

Destiny 1411

Chapter 1411: The Might of the Battle God (Part 3): Cards after Cards

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A few minutes after Leviathan finished with his preparations, he noticed that it was about time for the duration of the two clones, and the 'Phantom Dance' was about to end. He was about to quickly launch a counterattack when something unexpected happened.

He saw that Shin had absorbed the Eclipse Clone into his body, seemingly fusing with it. At the same time, Leviathan also sensed that the stats that Shin currently had suddenly increased drastically right after the fusion process.

'Equipment Skill (Mask: Nephilim's Gemini Mask): Spirit Possession'

Bang!

The pressure that coming from Shin's body reached a whole other level, making the air surrounding him to become heavier and suffocating.

Along with that, Leviathan also saw that all the 27 Phantoms that Shin and his clones had summoned suddenly gathered toward the 'Phantom Apparition', merging into one and creating a whole different creature.

It then turned into a shadow before heading toward Shin and fusing with his cloak, which was his sacred relic and called the [Death's Shadow].

Shin did not know what had happened as he also could not remember that he possessed such a skill, but he suspected that it was most likely related to the hidden features and new abilities of the 'Phantom Apparition' that he had yet to explore.

There was no immediate change after the fusion. He could not even feel any boost or enhancements from what the Phantom Apparition had done. But there was a strange feeling that made him feel that he was completely part of the surroundings.

Carrying this momentum, Shin suddenly unsheathed the [Yamato] before pointing it toward the sky while focusing his mind on the Tier 3 Domain Skill that he just acquired.

'Special Domain Skill (Tier 3): (Sword Heart – Intermediate) Graveyard of Swords'

Swoosh!

The sword aura that he was carrying along with the other powers that he possessed seemed to have swept through the surroundings, covering a radius of a hundred meters with him standing as the center.

Everything within the territory of this skill seemed to have become under his control as even the heavy rain and the violent wind of the stormy weather could not penetrate it. It made Shin's other powers available once again, giving him more freedom when using his sword skills.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At the same time, swords seemed to have fallen from the sky and filled the entire place with rusty and ancient swords of different varieties.

Shortswords, longswords, greatswords, rapiers, whip swords, straight swords, versatile swords, and all kinds of swords scattered everywhere while emitting a distinct aura that separated them from the rest. They carried a unique air surrounding them, seemingly showing the different styles and swordsmanship that they represented.

These swords seemed to be an illusionary representation of different swordsmanship as they could not be touched nor hinder the movements of anyone within the field. But the pressure that was coming from was strong enough to intimidate anyone standing on the opposite side of their 'owner'.

Levithan wore a solemn expression as he witnessed and experienced everything firsthand. He then gathered his hands and pressed his palms against each other while chanting out a series of demonic scriptures.

Bang!

Not long after, a power and ancient aura suddenly erupted and spread in every direction, covering an area equal to what Shin's domain had.

The white and chilly mist spread in everywhere and froze everything on their path, turning the fallen trees and scattered shrubs into frozen blocks. The pouring rain also turned into a snowstorm right after they crossed the boundary of his domain.

Within this domain, all the stats and abilities of his ice and frost puppets were greatly boosted while all his spells became more powerful.

'Racial Special Domain (Advocate of Devil): Frozen Hell'

Swoosh!

Small mountains of ice were formed within his domain skill as the snow continued to pile up, creating a dreamy scene.

But despite the dreamy appearance, this domain was as savage and dangerous as the graveyard of swords that Shin had just summoned.

Not long after summoning his domain skill, Leviathan immediately activated his Racial Berserk Skill, which was also a demonic contract.

'Great Demon King Contract: Envious Dragon of the Seven Seas – Leviathan'

The stats that he had were quickly doubled while his already perfect demonic transformation became even more powerful. He started to gain more distinct features of a true demon, albeit slightly missing in some areas.

There was also an illusionary silhouette of a huge monster behind him that resembled a hybrid of a sea dragon and a whale. It carried an ancient and profound aura along with an evil and sinister vibe that could pierce through the soul of anyone who dared to look into its eyes.

This was the apparition of the Great Demon King whom he formed a contract under the assistance of the leader of the Pandemonium Descendants.

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It already had an intimidating and overwhelming aura, but it was still far from what Beelzebub currently had as the demon king that he had a contract with was already about to decent to this realm.

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BOOM!

The two domains immediately created a series of explosions the instant their boundaries met and collided.

Shin knew that this was not going to be easy, especially when he saw that empowered demonic transformation from the opposing side. But he was still confident with himself given the current state that he was in along with the double berserk that was triggered and the boosts that this Tier 3 Domain Skill provided.

Not waiting for the other side to fully prepare, Shin quickly stomped on the ground and launched himself flying toward Leviathan.

Bang!

He transformed into a flickering silhouette as he charged forward. At the same time, his arms seemed to disappear as he threw a series of slashes at the ice golems and frost puppets that he had encountered.

He left a series of sword flashes of different colors as he proceeded to move forward. Each sword slash that he had thrown carried different elements, particularly the Primordial Lighting; Void Power; Eternal Flame; Earthly Metal, and Metallic Earth.

Each sword technique that he had executed with these elements was also enhanced by the sword principles along with the forms of Mondi's Style that complemented them.

The transition between everyone was so smooth that no gap could be taken as an opening for his enemies. Even the sword techniques under the 'Perfected Four Symbol Scripture' and 'Jade Kirin Scripture' were now being executed as if they were part of a set.

This was the effect of the unification of all his current abilities, especially when most of them complemented each other.

The sword principles that he had learned in the world greatly suited each sword form of Mondi's Style while techniques under the Perfected Four Symbol Scripture seemed to be a great set with the Elemental Unification and the Regan's Method as if they were made just for each other.

Meanwhile, the sword movements and quick-draw style of the Jade Kirin Scripture were greatly enhanced by the Demonic Telekinesis. Applying some of the sword principles and reinforcing them with Elemental Unification, the might of each sword technique and movement reached a level that Shin had not expected.

"This is amazing!" Shin could not help but become excited as he continued to kill all the enemies on his path. The more he became accustomed to this current state, the stronger and more confident he became.

Immersed with his current state, Shin became even bolder with his attacks and started a more aggressive approach to his offensive. He was completely fearless as he completely ignored the explosions of each Ice Golem whenever he cut them.

His movement skills and foot techniques were more than enough to escape before those explosions could even devour him.

But despite his excitement, Shin did not get blinded and did his best to engrave his current state to his heart. He knew that he could only perform like this due to the special circumstances that he was in.

If he did not take advantage of this opportunity, then he would never know if he would be able to produce a similar result in the future.

Fortunately, all the conditions in this battle could still be recreated, especially when he was aware that everything was possible due to the 'Sword Heart' that increased his understanding of his swordsmanship and the 'Heavenly Fighting Physique' that could host all the overwhelming powers 'rioting' within his body.

Adding the massive increase in sword comprehension that the 'Graveyard of Swords' as a hidden feature of the skill, Shin was able to reach his strongest state that could even rival the time when he used the special racial berserk skill, 'Descent of the Fallen God'.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Shin left a series of explosions behind as he continued to press forward. His aggressive attack was starting to put decent pressure on his opponent, but Leviathan was still able to keep his calm.

Leviathan continued to retreat while filling the gaps in his battle formation whenever Shin broke through it.

Swoosh!

Shin suddenly jumped through the icy mist that was created by the previous explosion.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Right after he appeared, three ice golems immediately greeted him while throwing their fists at him in a perfectly timed ambush. Two of them flanked Shin on each side while the other threw the destructive punch in front of him.

Despite seeing the perfect ambush sealing his path of retreat, Shin remained unfazed. He calmly scanned his surroundings with abilities before making his move.

Midair, let go of the sheath that he was holding with his left hand. He then formed a seal after freeing his hand before placing it in front of him.

Swoosh!

Not long after, the sheath turned into a greatsword, taking the 'Judgement Form' of Mondi's Style before Astaroth possessed it for the 'Summit Shaper Possession'.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At the same time, rune after rune flew appeared in the air as Shin used his Demonic Telekinesis to control the greatsword midair before it spun around him, throwing heavy and powerful slashes that cut through the incoming fists of the ice golems.

It was a type of sword manipulation!

'Perfected Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon – Iron Fortress'

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The arms of the three ice golems immediately turned into crushed ice right before they could even approach Shin. It was as if they crashed on a blender!

As Shin slowly landed, he suddenly spun midair while maintaining the seal with his left hand. He guided the greatsword with his psychic powers, letting it spin around him a little more.

When the sword gained enough momentum, Shin suddenly swung his left arm before pointing toward Leviathan in the distance.

Swoosh!

Like a super rocket, the great sword flew straight toward the other party, leaving a violent trail in the air behind it. Its speed reached an unstoppable level as it continued to charge forward.

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

Boom!

An explosion immediately erupted as the greatsword collided against the barrier protecting Leviathan. The barrier trembled violently from the collision, but it did not show any sign of collapsing.

Leviathan was about to counterattack when a sudden sense of danger shook his heart. He swiftly raised his hands in the air before strongly slamming it on the ground.

Bang!

When a strong ripple spread outwards from the point of contact, the surrounding mana was agitated before swiftly gathering in front of Leviathan.

Swoosh!

In the next instant, a thick and tall wall of ice was erected in front of him – within the invisible barrier.

Swoosh!

At the same moment, Shin, who just touched the ground, caught the greatsword before releasing its elemental possession and returning it to its original form. He then sheathed the [Yamato] in one smooth motion before disappearing.

He suddenly dashed forward while Solus possessed the sheathed sword for the 'Divine Constellation Possession'.

When he reached a couple of meters away from his the still-shaking barrier, he suddenly pulled the blazing sword from its sheath before stabbing forward.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quickly Draw (Blazing) – Flash Final'

Unlike the previous version of this sword technique, Shin focused all the fire elemental mana toward the tip of the sword as he targeted the exact spot that the greatsword had hit from his previous attack.

Bang!

The barrier was instantly shattered right after the blazing [Yamato] pressed on it.

Just like how the fire melted the ice when it was hot enough, the blazing sword cut through it without any resistance. It then continued to press forward right after destroying the barrier.

Bang!

But it was immediately blocked by the thick ice wall that Leviathan had just summoned.

The [Yamato] drilled a deep hole in the ice wall, but all its momentum died right before it could even reach its target behind.

The entire process sounded long, but it only took a couple of seconds during the exchange. In this short timeframe, Leviathan abandoned the idea of reconstructing the barrier and quickly retreated.

At the same time, he was frantically waving his arms and tugging with his fingers to control his frost puppets to obstruct his opponent.

Shin would naturally not let this opportunity slip away from his hands.

He bent his knees to put more strength on his lower body before exploding with everything, forcefully breaking through the ice wall, and intensely destroying it in the process.

There was a blazing glow surrounding his body as he continued to move forward, crushing against the frost puppets that were blocking his path.

It was one of his movement skills that greatly enhanced his defenses in a brief moment before while also providing immunity against all types of crowd-control skills aside from the grappling ones.

'Slayer Skill: (Modified) Sunshine Movement'

Bang! Bang! Bang!

In the distance, he saw Leviathan forming a series of seals with his hand while chanting out a demonic prayer while retreating.

Not long after, a huge flood of mana gathered behind him before forming a gigantic cluster in the air. It twisted and spiraled continuously before forming a vicious dragon with a body of ice twister.

It stared at Shin for a moment before suddenly charging forward.

Roar!

It opened its mouth wide, seemingly trying to devour everything on its path. It was also getting stronger every time a frost puppet was eaten by it while charging ahead.

'Herald of the Seven Seas Skill (Tier 2): Wrath of the Demon Sea'

Seeing the incoming ice dragon, Shin strongly stomped on the ground to forcibly halt his advance.

Bang!

Fragments of ice flew in the air as his foot was firmly planted on the ground. Cracks spread in every direction like a spiderweb while deep fissures appeared near him.

Swiftly sheathing the [Yamato], he assumed his signature stance while infusing as much Eternal Flame as possible into it.

Click!

Not long after, when the accumulation of mana reached its peak, he quickly unsheathed the sword before slashing forward.

Shing!

It was one of his Awakened Skills, but instead of a tiger or a dragon appearing right after the skill was unleashed, a huge bird made of fire was formed.

Shriek!

It released a deafening cry as it spread its flaming wings wide and flew forward with a blazing trail behind it.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Eternal Flame) – Pheonix's Wrath'

It opened its blazing beak before colliding against the ice dragon from the opposing side.

BOOM!

Chapter 1412: The Four Mountains (Part 1)

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Boom!

A dense cloud quickly enveloped the entire surrounding as the gorgeous flames and savage ice clashed against each other.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

'Slayer Skill: Moonlight Steps'

Shin, who just threw the blazing bird to clash against the ice dragon, quickly transformed into a streak of light that pierced through the dense cloud. He reached the opposite end of the cloud within an instant and appeared right in front of Leviathan, who was already expecting something like this to happen.

