signature skill that made that persona well-known to everyone.

'Phantom Swordsman Skill: Phantom Dance' x3

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The phantoms scattered in every direction blending in one another to cover the tracks of the other phantoms.

Leviathan was wearing a solemn expression as he knew what these phantoms could do. They could not attack nor could be attacked, but the 'main' bodies could switch with them whenever they wanted to. This made it hard to predict the attack patterns that they could choose.

Understanding his current position, Leviathan knew that he could not let his guard down even for a single moment.

Seeing that the phantoms were already moving toward him at speed, seemingly swimming through the blockade that he had set up with his Ice Golems and Frost Puppets, Leviathan quickly tugged the invisible mana strings attached at the end of his fingers and connected to each of his puppets to move everyone accordingly.

Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A chaotic battle quickly broke out, razing through the already devastated battlefield.

Shin and his clones constantly switched places with their respective phantoms while taking down as many ice golems and frost puppets as they could. Even if they did not kill the others, they had done their best to cripple them.

Some of the ice golems even exploded as Leviathan had detonated most of them once they were crippled. But even if each explosion was much stronger than the previous ones, none of them managed to catch Shin and his clones as they always switched places with the phantoms that were positioned the farthest from those explosions.

But Leviathan was also not someone to be trifled with. He seemed to possess an endless pool of mana that could not be emptied no matter what.

Even if summoning the Ice Golems and detonating them for those powerful icy explosions, he still possessed enough mana to supply his army.

Aside from that, Shin also had to deal with those very mobile frost puppets that were slightly different from the rest. They were quite skilled and possessed some tricky assassination techniques. Some of

them also had decent swordsmanship that could buy enough time for the rest to catch up to them when they engaged in an intense melee with Shin.

Fortunately, Shin and the two clones were able to escape before they could even get trapped by the formation of their opponent.

But as time went by, Leviathan proved that his position with the Pandemonium Troupe as one of the Sinful Devils was not for show. He was able to keep up with Shin's irregular patterns when attacking along with the two clones.

He was constantly adjusting the formation of his forces to trap his opponents. With his battle formations, the choices that Shin could pick whenever he was retreating were getting smaller and smaller.

Moreover, he also realized that those random explosions that Leviathan released were also meant to restrain his opponent. The icy mist and the frozen surroundings caused by those explosions were also starting to affect the environment.

Given the already chaotic environment with the fallen trees, devastated ground, and stormy weather, fighting was already quite hard. The visibility was already quite terrible due to the heavy rain, so it had gotten worse due to the icy mist that was constantly being created by the cold environment produced by the explosions.

Snow was even forming in the air and falling toward the ground, slowly piling up.

If not for Shin's sharp senses empowered by the Sensing Circle, Demonic Telekinesis, and True Sight, then he would most likely be caught in the traps of his opponent already.

Regardless, his attack power was still quite powerful and destructive. After familiarizing himself with his current state, his control over the Primordial Lightning was slowly getting better and returning to what it was supposed to be.

The black-and-white lightning danced around the battlefield as he continuously moved leaving the electric trails behind him. He also borrowed the lightning element in the environment to enhance his techniques.

His Primordial Lightning could not be complemented by the Storm Lighting of the current weather due to the different source that it came from. But their properties were similar, so Shin could still get inspiration and little boosts from them, particularly when he was using the lightning versions of his techniques.

Aside from Shin's gradually increasing battle prowess, Leviathan also had to keep a close eye on the two clones, especially when he noticed that the two of them were using a completely different battle style compared to their master.

Not only that, the set of skills that they were using was also quite different from what Shin had, which confused Leviathan. They were more like summoned monsters rather than clones.

The Phantom Clone alone, who looked like an assassin, almost took his life multiple times. If not for his powerful Puppeteer's Barrier and quick responses, then he would most likely have died already.

Its speed was also quite troublesome as it was much faster than Shin himself. Leviathan felt like he was in constant threat with its presence.

As for the Eclipse Clone – this one was more like a true magic swordsman who had a variety of magic spells rather than sword skills. Aside from the skills that Shin already possessed from his main class, it also had a large pool of skills that they had not seen from Shin in his every battle.

Leviathan even thought that these skills were the trump cards that Shin had hidden from everyone, especially since most of the skills were large-scale ones.

But he later realized that this Eclipse Clone indeed had an independent set of skills compared to its master.

Leviathan first thought that all he needed to do was to buy enough time for the 'Phantom Dance' to end, but he did not expect that these clones would put him in a difficult position.

Given that Shin was calmly bidding his time for the perfect opportunity to kill, Leviathan knew that Shin did not care about the 'Phantom Dance' itself. He seemed to be unfazed about the duration of his clones as well.

It was as if Shin was waiting for something – and that something was putting a lot of pressure on Leviathan. It was as if a dark shadow was trying to catch him as he ran forward.

Due to this 'underlying' threat that was looming around, Leviathan had to also make his preparations in response.

...

The more Shin fought, the stronger the connection between all his 'weapons' came together.

Then, all of a sudden, something seemed to have clicked inside him as he continued to use the combination of all the abilities he possessed, particularly the sword principles that he had learned from the real world and the two in-game skills such as Elemental Unification, Mondi's Style, and Demonic Telekinesis.

The Sword Heart and the Heavenly Fighting Physique had resonated with one another before fusing into one. The somewhat foreign 'Sword Heart' had fully become part of his body.

Then the seed inside him seemed to have spouted and spread in every direction before turning into a field of swords that was carrying every sword insight and technique that he practiced.

Ding

What followed was the familiar sound from the notification given to him by the system.

System: Congratulations! Your Sword Heart had evolved from entry-level to intermediate-level!

System: The Sword Seed had transformed into a Sword Graveyard!

Ding

System: A new ability under the 'Sword Heart' ability was generated!

System: Congratulations! You have learned 'Domain Skill (Tier 3): Graveyard of Swords'.

...

Shin was caught completely off guard by the sudden notification. He did not have to look at it to know what it could give him. The name itself was already giving him a rough idea about the effects of the skill.

Briefly disengaging from the battle to glance at the description of the skill.

Skill Name: Graveyard of Swords

Skill Level: Tier 3

Skill Rank: Special

Skill Type: Domain

Skill Details:

-All stats will be doubled within the entire duration of this skill while all resistances will receive a boost of 30%.

-Increase all the ranks of your sword-related skills by 2 levels within the range of this skill and all their cooldown would reduce by 50% and cost by 100%.

-Sword Techniques executed within this domain skill will receive a massive boost in might and power, particularly under the conditions of a 'special combat state'.

Range: 100 meters (mobile with you as the center)

Mana Cost: 50,000

Cooldown: 6 hours

"Sweet~!" He could not help but raise his brows when he skimmed through the effects of the skill. What surprised him more was it being a Tier 3 Domain Skill on top of everything.

He could not say that it was weaker or stronger than the other Tier 3 Domain Skill that he received after clearly his promotion quest since both skills had their respective advantages.

But this one was meant for a solo battle while the other was more of a team-oriented skill.

What made him like this more was he felt like he could use this one right away compared to the other domain skill as he currently met all the conditions for its activation.

Seeing that the 'Phantom Dance' was already about to end and so was the duration for his clones, he started preparing for the final exchange.