Leviathan's fingers danced in the air as he tugged the invisible strings, which suddenly turned into a prison cage that trapped Shin inside.

These strings that were invisible to the eye suddenly revealed themselves right after Shin stepped into the cage. They were also releasing a cold vapor coming from them that made their appearance more obvious.

With a series of movements of Leviathan's fingers, the icy strings suddenly tightened seemingly trying to wrap themselves around Shin.

Shin could already see his body being cut and shredded by these strings the moment when they came close to him. The dense ice elemental mana that they carried could freeze his limbs while their sharpness could instantly cut through them immediately after.

He then quickly scanned the surroundings with sharp eyes and saw that this sting prison was covering quite a large area, so even if he used his movement skills, it would still be impossible to escape from them.

He could only take a stance while gathering as much Eternal Flame as possible before releasing them and forming a spherical barrier that covered every direction.

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

Swoosh!

The barrier seemed to be a miniature sun made of gorgeous flame that kept on rotating along with the blazing tongues that were clashing against the enclosing ice strings.

The ice strings melted the moment they came in contact with the blazing barrier before turning into a vapor that slowly dissipated in the air.

Seeing what was happening, Leviathan controlled the ice strings once again gathering them together and creating a thicker and sturdier version. They looked like tough ropes made of cold steel.

They wrapped around the blazing barrier, trying to crush it.

At the same time, Leviathan retreated to prepare for his next move. He knew that this was not enough to stop Shin, so he had to reveal as many cards as possible.

The ice golems and frost puppets could no longer hold Shin despite the assistance of his domain. The best they could do was to buy him a couple of seconds to delay the opposing side.

He had to take out a more powerful puppet to take down Shin. "I am planning to save this when the Empire Wars starts, but I guess I have no choice."

Boom!

He was mumbling to himself, an explosion erupted in the distance as Shin detonated the barrier to completely get rid of the ice ropes wrapped around it.

Shin slowly walked out of the thick fog as the small fragments of ice fell from the sky – they were the residual parts of the ice ropes.

Shin was preparing for a big move while Leviathan was about to take out his special puppet. They stared at each other's eyes, seeing the intention of each side.

Rumble!

But before they could even move, an intense earthquake suddenly shook the entire region.

The two almost lost their footing due to the strong shaking of the ground, but their eyes never left each other since they knew that a single opening was more than enough for the opposing side to end their lives.

At the same time, the surrounding trees started to fall one after another. Shin could also see that a landslide was about to begin in some parts of the mountains surrounding them. The continuous rain was making the land soft while the violent wind was uprooting the trees, making the earth even more unstable.

Paying closer attention to the face of his opponent, Shin noticed that Leviathan must have known the reason for the earthquake, especially when he saw that there was a clear sense of urgency on the latter's face.

'This is bad! It seems like the demon seed is trying to absorb the surrounding life force to forcefully break its shell!' Leviathan could not help but wear a grave expression when he thought about this.

Their mission was to capture the sealed Spirit King in this place as soon as possible while the demon seed would to the rest for them.

That demon seed was supposed to grow into a 'Flora of Death' that would turn the entire region into a plagued land. It was a type of plant that only grew in the depths of hell which would continuously release a demonic energy that would, in turn, corrupt the filling the air mana in the air.

This was a plan that Paimon had devised when they planned to turn the entire Dark Cloud Kingdom into the main hub of the demons that were arriving from Hell, particularly the Bug Tribe.

The portal connecting the Bug Tribe and this realm was already opened, and the Pandemonium Descendants were only waiting for the arrival of the Vanguard Force of these demons before waging war against the surrounding countries. .net

This region, the Stormy Mountain Range, was a natural barrier that would be blocking their forces once the war started. Paimon wanted to get rid of it before that time came and even wanted to turn it into a 'shield' that would protect their territory instead.

Paimon had already planted the seed for quite a while and it was about time for the 'Flora of Death' to grow.

But he did not expect that something powerful was sealed within the mountain range, which was why the growth of the plant from hell was being suppressed.

Even the monsters within the region were starting to mutate at an insane rate due to this hidden power within the mountain range. It was leading the evolution of the monsters and making it hard to explore the deeper parts of the region, especially when the monsters were constantly becoming stronger.

Due to this, their operation was greatly hindered, delaying their plans.

After doing some investigating, Paimon discovered that it was a powerful Spirit King from ancient times. He was shocked and delighted at the same time when he learned about this.

Even if Demonic Players such as himself could not form a contract with Elemental Spirits, turning such a special being into a corrupted one, particularly into an Abomination, would not be impossible.

If he was lucky and turned it into a Demonic Abomination, then he could even make it into his 'Blood Servant Avatar' once his race later became a True Demon. It was a counterpart of 'Elemental Spirit Companions' exclusive to Demon Race.

He put Leviathan in this task and even let Belphegor join the operation to make sure that there were no accidents would happen.

But who would have thought that Shin and Alice would appear at the most crucial time when they were about to carry the most crucial tasks for this operation and hinder them?

'We can't let the demon seed continue absorbing the surrounding life force as it will also weaken the seal trapping the Spirit King! We must clear the dungeon as soon as possible,' he thought before glancing in the direction where Alice and Belphegor were fighting.

They had put a lot of time and effort into this operation. They even prepared one of the treasures of their church to forcibly enter the said dungeon even if they were not qualified for it.

The sudden appearance of Alice made Leviathan realize that she was most likely here to free that Spirit King, or even form a contract with them.

They had to clear the dungeon, but before everything else, they had to first kill all the four guardians of this place and destroy the outer layer of the seal so that they could trigger the opening of the entrance.

But with these two trying to stop them, it would no longer be possible to complete those tasks.

If the demon seed even successfully exhausted the lifeforce in the region and weakened the seal trapping the Spirit King, then the situation would be even more against their favor.

The battle between the Flora of Death and the Spirit King would even erupt, making their mission fail greatly. Even if the Flora of Death would just spout and carry little Demonic Energy in it, the Spirit King would also be in a weakened state due to being sealed for a very long time.

The battle would be an intense one, where the outcome would be impossible to predict.

But with the presence of a Transcendent Race, particularly an Ancient Elf that had a close relationship with the Spirits, things could be bad for Leviathan and Belphegor.

If things turned dire for the Spirit King, then it could just form a contract with Alice and become their Elemental Spirit Companion.

No matter what choice they chose – whether continuing to battle against Shin and Alice to waste their time and wait for the Flora of Death to successfully sprout or to run away from this place as far as possible while spreading as much Demonic Energy as they could to give the flower from hell enough supplement for its growth – the outcome was already obvious.

This operation was already a failure the moment when Shin and Alice appeared.

Leviathan could not help but glare at Shin sharply as he realized that they could no longer continue with this operation.

Since the result of this operation was already a failure, he no longer wanted to take out his special puppet and continue wasting more time here. He also did not want to use the demonic treasure in their possession since it would only be a huge waste given the current situation.

As he was contemplating what to do, he also happened to see Belphegor glancing in his direction, seemingly conveying the same thoughts. It seemed like the latter had also realized that they had already failed their mission.

Even if Belphegor still wanted to fight Alice as he could learn a few more of her tricks, he knew that it was not the time for it.

Getting killed would not be much of a problem for them, but if they got captured by these two, then it would be a terrible disaster.

Their status within the branch of the Demonic Church that they belonged to was very high, especially when they were expected to be the 'vessels' of the Great Demon Kings once they had descended upon this world.

Understanding the current situation, the two knew that their only choice was to retreat.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

No longer hesitating, both Leviathan and Belphegor quickly disengaged from battle and escaped using their respective means.

Shin was about to give chase when Alice suddenly blocked him. "We have no time to waste on them. I am receiving a summon from the sealed Earth Spirit Queen. It seems like she is in trouble."

Shin suddenly paused and looked at her, asking. "So, what do we need to do?"

Alice glanced at the update of her quest before answering. "It seems like we have to deal with the four guardians of the seal first before I can enter the Solo Instance Dungeon where she is sealed."

She then paused as she continued looking at the updated conditions of the quest before continuing. "And while I am clearing the dungeon, it seems like someone needs to deal with a continuous horde of monsters that have been corrupted by something called 'Seed of the Death Flora'."

"Once I have cleared the dungeon and formed a contract with Spirit Queen Gaia, everything can be handled easily as a Quest Scenario will be triggered immediately after," she added after she finished the entire updated conditions.

Ding

After listening to her, Shin also received a quest update from the system, telling him the entire situation.

It seemed like Alice's quest and the secret operation of the Pandemonium Troupe had somewhat affected his quest. He then fully understood what was going on after skimming through the updated details.

"What are we waiting for? Let's head to our first target before that seed or something grows into a plant of death," said Shin as he looked at Alice.

"Hmm." Alice then nodded her head before quickly heading toward their first target, which was the Mutated Monsters comparable to a Special Overlord that they had discovered earlier.

Chapter 1413: The Four Mountains (Part 2)

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Ding

System: You had learned why the monsters within the Stormy Mountain Range were undergoing a huge mutation, and why they became more active.

Ding

Quest Update: A plot of the Demonic Churches was undergoing a most important pace, and you discovered it when you were investigating the region.

A demonic seed from the depths of Hell was currently planted in this place, making the surrounding area corrupted and affecting the monsters residing in it.

It was also trying to absorb the life force within the region, trying to hasten its growth pace.

Ding

Quest Update: A Spirit King happened to be sealed within the depths of the region, deep in the ground. It sensed the strange movements of the mana in the air and felt the presence of a creature from Hell.

The Spirit King used all its remaining powers to try to suppress the demonic seed, but it was not enough to defeat the latter.

Later, the Spirit King came to the idea of influencing the monsters within the region, leading to their sudden mutation.

But in return, the four guardian monsters, which were the center of her seal, had also become more powerful and made the suppression of the seal to be strengthened, weakening her greatly.

This also triggered a war between the two sides which was starting to affect the entire region – monsters turned more active as they became more powerful.

Ding

Updated Conditions: The Stormy Mountain Range was currently in grave danger. Help the Spirit King defeat the demonic seed of the 'Death Flora' before reporting to Commander Taiga of the Storm Fortress.

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Reading through the string of notifications, Shin now had a clearer view of the current situation. At the same time, it also made his currently ongoing quest to be halfway through being cleared.

Now, Alice's current quest had become his quest two since the only way to deal with the demonic seed that was on the verge of sprouting was to free the Spirit King from their seal and form a contract with them.

He had to help her clear her quest so that he could clear his own.

The two rushed toward the location of their first target, knowing that their time was currently limited.

But when they arrived at their destination, Shin was greeted by a surprise.

He could not help but look in front of him with a strange gaze. What he saw was an ancient-looking Treant standing in the middle of the forest while emitting an extremely powerful aura.

Its appearance was not the reason why he was surprised. It was because this Plant-Type Monster was from the species that he was looking for a certain exclusive quest that he had.

To make sure that he was not seeing wrong, Shin even activated his 'True Sight' to look more into its details.

[Monster Name]: Ancient Treat Protector

[Monster Type]: Plant

[Monster Index]: Shadow Elemental Mutation

[Monster Rank]: Overlord/ Mutated

Level: 165

Health Points: 5 Billion

Skills:

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No matter how hard Shin looked at it, the details of this monster were oddly similar to the three beast-types monsters that he had found in the Starry Spear Mountain Forest, the Trinity Apes such as the Stoneback Gorilla; Steelfist Ape; and Ironhead Chimpanzee.

Those three Overlord Monsters were also closely related to a monster called the 'Heavenly Dominator', which was said to be the King of Land Monsters, particularly the mammal-type beasts.

What was special about these was those monsters were connected to one of his most important quests, which was given to him by Berlin. The same quest was asking him to collect certain materials for a Divine Armor.

When looking at the available information from the official website and forums of the game, Shin had to give up on looking for the four main materials that he needed since they could only be collected from extremely powerful monsters from the Awakened Continent.

However, the other materials could still be found within the high-level neutral regions within the Aurora Continent, which was why Shin was looking for them from different sources. He even put up a request for these materials in the Hand of Midas if they ever encountered them.

From the look of it, he happened to have a lucky day today. It seemed like he found another clue for the quest.

He even opened his quest panel once again to look at the materials that he needed to collect to make sure that he was not wrong.

Looking at the bottom part of the quest, he found what he was looking for.

- Forest Guardian

0/1 Branch of the World Tree

Four Mountains

0/1 Heart of the Green Dragon

0/1 Seed of the Ancient Treant Protector

0/2 Antlers of the Golden Stag

0/1 Essence of the Will-O'-Wisp

The first monster mentioned was one of the powerful monsters that possessed one of the four main materials that he needed and the rest were the monsters that were on a similar level as the 'Trinity Apes'.

Given that there was an 'Ancient Treat Protector' in this place, and there was a total of four monsters and four seals altogether, it would not be hard for Shin to make a guess.

"I guess this has become my quest as well," he mumbled after confirming everything. He then turned to Alice and said. "There is something I need from this guy. Can I take it after we take it down?"

Alice looked weirdly at Shin as she replied. "Isn't that already a given?"

Shin chuckled before stepping forward. He had already tested the effects of a Tier 3 Skill earlier, and it gave quite a lot of insights. His experiences in using his skills and sword techniques under the influence of the 'Graveyard of Swords' had furthered refined his understanding of them as well as his swordsmanship.

Right now, Shin wanted to put a few of them into practice. But since they were currently in a hurry, he would not be holding back and summoned his best abilities.

Alice looked at his back for a couple of moments before sighing. She then followed him as she prepared for the battle.

As Shin and Alice started taking down the four guardian monsters within the Stormy Mountain Range, there were huge movements in the Dark Cloud Kingdom.

Given that there were huge actions in their forces, it would be impossible to them from the neighboring nations. But they did not care as they were already aware of the impending war.

They were already prepared for this, so there was no need to hide that much aside from the fact that they were already under the Demonic Churches.

Moreover, the movements of their large forces were just a distraction to misdirect the attention of the neighboring nations while they were currently focusing their main combat force on setting up solid defense in the area where the dimensional portal was located.

On the surface, the neighboring nations could only see that they were directing their forces toward their main rivals, which was not a secret to everyone. This created an illusion that they were about to wage an all-out war due to some conflict that they had purposely made.

But little did these nations know that it was only a smokescreen for the Demonic Churches to complete their preparations.

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Right after escaping along with Belphegor, Leviathan immediately reported to Paimon about the events that occurred in the Stormy Mountain Range, particularly their encounter with Shin and Alice and the changes in the demonic seed.

Naturally, Paimon was quite enraged, especially when his meticulous plan crumbled just because of the appearance of Shin. He felt that this variable was getting more and more problematic as the time went by.

They had to somewhat deal with him and delay his progress as much as possible. They also had to be wary of him as he always appeared at the most unexpected places, where they were doing their secret operations. It was as if he always knew where the operations would take place and intercept them.

Shin had become the archenemy of the Demonic Churches, particularly the Pandemonium Descendants.

Paimon and Belial had already completed all the preparations for all their operations, including the special task force that would be constantly targeting Shin. It was a special group composed of highly trained assassins and sweepers, which would be led by Amon or Mephistopheles.

But when the task force was about to head out Lucifer, who was still busy dealing with the matters in the real, suddenly changed his mind and asked them to delay the 'hunting' plan for at least a couple of days, or maybe even an entire week.

The two were confused, but they trusted this leader of theirs, so they did not question his decision and waited for his explanation later.

Lucifer did not explain much and just told them that he needed Shin to 'reach' a certain 'level' as fast as possible.

The two had thought that it was about Shin's progress in the game, which somehow concerned Lucifer's mission or something, so they did not put much thought into it and waited for further instructions.

Given that, Paimon was tasked to oversee the progress of the things within the Dark Cloud Kingdom. The dimensional portal was already stable, so all they needed was to wait for the arrival of the Vanguard Army of the Bug Tribe.

Even Belial was tasked to collaborate with Paimon as this was their biggest operation as of now. They had to make sure that everything was going smoothly, at least until the first batch of the Bug Tribe arrived or until the 'Glutton Demon King of the Flies' successfully descended on the body of Beelzebub.

At the same time, they also had to make sure that Beelzebub was not killed during this time since it would disrupt the 'possession' process and they had to start over again. This was the main reason why Beelzebub was relieved to all his duties these past few days.

As a form of assurance, three out of the 'seven' Sinful Devils of the Pandemonium Troupe were stationed in the place where he was located to avoid any accident.

For the next couple of months (In-game time), the Dark Cloud Kingdom would be the main base of operation of the Pandemonium Descendants.

Paimon, who was reading the reports sent to him inside their secret base within the kingdom, suddenly turned his gaze toward the entrance.

Frowning slightly, he suddenly said. "Aren't you busy with your tasks? You don't have to keep coming here just because we are instructed to collaborate. You should be aware of how our organization operates as one of its heads."

Belial ignored the skeptical words of Paimon and took a seat on the nearby sofa before opening his mouth. "Do you think I am so free to keep on coming here? As one of the heads of the Supreme Demons, I also have more duties that I must fulfill within the organization, but I can't do most of them due to the new instructions that the leader has given us."

He then paused before asking casually. "How is our 'friend' doing in the Stormy Mountain Range?"

Paimon frowned deeply before replying. "It seems like they have already hunted down two of the guardian monsters – the Ancient Treat Protector and the Golden Stag specifically – and are already heading to the third one, the Will-O'-Wisp."

"Their progress is much faster than we expected. It will not take them that long before they open the dungeon entrance."

Belial thought for a moment before commenting. "That Green Dragon is not easy to deal with. Even if most of its powers are focused on maintaining the seal, greatly weakening it in the progress, it is still a dragon nevertheless."

"We may not get that much in sabotaging them, but it should have enough time to buy enough time for the demonic seed to sprout and cause enough chaos to keep the Storm Fortress later. The commander stationed there is such a huge torn to our side after all," he proposed while turning his head.

Paimon thought for a moment before shaking his head. "That will be too risky. If we appeared there right now, a Quest Scenario would be most likely to trigger, especially with the current state of the demonic seed."

"Even if we successfully beat them with our forces, the Dark Cloud Kingdom will be exposed way sooner than our original plan. It is not worth risking on such a losing gamble."

He then paused before clicking his tongue. "It is such a huge loss that I have used the demonic seed for nothing after all the meticulous plan that I have laid, but we can't do anything about it."

"It is just my miscalculation for not considering the appearance of those two. Or even if not those two, just the fact that I have overlooked someone may have accepted a quest to rescue that Spirit King is a huge mistake on my part."

Hearing that, Belial just shrugged his shoulders before standing up. "Since you have already decided, then I will not push this matter anymore."

"Instead, lend me some of your people. I have a perfect job for them," he added with a serious tone.

Paimon raised his head and squinted his eyes, trying to figure out what this guy was plotting.

Belial knew what the latter was thinking so he quickly explained. "Since our 'main problem' is currently busy with his quest here, isn't it a good time to redirect some of our forces for the other operations?"

"I also heard that the others are busy with that trouble we have planted in the other places, so it is the perfect time to move," he added after recalling the reports that he just received earlier.

Paimon realized something before grinning. He then nodded repeatedly as he liked the idea. "Alright. I will lend you the third squadron. Make sure to use them well."

Chapter 1414: The Four Mountains (Part 3)

.....

Bang! Bang!

Shin and Alice were already at the third guardian, fighting against a huge wisp that wielded great psychic powers.

Compared to the first two guardian monsters, the Ancient Treat Protector and the Golden Stag, this humongous wisp was more troublesome to deal with. It was because of the strange powers and elements that it possessed.

If it was just a regular plant-type monster, then Shin and Alice could use fire-type or lightning-type attacks against it even if their elemental powers were greatly restricted due to the environment. At least

their lightning-type spells and skills were somewhat enhanced after adjusting themselves to the stormy weather.

Shin could also use the metal element if it was just some monster with a regular monster with a nature-type element.

But since that was not the case, dealing with this wisp became a little tricky, especially when it could combine a plant-type and psychic-type of spells.

[Monster Name]: Will-O'-Wisp

[Monster Type]: Plant, Spirit

[Monster Index]: High Psychic Mutation

[Monster Rank]: Overlord/ Mutated

Level: 165

Health Points: 1,102,521 / 5,000,000,0000

Skills:

...

...

Looking at the details of the monster, Shin knew that it was barely living. The sliver of health that it had could easily be emptied by a couple of spells or skills from Alice and himself.

It took them quite an effort to take down this monster, but fighting it gave Shin a few insights on how to utilize the Demonic Telekinesis within the game. Up until now, he was only applying most of his mentalism techniques to reinforce the skills and sword techniques that he had along with a few tricks that he was usually using in the real world.

After watching how the wisp utilized its psychic powers, Shin had gotten some inspiration and further strengthened his understanding of the said elemental skill.

This also led to Shin elevating his utilization of the techniques under the Perfected Four Symbol Scripture. He also got some lead on how he would proceed with developing his battle style within the game.

Since he had solidified his unique style and swordsmanship, and integrated them with the elements that he had, he could now focus on improving them – and the Demonic Telekinesis would be his main key.

Bang!

After the final strike, the Will-O'-Wisp was finally killed. It exploded into countless glittering lights, resembling the starry sky, as they slowly fell toward the ground.

Alice was caught off guard by the dreamy scene that was produced by those tiny lights along with Shin standing in the center of everything. She was stunned and unable to take away her eyes from Shin for a dozen seconds before regaining her composure.

She turned to the side while her ears were completely red, resembling a ripe tomato. Fortunately, she was wearing a veil that was hiding her expression.

However, Shin did not have time to look at her as he was already busy collecting the starry dust that the wisp had left behind. It did not drop anything aside from those glittering dust and glowing marble.

The glittering dust was the thing that Shin needed from this guardian monster, the 'Essence of the Will-O'-Wisp', which was also one of the materials required for the completion of his quest.

As for the glowing marble, it was the Elemental Core that was formed within the body of the Will-O'-Wisp after undergoing such an Elemental Mutation.

All the guardian beasts seemed to possess such cores. The Ancient Treat Protector also dropped an Elemental Core with the Nature Element while the Golden Stag left a Beast Core of a similar element, which also contained the element of earth.

Shin turned to Alice and tossed the elemental core to her. As per their agreement, he would take the materials that he needed from the monsters while she would be keeping the Mana Cores.

Alice did not want to accept them at first as Shin was already helping her with her quests. But Shin insisted that her quest was also related to his quest, which made it cooperation rather than assistance.

With a helpless sigh, she could accept. She somewhat knew Shin's temperament after rehearsing with him and the rest of their club in the real world. She knew that it would be hard to change his mind unless she could bring out a strong argument that would convince him.

After keeping the essence, Shin looked at the progress of his quest for another time, making sure that he was on the right track.

- Forest Guardian

0/1 Branch of the World Tree

Four Mountains

0/1 Heart of the Green Dragon

1/1 Seed of the Ancient Treant Protector

2/2 Antlers of the Golden Stag

1/1 Essence of the Will-O'-Wisp

With this, he was only missing the heart of a green dragon for the sub-materials that he needed under the Forest Guardian. And based on their progress, the final guardian monster would most likely be the Green Dragon.

However, he doubted that it was a dragon in a peak form since it would be impossible for their current selves to face such a monster in that level. They would most likely be facing a weakened dragon, but it was still a dragon, nevertheless.

This time, the green dragon would not have a 'Mana Core' since its heart was a 'Mana Core' on itself. Since he needed it, the rest of the materials that they would be harvesting from it would be going to Alice.

But Alice suggested that they should give it to Arthur as he was the one who could bring out the best of such materials.

Shin nodded as he agreed with her assessment. At the same time, Shin also needed at least a liter of blood from this dragon for another 'quest' that he had.

True Phantom Creation

Materials needed:

0/1 Black Heart

0/1 Soul Stone

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

0/1 Essence of Nine Constellations

0/1 A hundred grams of Star Dust

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

He still had no idea what kind of materials the rest were or where they could be found. Fortunately, he was able to find one of them.

After checking the current progress of his quests, Shin turned toward Alice again and saw that she was already done checking the surroundings.

"We are done here. The part of the sealing formation in this place has already collapsed, so we can now move to the center of the mountain range where the core of the sealing formation is located," she said after turning at him.

"The outer layer of the sealing formation will collapse after we take down the final guardian while the rest will be demolished once I clear the dungeon," she added before looking at the timer of her quest, which also indicated the rate of growth of the demonic seed.

"We still have more than two hours before the seed fully grows and transforms into a 'Flora of Death,'" she said before pointing toward their next destination. "That is where the core of the sealing formation is most likely located. Let's go!"

After that, she quickly used a series of teleportation spells such as 'Blink' and 'Elemental Walk' before flying using 'Levitation' and 'Flight' spells.

Shin quickly followed her while using his movement skills to catch up. He then leaped and hopped from one tree to another before sprinting on the uneven terrain of the mountain range.

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Not long after, they reached the center of the Stormy Mountain Range, where they were immediately greeted by a humongous creature lying on the ground while calmly waiting for them.

It was a lizard-like dragon with a pair of huge wings on its back that looked like a hybrid of a strange flower and a giant leaf. Its muscular limbs and body were covered with jade-like scales that were constantly reflecting the flashes of lightning in the sky.

There were thick covers on its forearms that looked like leather armor made of dense moss. There were also a variety of vines wrapped around them, seemingly connected to the ground and the surrounding trees.

On its head, there was a pair of huge antlers that resembled the dried branches of the trees while extending on its entire back, running on its spine up until the end of its reptilian tail like the fin of a sea creature.

There was also a dark green smoke constantly coming out from its mouth as it breathed.

The size of this green dragon was not as huge as the other dragons that Shin had encountered up until now. There was a great difference in size as it was not even a quarter of those dragons.

Regardless, it was still much larger than most of the monsters that Shin and Alice had encountered in this place.

If Shin could give a comparison, then this green dragon was only as huge as Arthur's dragon pet, Goldie, when it was in combat form.

Shin and Alice then used their respective observation skills on the dragon to get a rough idea of its overall strength.

[Monster Name]: Green Dragon (Weakened)

[Monster Type]: Nature Dragon

[Monster Index]: Mutated Dragon

[Monster Rank]: Overlord/ Mutated

Level: 165

Health Points: 2,500,000,000 / 2,500,000,0000

Skills:

...

...

Its entire health bar was only half of the previous guardian monsters. But given that it was a dragon with thick and sturdy scales to protect itself, Shin already guessed how high its defense was.

Just like what he had expected, it was just a weakened dragon. If it happened to be an adult dragon in its peak form, then Shin and Alice would never have a chance to fight it.

According to the official website of the game and from what Arthur had told him, an adult dragon would be at least level 450, making it at the tier of a full-fledged Enlightened Being.

As for the weaker or younger dragons, they should still be at least as strong as a peak Ascended Being or weaker Enlightened Beings, which was also equivalent to level 300 to level 399 monsters.

Moreover, Dragons counted as Transcendent Beings, so they should be much more powerful than any other race beneath them.

Shin did not know how to distinguish between a monster dragon, a royal-blooded dragon, and another type of dragon, so he was not sure how to categorize this green dragon in front of them. They were all the same in his eyes. Even the description barely helped him identify them from each other.

He did not know if it could be converted into an Elemental Dragon that Arthur could make a contract with.

Nevertheless, their current opponent was someone that they had to deal with regardless of his thoughts.

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After sensing the arrival of the two, the green dragon suddenly opened its eyes, before slowly getting up from its comfortable position.

It then turned toward them before breathing out a thick fog of poison from its mouth, releasing a deafening roar!

Roar!

The entire mountain range shook as an overwhelming presence made itself known in the entire region. The monsters living in the Stormy Mountain Range fled in every direction, running away from the source of the roar as far as possible, while the weaker ones collapsed straight away.

The monsters that had been corrupted by the demonic seed, did not even dare to move despite the strong influence of the seed in them. They trembled in fear as they instantly recognized that the one who just revealed its presence was an apex predator of the Beast World.

Shin and Alice, who were at the forefront of the pressure, were also frozen in their respective spot and unable to move their bodies.

They were trembling hard while the circulation of mana within their bodies was greatly disturbed. If not for their fast reactions, then they would most likely be receiving serious damage from the system due to energy backflow.

With their current state, Shin and Alice already realized what was happening.

"Dragon Fear!"

It was one of the strongest abilities of the Dragon Race along with the 'Dragon Tongue'.

It was a mana-infused roar from the depths of their soul, driving any weaker entities within the surroundings into a state of extreme despair and intense panic.

With paralyzed bodies, Shin and Alice would be in great danger, so they quickly responded and used their respective mind-cleansing skills to free themselves from their current statuses.

Then they quickly retreated, creating as much distance as they could from the green dragon.

Chapter 1415: Fighting a Green Dragon (Part 1)

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Seeing Shin and Alice escaping the effects of the 'Dragon Fear' within an instant, the Green Dragon suddenly became enraged and released another powerful roar.

Roar!

This roar did not contain any kind of soul and spiritual attack or intimidating effects, but it carried a series of shockwaves that repeatedly pushed Shin and Alice, who were standing in the distance.

Seeing the strong gust of wind heading toward them, Shin quickly raised his hand and swiftly summoned a psychic barrier through the Demonic Telekinesis Skill to protect the two of them.

At the same time, Alice slammed the bottom of her magic scepter on the ground to summon a thick ice wall to block the violent wave.

Bang! Bang!

The ice wall was instantly shattered into pieces, but the momentum of the shockwaves was greatly reduced and unable to put any damage to the two, who were under the protection of the psychic barrier.

But that was not the end as the Green Dragon suddenly slammed one of its front paws on the ground, intensity shaking the ground.

Bang!

While Shin and Alice were trying to find their footing from the mini-earthquake, thick vines suddenly shot out from the ground and flew toward the pair, seemingly wanting to wrap themselves at those two.

Such an attack could be easily countered with a fire spell due to the elemental counter. However, since the stormy weather within the region greatly restricted the element of fire, Alice could not use them.

Instead, she chose an element that could greatly work in the current environment.

With the assistance of Elemental Spirit Possession of Suijin, Alice waved her hand and pointed forward, sending a chilling wind that froze everything in its path.

'Elven Sage Skill (Tier 2): Breath of the Northern Wind'

Swoosh!

Freezing the falling rain and the wet ground, the incoming vines were also frozen in place by the chilling wind.

Bang! Bang!

However, that could barely stop them as they quickly broke through the ice and aggressively moved forward.

But with that brief delay, Shin was able to step forward and placed himself between Alice and the incoming vines with his signature sword-drawing stance.

Click!

Then, with the subtle sound reverberating in the air, Shin pulled the sword out of the sheath and swung it multiple times at the incoming vines in front of him.

Shing!

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

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A series of sword flashes appeared in the air. They blocked the incoming vines and sliced them into multiple pieces with intertwining lines.

Click!

When the sword returned to its sheath, the shredded pieces of the vines fell on the ground one after another as he stood in the middle of them.

He did not even look behind him as he said to Alice. "I'll confront it head-on. Support me with your spells."

Right after leaving those words, a powerful stomp on the ground sent a strong shockwave that spread in every direction and destroyed the surrounding ground with flying rock fragments in the air.

Boom!

With a thunderclap sound, lightning seemed to have fallen from the ground and struck the ground as electric currents danced around in the air and surrounding Shin. However, it was in black and white color.

Swoosh!

At the same time, Shin also disappeared into a lightning current that flew straight to the Green Dragon in the distance.

Covered with the Primordial Lightning, Shin fearlessly charged forward while keeping the highest level of vigilance.

Normally, he would not be facing such a monster in a head-on confrontation given the massive difference in stats. He would only be at a great disadvantage if he ever tried it.

But after fighting those insanely strong monsters during the test that Head Mysterious Instructor Longinus had prepared, particularly that Minotaur of Elite Rank, Shin had developed a mindset when facing them.

If he was not wrong, then this Greed Dragon of Overlord Rank should be slightly stronger than that Minotaur when it came to physical prowess, or slightly stronger due to its bloodline.

It was powerful, but he had to overcome this challenge if he wanted to explore the second continent. He had to face it head-on while utilizing everything that he had.

'Grim Reaper Skill (Tier 2 Domain): Monochrome Field'

'Equipment Skill (Headgear: Ruler's Dignity): Ruler's Authority'

He quickly activated the double domain skills to enhance all his stats and tried suppressing the overall stats of the dragon a little even though he knew that it would barely do any effects given that it was a dragon.

At the same time, Shin also activated a berserk skill to further enhance his strength, squeezing everything as he knew that they only had a limited time to take down this Green Dragon.

'Weapon Skill (Main Sword: Yamato): Nephilim's Ascent'

He could also use one of the 'Metamorphosis Berserk Skills' if he wanted to, but he wanted to maximize the effects of the previous skills that he had activated since they were requirements to activate the said skill, particularly the 'Descent of the Fallen God' skill.

He would wait until the duration of 'Monochrome Field' and 'Nephilim's Ascent' was almost ending.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

He left a series of lightning afterimages behind him as he circled the huge Green Dragon while dodging its tail swipes and claw attacks.

At the same time, he was throwing multiple slashes in the process, creating flashes of lightning currents in the air.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

In the distance, Alice was also firing spells after spells to assist him. She was also using her signature combat technique, the 'Elemental Dragon Dance', along with a series of berserk skills to increase the firepower of each of her spells.

Her control over the surrounding Elemental Mana was at its peak due to the triple elemental spirit possession, so her casting time and the speed of her spell were at their highest efficiency.

She was able to match Shin's pace despite how fast he was. Her Elemental Sight and Mana Eyes were barely able to keep up with him, but her Elemental Sense was strong enough to read the path that he was taking and the trajectory of his attacks.

She was able to save Shin multiple times when he was locked within an encirclement of thick vines and huge tree roots that were coming out of the ground. She was also able to clear the 'Poison Fog' that the Green Dragon was breathing with her wind magic, making them a good match against the dragon.

Shin handled the melee battle with his extreme speed and precise attack. He was like an annoying fly that circled the huge body of the green dragon while constantly harassing it.

Even if he was barely harming the dragon due to the tough defenses of its scales, the paralyzing effects of his lightning-infused attacks and the accumulated wounds that his sword strikes left behind were more than enough to maintain a decent damage output.

On the other hand, Alice was doing pretty well with her spells. Her firepower was strong enough to maintain the steady damage that they needed. She was also dealing more as she became more familiar with wielding the 'Elemental Ignition' combat state.

She was rapidly improving and almost reaching Shin's mastery over his 'Reality Manifestation'.

Naturally, the Green Dragon would want to focus on her due to her high damage output – the aggro would naturally switch toward her.

But Shin was doing a good job at keeping the dragon in place with his strong attacks. He was even focusing more on the 'Judgement Form' and 'Summit Shaper Possession' for heavier and more destructive attacks.

Even if the Earth Element was slightly restricted in this kind of environment, the raw power that those two provided along with the principles of Heavy Sword and Destructive Sword, were more than enough for what he needed.

Moreover, Shin also discovered something during his exchanges with this green. It could not move more than dozens of meters away from its original position, which greatly limited its mobility.

Even if its physical strength and raw power were still strong enough to flatten Shin once he got caught by one of its attacks, it would still be useless if they could not hit their target.

The most dangerous threat that could endanger Shin was the sneak ambushes of the tail of the dragon that was randomly attacking him from different angles. Aside from that, there were also those AOE attacks that covered a large area, which could put him in a lot of trouble once caught.

Fortunately, Shin's senses were sharp enough to notice them. He was also quick enough to respond in time, so the Green Dragon was barely able to catch him.

Things were going so smoothly that Shin started to become suspicious of something. This battle was going way too easy that it did not seem to be a battle against a powerful being such as a Green Dragon.

Shin remembered that event where Shin and the others fought against the ice dragon in the Frozen Kingdom.

Immortal's involvement in that battle was one thing as well as his Undying Undead Army, but that was only one of the factors. The dragon itself was too powerful.

Of course, Shin had also to consider that the bloodline of that dragon was of a royal tribe, which was also one of the strongest dragon tribes.

Meanwhile, this Green Dragon seemed to belong to the most ordinary tribe. Adding the seal that was absorbing its powers, it would not be strange that it was much weaker.

Regardless, Shin could still not shake off the feeling that there was something off in the situation.

The physical strength and natural magic of this Greed Dragon was still one of the strongest of the monsters that Shin had encountered, but Shin still felt that something was missing.

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That 'might' of a dragon seemed to be lacking.

Just like this, Shin and Alice were able to grind the health bar of the Green Dragon down to half, giving them the impression that it was way too smooth.

At this point, even Alice noticed that something was out of place. Something was way off the place.

Then, out of nowhere, the surrounding atmosphere suddenly changed. The air seemed to become heavier and suffocating, making the two put their vigilance to the highest level.

And when they realized where the danger was coming from, the two quickly stopped in their tracks and put everything they had on defense.

Alice raised her Elemental Scepter in the air and summoned a bunch of mirror-like ice around her, forming a solid barrier.

'Elven Sage Skill (Tier 2): Ice Mirror'

Then she slammed the bottom of her scepter on the ground while infusing her mana on it.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A series of ice spikes suddenly sprouted from the ground and formed a lotus-like formation that protected her.

With the help of this skill, she used a mentalism technique of her family.

'Formless Lotus Art: Blooming Lotus'

Swoosh!

In the meantime, Shin quickly sheathed the [Yamato] and placed it in front of him diagonally. Along with the psychic barrier that was produced with 'Demonic Telekinesis', he summoned another spherical barrier using 'Eclipse Pulse'.

But instead of using the signature blazing sphere, Shin used the original powers that he usually used with this skill. He separated the Power of the Primordial Eclipse and turned it into the Powers of the Brilliant Sun and Abyssal Moon, forming an alternating black and white barrier.

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

Swoosh!

Right after the two put their defenses, an explosion wrecked the whole place. It shook the entire region while forming a huge hurricane that swallowed Shin and Alice at the same time.

BOOM!

Fortunately, the two were quick enough to put up their respective defenses and saved themselves from being swept by that explosion directly.

When the cloud of smoke and dirt finally receded, Shin and Alice could vaguely see a humanoid figure standing in the middle of everything.

The two instantly realized what just happened after outlining the figure standing a few distance away from them.

"Don't tell me that overgrown lizard has evolved!?" mumbled Shin as he realized where the earlier premonition was coming from.

Chapter 1416: Fighting a Green Dragon (Part 2)

.....

Boom!

As the cloud of smoke, dust, and dirt was slowly receding, Shin suddenly heard a thunderous sound coming from the center of everything.

Swoosh!

Then next instant, he saw the humanoid silhouette of the evolved green dragon dashing through the cloud and charging straight to Alice.

Bang!

The lotus barrier made of wind and ice protecting Alice was instantly shattered as the humanoid green dragon broke through it with just a single punch. Then the dragon reached her immediately after and was about to grab her neck with its razor-sharp claws.

Alice was a little slow to respond as the green dragon was already upon her before she could even have the time to use any defensive or escaping spell. Even her instantaneous spells would not be enough to save her in this predicament.

Swoosh!

But before the deadly claws could even reach her, Shin suddenly appeared right beside the green dragon while striking with a forward thrust right after unsheathing his sword.

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

Bang!

The tip of the [Yamato] struck the scales-covered shoulder of the green dragon and sent a bunch of blazing sparks in the air.

That attack was barely able to scratch the surface of the jade-like scales of the green dragon, but the strong force behind it was strong enough to send the latter flying in the opposite direction.

Swoosh!

Bang!

Right after seeing the green dragon collide against a huge boulder and get buried by a pile of broken rocks, Shin quickly charged forward. He knew that attack was far from being enough, so he had to take the initiative if they wanted to kill this green dragon.

This green dragon just evolved, so it was still far from being at its peak form. It was still in the middle of adjusting itself to its new body, so if they wanted to defeat it, this was their best chance of doing so.

Swoosh!

Alice also understood this, so she quickly adjusted herself and raised her elemental scepter in the air, casting a spell.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The three elemental dragons circling her suddenly flew forward and charged in the direction where Shin had sent the green dragon.

Roar!

They overtook Shin before swirling around one another and fusing into a huge elemental dragon with a wide-opened mouth. It smashed itself into the pile of rocks where the green dragon was supposedly buried.

'Dance of the Elements: Elemental Dragon Revolution'

Boom!

Meanwhile, Shin leaped into the air while holding the [Yamato] with both of his hands as it was currently covered with the 'Primordial Lightning'.

Roar!

The illusionary figures of Whitie and Blackie in their respective tiger forms seemed to have appeared behind him for a brief moment before swirling around each other and being absorbed by the sword.

'Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship: Eclipse Slash'

Swoosh!

A beam of black-and-white sword energy was released right after he swung the sword and sent it toward the place where the green dragon was located.

Boom!

The spot where those two attacks landed was completely obliterated. All the surrounding ground and the pile of rocks turned into dust as they bombarded the green dragon.

But despite how powerful their previous attacks were, the two did not dare to lower their guards as they knew that it was far from being enough to take down such a powerful monster.

When the cloud of dust and dirt finally receded, Shin and Alice saw a cocoon-like object made of multiple vines wrapped around each other.

This alone was enough for the two to know that their attacks did not do much to harm the green dragon.

Not long after, the cocoon of vines loosened themselves and revealed the humanoid figure inside it. This gave Shin and Alice the time to finally have a good look at the current appearance of the green dragon.

It looked like a regular humanoid monster of a reptilian race. It had a human body with green scales covering its entire body.

There were sharp claws on both of its hands, greatly resembling the draconic arms that Shin had seen before from Arthur's elemental dragons. But its feet seemed to be a combination of the hooves of a horse while the legs themselves were as muscular as a cow's leg.

There was also a reptilian tail on its lower back while pairs of butterfly wings were spread widely on its back. These wings were constantly releasing a bunch of glitter-like power whenever they were moving gently.

Its face was similar to an elderly person while its overgrown beard and mustache seemed to be made of moss and small vines. There was also a pair of antlers on its head, giving out an intimidating pressure.

After getting a clear look at its appearance, Shin used his True Sight on it and saw that its details were not much different from what he had seen earlier aside from a few additional skills.

Its health bar, which was already halfway through its total value, remained the same. This meant that they did not have to restart from the very beginning.

But at the same time, this humanoid dragon was also carrying a more dangerous air than its previous form. Moreover, it was now more mobile compared to earlier, so Shin could no longer harass it, unlike the previous round.

Alice knew that they were currently facing a predicament this time, so she was planning to use her domain and berserk spells to enhance their chances.

But as if Shin had read her thoughts, he suddenly said. "You save those cards when you enter the dungeon. We still don't know what kind of dangers will greet you inside, so it is better to save as many cards as possible."

"Moreover... I still haven't shown all my cards yet," he added as he decided to use more of his trump cards.

'Mark of Eclipse: Metamorphosis – Decent of the Fallen God'

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Right after activating this transcendent berserk skill, all the skills attached to the [Nephilim's Gemini Mask] that were still on cooldown became available once again.

It was the same for the skills attached to [Yamato] as they activated one after another while Shin was undergoing his transformation.

The 'Monochrome Field', which was also about to end its duration, also took some changes. Its range and effects were greatly enhanced, matching all the changes that Shin was undergoing.

With an expressionless mask covering his face, a crown made of energies behind his head, and the wings of a High Nephilim fully spread on his back, Shin was releasing a pressure that was even stronger than the green dragon itself.

The green dragon also sensed the difference between Shin and itself, making it very wary of this enemy.

But at the same time, it also became very enraged!

The blood flowing on its body was from the apex predator of this world. It was a transcendent being that could overlook everything in front of it!

Encounter a being on the same level as itself was unacceptable!

Sensing fear from such a creature was unforgivable!

Roar!

Provoked, the green dragon adjusted its stance while spreading its wings wide!

Bang!

It then disappeared and threw itself at Shin, planning to rip this poser into shreds.

Shin, who just finished his metamorphosis, squatted his hips and prepared to launch himself forward.

But before that, he said to Alice. "The same as earlier. Try to keep up with me with your spells. We are going to finish this 'lizardman' within five minutes."

He said five minutes because that was how long he could maintain his current form with his current mental strength.

If it was his peak, then he would have no problem maintaining this form for a little longer. The problem was he was too mentally exhausted after the recent battles that they went through, especially their brief encounter with Leviathan and Belphegor.

Because of this, he was not in a good form to use this 'Metamorphosis' for an extended period, especially when he also had to maintain the 'Reality Manifestation' and 'Elemental Spirit Possession' at the same time.

Along with the new trick that he had picked up from Alice, the current consumption of his mental strength and concentration was way beyond what his current self could keep up.

Five minutes was all they had on their hands.

Bang!

He then disappeared from his spot and reappeared a couple of meters away from the charging green dragon. He briefly paused and adjusted his position in the air before swiftly swinging the [Yamato] with all his might.

Crackle! Crackle!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: (Modified) First Movement – Lightning Collapse'

Swoosh!

The space seemed to have been split in half as the sword covered with black-and-white lighting slashed down at the green dragon.

Bang!

There was also a flash of lightning that fell from the sky and hit the [Yamato], seemingly reinforcing its powers, and strongly enhancing the effects of the strike.

The green dragon that was at the receiving end of this strike instantly recognized the power of the opposing side. It did not dare to underestimate it and put all its strength on its arms as it swung its claws upwards while it was being reinforced by the surrounding elements.

Roar!

Boom!

A powerful explosion quickly erupted as the two sides collided.

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Swoosh!

Shin was sent flying into the air as the impact of the collision was too strong for his body to withstand. He spun, rolled, and flipped multiple times in the air to relieve the strong impact that he had received before spreading his wings to stop himself from moving further away.

Shin was barely able to survive that collision as his health bar was only left with slightly over a quarter of health. He quickly used his 'Sacred Light' elemental skill to heal himself back to full along with a health potion.

On the ground, the green dragon remained standing in its previous spot, seemingly unaffected by the previous clash.

But that was only what could be seen on the surface. But in truth, this green dragon also suffered quite a decent damage from the previous clash.

Thanks to its tough defenses and strong regeneration, it was barely able to keep itself in a decent form.

But how could Shin and Alice let it recover that easily? They quickly took action when the green dragon was trying to heal itself.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Alice bombarded the green dragon with a series of spells such as lightning spheres, ice spears, and wind cutters to prevent it from recovering itself.

She took advantage that the green dragon was still trying to lessen the tremors within its body that it had gotten from the previous clash against Shin.

Seeing the incoming spells, the green dragon controlled the surrounding trees and plants to form a thick and sturdy wall in front of it.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

As the spells bombarded the wall made of thick roots of the trees and vines of the surrounding plants, spikes of wooded material sprouted from the ground one after another before flying toward Alice.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Their speed was so fast that Alice could not help but stop casting her spells and use 'Blink' to escape their range.

But these wooded spikes seemed to have a mind of their own as they took a sharp turn during their flight and chased after her.

At the same time, thick vines suddenly appeared at the spot where she was supposed to land. They wrapped themselves on her feet, locking her in place and preventing her from going anywhere.

She could easily cut them with her wind magic, but that brief moment was more than enough for the sharp wooden spikes to catch up to her.

Seeing that Alice was in danger, Shin changed his course in the air. Instead of charging toward the green dragon, he flew to intercept the wooden spikes.

Swoosh!

Crackle! Crackle!

Lighting danced around his body during his flight, leaving an electric trail in the air.

Bang!

He then descended to the ground like a flash of lightning falling from the sky. A thunderclap erupted along with an electric shockwave that spread in every direction and destroyed the wooden spikes.

Shin looked like a thunder god that fell from the sky as he was surrounded by a storm of lightning.

Boom!

After that, he stomped on the ground, exploding with another lightning storm that wreaked havoc in the surroundings and further destroyed the wooden spikes and vines that were trying to approach them.

'Self-Created Technique: Thunderclap Step'

With all of this, Alice finally had the time to set up a solid defense so that she could fire her spells without any concerns, and she could retreat if needed.

Sensing the movements of mana behind him, Shin kicked the ground and flapped his wings to charge forward.

Seeing Shin charging at it, the green dragon spread its wings wide along with a deafening roar.

Roar!

It then dived forward clashing against Shin in an intense melee, exploding with a series of shockwaves in every collision.

With Alice firing a series of spells in the distance like a machine gun, a chaotic storm of magic and shockwaves wreaked in the entire place, destroying everything in the surroundings.

Chapter 1417: Fighting a Green Dragon (Part 3)

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Boom! Boom! Boom!

The next three minutes of battle felt like three days for Shin and Alice as they tried to hold themselves against the green dragon.

The battle surpassed their imagination as they put all their focus into it.

The physical prowess of the green dragon was so high that each of its attacks could bring out a very destructive power. The explosion of every punch, kick, and claw strike that the green dragon threw could rival large-scale spells whenever they erupted.

But given Shin's current state, he was able to rival that level of destructiveness. Every time he switched his sword along with the possession that each form had, an unpredictable outcome always came out for every collision of the two.

Shin was able to showcase the final product of the unification of every ability he had in this battle. The 'Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship' reached an unprecedented level after the enhancements of his abilities.

The sword forms of the 'Mondi's Style' empowered by the 'Elemental Spirit Possessions' along with the enhancements of the 'Elemental Unification', 'Demonic Telekinesis', and a variety of sword principles became an unstoppable storm that rained down at his opponent.

Executing every sword technique of his 'Perfected Four Symbol Scripture' reached a whole other level under all these conditions. When he added the sword movements and quick-draw attacks of the 'Jade Kirin Scripture' in the mix, the complexity of his attacks became completely unpredictable.

Shin's assault had become a storm of sword techniques and elemental attacks that continuously bombarded the green dragon with irregular patterns.

No matter how powerful and destructive the attacks of the green dragon, Shin would always have a suitable response to them, coming from the variety of techniques under his arsenal.

Alice, who was supporting him in the distance, could not help but become amazed by this sight. She was completely impressed with his style of battle. She felt that she would not be able to hold herself against Shin that well if she was on the receiving end of this onslaught.

Unless she used everything she had, revealing all her cards in the battle, she never hoped that she would be able to match Shin.

But at the same time, she was also confident of her battle prowess. She had her own area of expertise, which was completely different from Shin. So long as she did not let herself get swept by his momentum, she would be able to hold her ground quite well.

She could also drag the battle with her kiting techniques, which was the main skill that a mage-class player such as herself had.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Seeing that Shin was showcasing such battle prowess, Alice's competitiveness was aroused and showed what she could do.

She showcased her unparalleled control over the elements and her skillful display when casting her spells. She also revealed that her control over the spells was so high that she could keep multiple high-level spells at the same time.

She could also fire those spells at the green dragon with great accuracy, barely dodging Shin, who was fighting on the frontline, before landing on the body of her target.

She avoided using any large-scale spells that could catch Shin in the aftermath. She only focused on single-target spells or the ones that could not affect the movements of her partner.

Whenever there was a decent space between Shin and the green dragon, after they separated from each other, Alice would always throw a powerful spell with a large area of effect before Shin jumped into action once again.

As the battle progressed, Shin and Alice became familiar with each other and did not have to actively communicate with each other whenever they had to attack. They naturally knew when to attack and hold their hands.

Whenever Shin advanced, Alice would keep her pace under control. But if Shin took a step back and retreated to catch his breath, Alice would increase her pace promptly, bombarding the green dragon with a series of spells to suppress it.

The two had built a tacit understanding during the battle, making it easier to fight the green dragon.

But the time limit was running out and the green dragon was doing a good job at holding its ground.

It even summoned a wooden staff that was made of the roots of the surrounding trees along with the pure Nature Element in the form of luminescent vines.

This staff was its medium to cast a nature-type magic spell to counter Alice's spells and their firepower. It was also a special weapon that it used to confront Shin in the melee battle, using a set of strange and unique martial movements that were able to match Shin's swordsmanship and martial prowess.

At the same time, it was also using a weird application of magic martial arts that was giving Shin some trouble. But he later realized that it was because of the glittering powers that its butterfly wings were releasing.

This powder possessed some hallucinating effects that were messing up with Shin's senses. If not for his current state, the 'Decent of the Fallen God', nullifying most of its effects, then he would most likely get trapped into the illusion that these powers produced.

This gave Shin more reason to finish this battle as soon as they could.

Understanding their current position, Shin quickly disengaged from the battle, and Alice took a signal and increased her firepower to prevent the green dragon from catching up to him.

Shin could already feel the head-splitting headache, which indicated that his time for keeping the transcendent berserk skill was also running out.

Looking at the health bar of the green that they had ground until it was only a million left after all their hard work, Shin held the [Yamato] in both of his hands and prepared for his final move.

Focusing his mind, he channeled a large amount of mana on the sword, making the Primordial Lightning dance intensely around it before covering his entire body.

Crackle! Crackle!

As the black-and-white lightning danced around him, his eyes shone with a gentle glow as he activated his True Sight Skill to read the movements of the green dragon.

When the bombardment of Alice's spells finally stopped, the green dragon finally revealed itself. It wore a fully enraged expression as it raised its head and looked at the air where Shin was located.

Roar!

It released a deafening roar as it expanded its chest outwards while pulling its arms back. The wings on its back spread wide while a storm of energy gathered in front of its mouth. The raging mana in the surroundings was sucked into a spherical energy that was filled with the densest mana possible.

Shin was quite familiar with this scene as he encountered multiple instances of it already.

'Green Dragon's Breath: Nature's Wrath'

A jade beam of light flew from the green dragon's mouth and headed straight toward Shin, who was still accumulating his energy in the air.

This beam of light looked like a storm of energy that carried the power of nature. There was even a storm of leaves, vines, and wooden material mixed in it as it headed toward its target while swirling around each other like a raging tornado.

Watching the incoming energy beam from the air, Shin knew that his current strength was still not enough to contend against it.

With that, he used one of his special skills to increase the power of this attack.

'Unique Special Skill: Conversion – VIT to INT'

He then tightened his grip over his sword before swinging it down with all his might.

Swoosh!

His arms seemed to have turned into blurs due to how fast his attack was. The [Yamato] seemed to have also disappeared, leaving only a lighting trial on its path.

Bang!

At the same time, a huge crescent of energy made of black-and-white lightning flew out from that sword strike and headed to confront the dragon's breath with astonishing speed.

Swoosh!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Seventh Movement (Lightning) – Thunder Eclipse'

Boom!

As the two opposing powers clashed midair, a devastating explosion erupted along with a destructive shockwave that flew in every direction, sending powerful ripples in the air and intense tremors on the ground.

Swoosh!

Amid the raging storm of chaotic mana in the air, a crescent light flew out of it and broke through the cloud of smoke that the explosion had created.

It was a much smaller version of the previous 'Thunder Eclipse' that Shin had thrown since it had exhausted a huge amount of energy in the previous collision. It had also lost a great amount of its momentum, but it was still destructive enough to deal devastating damage when it landed on its target.

This residual energy from the previous attack flew straight at the green dragon, which was still in the middle of maintaining its posture from its previous action.

Bang!

(-602,523)

The lightning crescent landed cleanly on the green dragon, dealing a huge amount of damage which was over half of its remaining health.

The health bar of the green dragon dropped by a huge chunk, which also reflected the damage that it suffered. There was also a huge and grievous diagonal wound across its face and body, which showed how strong the previous attack was despite losing most of its power.

But the green dragon was still standing strong and was about to enter a total berserk pace. Its body released a crimson energy while rune after rune appeared on the surface of its scales, indicating that it was not a simple berserk.

But how could Shin and Alice let this dragon undergo such changes when they were already about to kill it, especially when their time was already running out?

Alice, who was standing in the distance, was never idle either. She was already preparing one of her most advanced spells when Shin and the green dragon were preparing for their earlier clash.

"With the authority that is granted to me by the Moon Goddess Elune, I command the elements to heed my call!" she was chanting a long series of elven prayers while holding her Elemental Scepter with both of her hands and placing it in front of her.

When she opened her eyes once again, a blinding light came out from them. She then chanted out the final phrases of her prayers. "From the might of the great storm and the first flood!"

'Dance of the Universe: Wrath of the Storm'

Boom!

The already chaotic weather due to the raging storm within the mountain range had become even more devastating right after her words fell.

There was a vortex of energy that appeared above the green dragon as the densest mana from the elements of wind, lightning, and water converged into one and formed a giant tornado.

A strong wind blew and dragged everything in its path, the destructive lightning danced in the sky like giant serpents, and the continuous downpour of rain became even more violent and formed a huge tide in the sky.

A moment later, the tornado made of these three elements fell and struck the green dragon, which was in the middle of a berserk state.

Even if its powers, defenses, and regenerative abilities reached another level in this state, it still could not match the might of the tornado that was repeatedly striking it down.

Boom!

The bombardment of her spell lasted for quite a while, giving Shin enough time to recover himself. He watched the scene from a safe distance and realized that the destructiveness of a mage's spell was still unrivaled on the battlefield.

Even if warriors had their respective means to rival this kind of power, the fact that magic-related classes were still the kings and queens of destruction.

A few moments later, the destructive spell finally ended, revealing the huge and lifeless body of the green dragon, which returned to its original form.

The system also confirmed the death of the green dragon, so Shin and Alice did not have to worry that it was just some act to catch them off guard.

At the same time, there was also a huge magic circle, covering dozens of meters of range, that appeared and illuminated the entire place.

It lasted for a couple of seconds before crumbling into specks of light. It had the appearance of a shattering glass before slowly dissipating in the air.

The two watched the dreamy scene for a couple of moments before snapping out of their daze. There was also the sudden appearance of the portal that caught their attention immediately after.

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Alice looked at it for a moment before turning to Shin. She was about to say something when the latter waved his hand and said in a casual tone. "Forget it. Just finish your quest so that we can leave here."

"Leave the corpse of the green dragon to me and the horde of monsters later. I will deal with them with the help of my Reaper's Retainers. It will be a piece of cake," he added as he walked towards the huge dragon's corpse.

Alice stared at his back for a moment before biting her lower lip and turning around. She gave him one last glance before entering the portal that would lead her to the instance dungeon.

In the meantime, Shin sighed in relief after sensing that she finally left. He recollected himself before looking at the body of the green dragon in front of him.

He then took a bunch of gathering tools, preparing to harvest as many materials from this corpse as possible.

His gathering skills were already at the Master Rank, so he was more than qualified to dissect the corpse of this green dragon and gather the materials from it.

At the same time, he also summoned all his Elemental Spirit Companions to guard the place, to make sure that there were no accidents would happen.

It took him quite a while to gather all the materials from the corpse of the green dragon from its scales up to its flesh and down to its bones.

He then looked at the Dragon Heart that he had taken out from the corpse while there were buckets containing the blood of the dragon beside his feet. "This sure is different from what I have expected."

He was currently holding a jade-like object as big as an adult's head while emitting a gentle flow of mana. The mana in the surroundings seemed to have been attracted to it as they naturally gathered toward it.

It was said that a dragon's heart was no different from a cluster of energy containing the purest and densest mana, which would turn into a huge 'Mana Core' after being harvested from the dragon's body.

It was also the reason why it was called the 'Dragon Core' within this world.

Shin was busy admiring the 'Dragon Core' when Solus and Hanzo walked over to him while carrying two objects.

"It seems like your luck is rather good today, kiddo," said Hanzo with a meaningful smile.

Shin looked at them and was about to say something when he suddenly saw what they were holding. The words that he wanted to say were suddenly stuck in his throat as his mouth remained agape while he was looking at the objects in their hands.

It took him quite a while to recover composure, but he could only say afterward, "Where the hell did you get those?"

He could not believe what he was seeing, making him unable to take away his eyes from Solus and Hanzo.

Chapter 1418: An Unexpected Bonus

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Dragons had a greedy nature, and they had the hobby of collecting everything. They were putting all their trophies of war and accumulated wealth in their nest, creating the legendary treasure trove of the dragons.

In this secluded place with a harsh environment, where there were very limited resources that a dragon could get. Yet it still managed to build its treasure trove with a variety of 'treasures'.

What Shin was seeing right now were those trophies and treasures that the green dragon had collected during its stay in this place.

There were not many of them in terms of quantity, but there was still a huge number of Mana Cores, particularly Elemental and Beast Cores of nature elements. Moreover, he could tell that all of them were of high quality given the dense and pure mana that they were emitting.

It was not his first time seeing such a large quantity of mana cores since he had a similar experience during his time in the Starry Spear Mountain Forest when hunting a suitable Mana Core for Astaroth, who was on the verge of a breakthrough at that time.

Regardless, these were still treasures given the current stage of the game. It would be a great help for them since these special materials seemed to have a special role in the future.

After taking his off from Hanzo, Shin turned to Solus, who was carrying a huge, elongated object in her arms. It was an oversized rock filled with overgrown moss at first glance, but upon closer inspection, he realized that it was not the case.

Then, when he used his True Sight on the object, his eyes suddenly turned wide and pointed at it while looking at Solus. "This... Isn't this a dragon egg? A Green Dragon Egg to be exact!"

Solus smiled at him as she nodded in confirmation. "That is right, my liege. This is the egg of the mutated dragon that you have defeated. It was also on the verge of hatching before, but due to the current conditions of this place, particularly the harsh weather, it was unable to fully break free from its shell."

She paused for a moment before further explaining. "Because it is lacking in nutrients (suitable mana infusion), it is unable to grow the way it supposed to be. But because of the blessings of the Spirit King of Earth and Nature, it can maintain its life."

"If not for the green dragon maintaining it with the powers of the formation and the Nature Elemental Cores on its nest along with the blessings that it has gotten from Spirit Queen Gaia, then this poor child must have already died ages ago."

"This is also one of the reasons why the green dragon is greatly weakened," she added.

"Oh~!" Shin nodded his understanding before carefully taking the dragon egg from Solus' arms. He observed it closely before asking. "Do you think it is still possible for this little dragon to survive?"

Hanzo was the one to answer while stroking his beard. "This child can still survive for a few days given the vitality that the green dragon has given it. But now that its parent is already dead and the formation supporting it has already collapsed, I don't think that it will live that long."

"That is unless it breaks free from its shell and successfully hatches," he added as he also looked at the dragon egg.

Shin knitted his brows as he started considering what do to with this dragon egg. The best choice that he could think of was to consult Arthur as that dragon fanatic was an expert in this area.

He could even give it to this brother of his and that guy would love it. After all, this was a dragon pet that they were talking about.

Since Shin could possess two pets due to his special title, he doubted that Arthur did not have something similar, especially when he was an expert when it came to matters about dragons.

The problem was the comments that Solus and Hanzo had given him. Given their words, Shin could vaguely guess that it would be hard to hatch this little dragon due to its special condition.

The normal hatching process would not be enough to help it break free from its shell.

Shin was about to contact Arthur when Hanzo said something that intrigued him. "It is not hard for it to survive, kiddo. It just you have to prepare quite a few things."

He paused for a moment before adding. "And you have already possessed quite a few of them."

Shin curiously turned to Hanzo, waiting for the old spirit to continue.

Hanzo thought for a moment before asking. "Do you remember the first time you met this fallen goddess?"

Solus, who was standing beside him, threw a sharp glare as she did not like being addressed as the fallen goddess. The tone that Hanzo had used irked her as well, so she threw a fierce glare at him.

Hanzo ignored her glares as he continued. "You must also remember the time when those two kittens have transformed from being ordinary pets into Elemental Spirits."

Hearing this, Shin seemed to have realized something and excitedly asked. "You mean to say that this little guy can also undergo such a method?"

Solus also understood this and was quite familiar with it as well, so she was the one to answer. "This poor child has already passed the right age of hatching, so for it to have enough strength to break free from its shell, you have to prepare the purest mana with the element that complements it."

"Its case was a little different from Blackie and Whitie, so the method also had to be a little different. Moreover, the evolution of those two happened to take place during my transformation into an Elemental Spirit as well, so the residual mana from my evolution and the special cores that you have gotten at that time greatly help them."

"At the same time, everything also took place on my special temple, which is one of the major reasons why their evolution is successful."

"In order to recreate such a situation, you have to prepare a couple of things, my liege."

"For this poor child to undergo the same ceremony, you must first have a large quantity of mana that will support its evolution. Then you must prepare a place that can hold such a storm of dense mana and prevent it from leaking out during the entire ceremony."

"This egg must bathe in that place with the Nature Elemental Mana for days, a whole month if possible so that it could naturally hatch. Then it will go a baptism of the Nature Element, turning it into a true child of nature that will carry the densest and purest mana possible."

Shin fell into deep thought before his eyes fell on the huge number of Mana Cores that Solus and Hanzo had found. He could already guess that these two wanted him to use these Mana Cores for the said ceremony.

As for the suitable place that they could use for the two ceremonies, he could only think of a single answer. It must be the independent world fragment that he had, the Reaper's Realm, which also happened to be the rebirthing place of his Elemental Spirits.

He was slightly hesitating since this dragon egg could become an elemental dragon which would greatly match Arthur's style compared to him.

He was not sure if Arthur would have the same place as the Reaper's Realm, but he was confident that this brother of his must have a method of his own.

On the flip side, Shin could also take advantage of this situation to acquire another Elemental Spirit, especially when it was one of the elements that he needed.

The five innate attributes that he needed to awaken included the element of wood, which was a sub-element of Nature that the green dragons governed.

He could use this opportunity to explore the said element to awaken another attribute in the real world, which would put him a step closer to achieving his ideal attribute and creating his version of 'Spiritual Force'.

All things considered; the obvious answer was already laid in front of Shin. There was no need to put more thought into it.

With a helpless sigh, he could only acknowledge it. "Arthur will surely sulk for quite a while if he learned about this. Fortunately, it will take a long time before this little guy truly becomes my next Reaper's Retainer."

"Maybe, these dragon's materials will do a little work to comfort him," Shin wanted to gift the materials that he had gathered from the corpse of the dragon to Arthur, but before he could complete those thoughts, he heard Solus' next words.

"My Liege, I am afraid that it is not possible. We will be needing those materials to create a suitable altar within the Reaper's Realm to assist the dragon egg."

"It will be hard to find a suitable medium that we can use for the main components of the altar that will complement the dragon egg due to the absence of Nature Element in that world fragment."

"There is no better medium for it than the materials that you have, my liege," she added.

Shin stared at her blankly after hearing those words. He blinked repeatedly as he tried to process her words before slowly nodding her head.

He then closed his eyes while 'asking' for the 'forgiveness' from Arthur. 'My dear brother, please don't blame for hogging all the good stuff myself. Just blame your bad luck for it.'

After a silent prayer in his heart, he kept everything inside his inventory space aside from the dragon egg since it could not be kept in such a place due to its sensitive situation.

He started at it for a couple of moments before turning to the veteran spirits. "How long do you think this guy will hold out?"

"A couple of days to a whole week will not be a problem, but it is better to send it to your independent realm as soon as possible," answered Hanzo after careful consideration.

Shin nodded his head before taking out a huge backpack from his inventory and putting the dragon egg on it.

This item was one of the miscellaneous items that Harmony had introduced to him. It was a magic item that could be used as some sort of tactical bag, but he never had the chance to use it. After all, with the inventory space that the players had, such an item was pretty much useless.

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But there were also some cases where players had to carry some special items that could not be kept in their inventory bag, particularly those quest items. There were also those super-large or large-quality materials; one example was those mana crystals that the Hand of Midas had harvested in the Blind Abyss Empire or those minerals in the Starry Spears Mountain Forest.

"I never thought that there would be a day that I would be using such a 'useless' item," he mumbled as he hung the backpack containing the dragon egg on his back.

He then fastened it to make sure that it would not move too much before executing a couple of moves with his sword. After confirming that it did not interfere with his movement that much, he needed his head before sheathing the sword.

He still had to deal with the upcoming monster horde that would be attacking this place, so he could not enter the Reaper's Realm anytime soon to transport the dragon egg.

There was also his quest that he needed to submit to Commander Taiga of the Storm Fortress, so he could not leave right now.

He was planning to deal with all these first before heading to the independent world fragment and setting up the altar.

Rumble!

Right after he finished his preparations, intense tremors suddenly shook the place, indicating that the first wave of the horde was about to arrive.

His elemental spirits had already cleared the area earlier, so there was no need to move yet. But since the final hurdle was about to arrive, he had to wrap this up as soon as possible so that he could finally rest.

He was also hoping that Alice's time in the dungeon would go smoothly so that he did not have to deal with these monsters that long.

"Alright, it is time to work. You guys can head over to your position and prepare."

Right after he issued the order, his Elemental Spirits Companions quite excitedly headed over to their respective spots, waiting for the poor monsters to come to their deaths.

Chapter 1419: An Unexpected Bonus (Part 2)

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Within the instant dungeon, Alice encountered a series of puzzles that needed to be solved. Most of them were simple ones, which also concerned her in-game procession, particularly about Elemental Beings.

She was able to answer most of the tricky questions and puzzles regarding them, but she encountered a few problems when it reached the middle stages of the dungeon. In this stage, she had to solve a series of puzzles written in elven runes, which varied from ancient to modern ones.

She had to solve a series of magic sequences with missing parts, where she had to find the right answer within a set amount of time. The questions started in the most basic sequences, where they focused on the regular elven runes that were familiar to most of the players.

But it later became more difficult, especially when the next magic sequences required some ancient and long-forgotten runes, which she was not familiar with.

Moreover, her little time was quite short, making it hard to complete each sequence.

At first, she thought that it was some random puzzles that she just needed to solve, but she later realized that these magic sequences were from a set of elven spells that varied from the most basic ones up to the advanced ones, then to modified ones.

She realized that these puzzles were records of a skilled elven researcher, who loved experimenting with elven magic, particularly in spirit and elemental magics.

She realized that these puzzles were not only a test to find if she could free the Earth Spirit Queen Gaia, but also meant to find a suitable successor that would inherit their legacy.

It was a test for an inheritance of a fallen elf magic researcher.

When she realized this, she slowed down her pace and took her time solving each of the magic sequences as well as studying each rune that she encountered.

It was at this moment that she also realized that she was inside a special dungeon where the time difference between here and the outside world flowed differently.

She also noticed that the timer for the spouting of the 'Flora of Death' had 'slowed' down by a great margin, so she did not have to be hasty.

With that, her mind entered a study mode, where she was constantly learning and absorbing all the knowledge and purpose of each rune and magic sequence that she encountered.

When she was done with the basic, intermediate, and advanced sequences, which also reflected the magic spells that they represented, and learned all the ancient, modern, and modified runes, she was struck by a sudden eureka.

Then knowledge from ancient times and modern ages came out of nowhere and flooded inside her head while a series of memories flashed in front of her eyes.

At the end of everything, she also gained some insights regarding spirit and elemental magic along with the more advanced set of magic circles that she had seen for the first time.

She knew that she could not cast these powerful spells with her current strength and level, but she could learn quite a lot from studying them.

A few moments later, after she successfully absorbed all the knowledge and insights that were flooding inside her head and flashing in front of her eyes, a sudden notification from the system woke her up.

Ding

System: Congratulations! You have learned the lost knowledge of the forgotten hero of elves, the Philosopher Andrea, the Half-Elf Half-Human Sage of the Repelling Era!

System: You have successfully inherited the Legacy left behind by the great philosopher.

System: You have learned the 'Sorcerer's Magic Runes'.

Ding

System: Congratulations! You have acquired the Secondary Combat Class: Sorceress of the Origin Runes!

System: You have acquired the Legacy Item: 'Grimoire of Sorcery'.

...

Alice slowly opened her eyes after hearing those notifications. Then she was suddenly greeted by a glowing book floating in front of her, which was continuously releasing a pulsing light that was illuminating the entire place.

The book had an exquisite design that seemed to be a combination of ancient and modern engravings. There was also a series of magic sequences engraved on the steel cover in an overlapping manner. Each magic sequence was glowing alternatingly, making them distinguishable from each other.

At the center of the book, there was a magic circle at the center of the book cover that looked a little simple compared to the rest of the design. But upon closer inspection, the complexity of this magic circle would be revealed to the eyes of an expert.

The magic circle was composed of multiple runes that varied from ancient times, modern ages, and the personal insight of the previous owner, which were also a set of modified runes.

This magic circle was no different from an advanced magic formation. It could even be considered as a magic formation compressed into a basic magic circle.

There were also eight sockets on different parts of the magic circle, dividing it into equal parts. Alcie could even see that the magic sequence containing these parts was already enough to form a powerful advanced spell, so she could not imagine how powerful the complete magic circle itself was.

Each socket had different sizes and shapes, seemingly indicating that different kinds of objects could be put in them, particularly special gems.

There was also a round socket situated at the center of this magic circle, which was also the center of the book cover. Its size was a little larger than the rest and it seemed to indicate that the gem required for it was slightly special.

She stared at it for a couple of moments before stretching her left hand to grab it. The moment her hands touched the book, there seemed to be a connection being built between them. Stay connected with m-v l|e'-NovelBin.net

This Sorcerer's Grimoire seemed to have become connected with her soul.

The process lasted for quite a while until the grimoire fully integrated itself with her. She then felt that something within her changed right after the process ended. Her mind became much sharper while her focus became steadier and firmer.

Under these conditions, she felt that she could cast all basic spells with brief thought and any intermediate spells with a small gesture of her hand. As for advanced spells, simple chants would be more than enough to cast them.

She no longer needed to chant a long set of phrases to cast most of her advanced spells aside from those most advanced spells just like the one that she had used to end the Green Dragon earlier, which required a lot of concentration and great mana control to cast.

While she was trying to digest everything inside her head, she suddenly sensed a gaze observing her from the dark.

Casting her gaze toward the source of the gaze, she saw a beautiful woman with long and deep green hair suspended in the air with her arms wrapped with iron chains that had ancient runes engraved on them.

This woman had a deadly figure yet was also quite muscular with properly toned muscles across her body. She was wearing something around her busty chest that seemed to have been made of black clay molded into armor.

There were also earthen gauntlets on each of their hands that extended to her forearms; the material seemed to be the same as the armor protecting her chest. A long and thick mantle was wrapped around her waist with the length reaching her knees while an earthen set of combat boots covered her feet.

The black clay molded into a set of armor was filled with ancient engravings while the mantle seemed to have been made of a huge leaf of an ancient tree.

Alice did not need to use her observation skills to know who this person was, especially when the dense element of nature surrounded her.

The Nature Elemental Mana in the surroundings were gathering toward this woman, seemingly attracted to her naturally or showing their respect toward her greatly. This alone was more than enough to confirm her identity.

At this point, before Alice could even say anything, the three elemental spirits in the form of specks of light behind her suddenly took the initiative to transform into their respective humanoid forms and paid their respects to her.

"Spirit Queen Gaia."

Even if they were as powerful as her in their peak forms, they still humbly showed their respect to the sovereign who had absolute authority over elements.

Gaia took away her gaze from Alice before turning to the three and nodding at them. She smiled gently as she greeted them. "It seems like I have been sealed in this place for a very long time for such powerful Elementals to emerge."

"We are known as the Storm Brothers during our active time," said Fūjin before pointing to himself, then to Raijin. "I'm known to this realm as the Wind God Fūjin while this brother is called Lightning God Raijin."

"I am Suijin, great queen of earth and nature," said Suijin as she introduced herself.

After listening to them, Gaia turned back to Alice and smiled full of care and love. "How about you, child of Elune? What is your name?"

Alice was slightly taken aback at how Gaia had addressed her. But she still introduced herself, nevertheless. "I-I'm... I'm Charlotte." – her in-game person more specifically.

Rumble!

While they were talking, intense tremors suddenly shook the entire place, disturbing them.

The Elemental Spirits stood firmly as they looked at the surroundings while fragments of rocks started falling toward the ground.

Alice, on the other hand, was having a hard time keeping her balance with the intense shaking. She decided to use a levitation spell to separate herself from the ground and floated in the air.

"It seems like that demonic seed from Hell is already on the verge of sprouting," commented Gaia as she was clear about the current situation, which was why she remained calm.

She then turned to Alice and said with an amiable smile. "Child of Elune, you already know what to do."

Alice nodded her head as she also realized that some of the runes and magic sequences were similar to the ones that were engraved on the iron chains wrapped on the arms of Gaia.

She also remembered what they were for, so she immediately understood that the legacy that she just got earlier had something to do with this seal – or at least some part of it, particularly those modified ones.

If her guess was right, then the legacy that she had gotten was some sort of research about these ancient runes or a study of them. It might be to free Gaia from these iron chains or something else.

She did not know how it ended, or what happened to Philosopher Andrea. But she knew that whatever research or study it was, it bore a positive result as she had already received the final products. One of them was the insights and knowledge about those runes while the other was the grimoire.

However, they still did not save Gaia in the end. Something might have happened in between that led to such a result or saving Gaia had never been their purpose.

Setting that thought aside, Alice quickly went to work.

While Alice was busy inside the instance dungeon, a literal 'war' was currently happening outside, where Shin and his Reaper's Retainers were currently fighting.

A horde of crazy monsters were charging at them as they protected the entrance of the dungeon.

These monsters were both from the ones that were corrupted by the demonic seed of the 'Flora of Death' and the mutated ones that were influenced by Gaia and lost their minds due to the aftereffects of the deaths of the four guardian monsters.

The guardian monsters were the centers of the sealing formation that was trapping Gaia. That was the main role that they had within this mountain range. But aside from that, they also served as leashes that kept all the powerful monsters residing within the region under control.

Now that the four guardian monsters were dead, these powerful monsters started running toward the dungeon gate. They could sense that the source that was granting them mutation was coming from there, so they wanted to get it for themselves.

Fortunately, these monsters were not strong enough to make Shin and his Reaper's Retainers helpless, so aside from a large number of the horde, they did not have that many problems.

On the brighter side, he was able to loot quite a lot of Mana Cores, both Elemental and Beast Cores alike, after killing a large number of high-level and high-rank monsters from the horde – most of them were even of Nature Element that he would need for the hatching and conversion of the green dragon egg in his possession.

Boom!

After quite a while, a mana storm suddenly erupted behind Shin and the others, where the dungeon entrance was located.

Shin did not need to turn his head around to know what had happened. But he was quite relieved that they did not have to hold against this monster horde any longer as he was already reaching his limit after the series of battles he went through.

"I guess it is finally time to relax a little."

Chapter 1420: Cleared!

.....

Shin looked at Alice and instantly noticed that something was different from her. She still had the same appearance, but the aura that she was emitting was completely different from what she had before entering the dungeon.

He knew that it was not because of the acquisition of the new elemental spirit, but because of something different. Her aura and demeanor were way stronger than before. She now carried a mysterious air around her.

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He then suddenly noticed the mysterious book that she was carrying in her left hand. A single glance at it was enough for Shin to realize that it was no ordinary item. He could tell that it must be an inheritance item or something similar.

"I guess she also gets an unexpected bonus inside that dungeon," he mumbled as he walked over to her and greeted her. "It looks like everything goes well. What is our next plan then?"

Alice exhaled deeply as her feet touched the ground. Keeping the Levitation Spell active for quite a while was quite exhausting for her. She was not sure how much time had passed outside, but she felt that she had been unsealing the iron chains restraining Gaia for a very long time while keeping herself floating at the same time to avoid being distracted by the intense tremors within the dungeon.

It took her quite a lot of concentration to keep her mind sharp while unsealing the sealing runes imbued with the iron chains.

But thanks to that, she became more familiar with the runes that she had learned from her new legacy skill. It was like having a practical test after a long session of studying.

Recovering herself, she turned at Shin and smiled. "It is fine. The Quest Scenario has already been triggered, so I will have a lot of bonuses when facing the demonic seed. My elemental spirit companions will also help me with their boosted state, so I will be fine."

"You can go ahead and submit your quest now. It will also be a part of the Quest Scenario if things go wrong. The commander of the Storm Fortress will be the last line of defense and will deal with the finishing blow to the 'Flora of Death' if it successfully sprouted."

She then paused and looked at her Elementals before saying. "Although, I doubt that he will get the chance since these guys are too eager to show their true power. It has been a while since they have returned to their peak forms – even if it is only temporary."

Shin stared at her for a few moments before nodding his head. "I see. Then I'll leave it to you."

Alice smiled under her veil and said. "You can count on me."

After that, she suddenly floated in the air before flying in a certain direction.

Swoosh!

It only took her an instant to disappear from Shin's vision.

Shin stared in the direction where she flew, sensing that there was a huge cluster of Demonic Aura coming from there. He stood still for a while before turning around and sweeping his gaze at the surroundings.

The monster horde had already stopped since the dungeon entrance had already disappeared. The monsters scattered and went back to their respective nests while the stray ones started fighting against the dark monsters that were corrupted by the demonic seed.

After cleaning the battlefield one last time, harvesting all the Mana Cores from the bodies of the monsters, and gathering the rare materials that he could get, he went toward the Storm Fortress to finally submit his quest.

Not long after, Shin returned to the Storm Fortress and reported everything that he had investigated to Commander Taiga. He did not miss any details and even reported his encounter with the members of the Pandemonium Descendants, addressing them as believers of Demonic Churches.

Commander Taiga was silent for quite a while after listening to everything that Shin had reported. He stroked his chin as he fell in deep thought before turning to Shin. "I see. I understand. It seems like we have to increase our defenses to prevent any unexpected ambush from those filthy people of Demonic Churches."

He then paused and said in a grave tone. "But regarding your suspicion about the Dark Could Kingdom, I am afraid that I can't help you with that. You have more concrete and irrefutable evidence before I can help you present it to the Imperial Court."

Shin smiled under his mask as he nodded in understanding. "Don't worry, Commander Taiga. That is exactly my plan for coming here. I plan on collecting more evidence against those guys."

"This involves diplomatic and national conflict after all, so we have to be discreet on our decisions," he added.

Commander Taiga nodded his head and said. "Don't worry. I will do everything I can to support you, Sir Envoy."

Shin nodded once again as he said. "I can never be thankful, Commander Taiga."

Ding

At the same time, Shin had also received a notification from the system, informing him about the completion of his quest.

There was also a beam of light that enfolded Shin, which only players could see. It was the indication that he had leveled up. It was not only once, but twice!

"Sweet~!" he whispered as he stood up and said. "There is another favor that I want to ask before leaving the fortress, Commander Taiga. Can't I stay here for a short period and rest?"

Hearing that, Commander Taiga smiled. "Is that all? You can stay here for as long as you want! You are already our brother after everything you have done. It is not a problem at all."

Shin nodded and thanked the commander before leaving the office.

...

Outside, while walking through the corridor, Shin checked on the rewards that he had gotten from completing the quest, particularly the new title that he received.

Title: Storm Raider

Rank: Master

Classification: Special

Description: A Title to those who have passed the test of the Storm Fortress. Anyone who possesses this title will receive special treatment when you are within the Storm Fortress or the Stormy Mountain Range.

Bonus Stats:

+5% to all stats

+10% resistance to any storm-related spells or skills.

+15% increase control harnessing the Lightning Element, or anything related to it.

Extra Ability:

Storm Raider:

-(Active): Summon a Domain of Storm within a radius of a hundred meters, increasing all your Lighting Elemental abilities by 50%

Duration: 15 Minutes

Cooldown: 6 Hours

-(Passive): If you are within a region with stormy weather, this skill will automatically activate with a range spanning the whole area that the weather reached.

Duration: Until you leave the said region.

Cooldown: 6 hours (Starts when you leave the region)

Note: These effects can only be triggered once. If you return to the said region and return, this ability will not be activated until the cooldown ends.

Shin was not that impressed with the additional stats as he had already seen much higher bonuses, but the increase when using storm-related abilities, particularly lightning ones, piqued his interest.

As for the special abilities that the title provided, it was also somewhat appealing given that Shin was in control of Primordial Lightning.

He could only say that this title was worthy of its Master Rank. He even cast his gaze on his status window, particularly on the Title panel to check on the high-ranking titles that he had.

Among these titles, the ones sitting on the top provided him with the best abilities such as the 'Grim Reaper' and 'Phantom Swordsman' Titles that came alongside his Classes; the 'First Master' that he had gotten after being the first to clear the Tier 3 Class Promotion; the 'Envoy of the Church of the Sun and Moon' that signified his status within the faction that he belonged; then this 'Storm Raider' Title that he just received.

Then there were the secondary ones such as the 'Jack-of-all-Trades' that he had gotten after a series of tests from the special training grounds; the 'Duke of Valor' that provided him a great diplomatic ability; the 'Pursuer of Corruption' that he had gotten from the early stages of the game; The 'Lieutenant Colonel of the God-Slaying Army' that he recently received; and others.

There were also the less significant ones, which provided him with little stats but gave him interesting abilities.

He just discovered there were also ranks between these titles. He had almost forgotten most of them since it had been a long time since he had received them.

While long through them, he also remembered another matter. "I-know-it-All, All-Rounder, and Jack-of-all-Trades – these evolving titles are something I have gotten after clearing a series of training grounds and the awakening quest. This one most likely has another evolution that will rival the Master Rank Titles."

"I guess I have to ask Big Sis to keep an eye on a Master Rank Training Ground in the future," he mumbled as he entered the room that Commander Taiga had provided him.

After closing and locking the door behind him, he suddenly summoned Solus and Hanzo, consulting them about their plans for the hatching of the green dragon egg.

"It will be better if we head to your independent world fragment, my liege," said Solus.

Shin thought for a moment before nodding his head. He first sent a series of messages to the people who might contact him when he was away, informing them that he would be entering an isolated map, before taking out the dimension token that would lead him toward the Reaper's Realm.

After confirming that he had not forgotten anything, he infused his mana on the dimensional token before a pillar of light swallowed him.

Swoosh!

Inside the Reaper's Realm, Shin could not help but grasp a little after seeing more changes in them. The place was somewhat the same since the last time he visited, but there was a distinct difference in each region within the realm, which signified that the Elemental Spirits that were residing in them had become much more powerful.

After returning, Vladimir quickly headed to the region designated for him, particularly his castle to rest and recover himself.

Grimrace, despite not having the best relationship with Vladimir, chose to hang out in the territory of the latter even if he knew that they would only be fighting each other.

Seeing the two going at each other, Whitie and Blackie went to their respective regions to also rest.

Besides Shin, there were only Solus, Hanzo, and Astaroth, who would be assisting him with the special ritual.

They went to a secluded corner of the realm, where there was a very weak concentration of mana from the rest of the elements.

After finding the place, Hanzo quickly waved him and formed a huge dome of energy that blocked all the other elements from the surrounding regions. He isolated the entire place to make sure that nothing could affect the hatching process of the dragon egg.

Astaroth, on the other hand, stomped his foot on the ground and summoned a tall and huge platform, spanning the whole area that was protected by the barrier.

He then controlled the platform before erecting different pillars and smaller platforms, transforming the region into a huge temple. Then, at the center of everything, stood a lone altar meant for the dragon egg.

Solus also got busy as she started writing a series of rune sequences and magic circles in different parts of the temple, filling everything with mysterious arrays that Shin could not recognize.

Then, a huge magic formation was formed at the altar, filling the place with a mysterious air.

Solus then turned to Shin and said. "You can now take out the dragon materials, my liege."

Shin completed and took out all the materials that he had harvested from the green dragon while Solus took everything and started polishing the magic formation.

Shin felt like his heart was bleeding as he watched Solus use everything without any restraint. Those were precious materials that could be used to create top-class equipment, yet it was being 'wasted' like this.

The blood of the green dragon was even used to heighten the lines and runes within the magic formation. Given the size of the formation within the altar, it would not be long before all the blood that he had harvested would be exhausted.

Fortunately, he set aside an entire bucket that he would be using for the creation of his 'True Phantom'.

Meanwhile, the rest of the materials were scattered in different parts of the magic formation, filling everything.

Hong! Hong! Hong!

Not long after, Shin could sense that the movements of the mana filling the air changed. They gathered toward the altar before being filtered by the magic formation.

The entire magic formation shone brightly before specks of jade-green light filled the entire place. Upon closer, inspection Shin realized that these were concentrated mana of Nature Element.

"It is done," said Solus as she wiped her invisible sweat before turning to Shin. "You can now put all the Mana Cores that you have harvested at the center of the altar, my liege."

Shin walked toward the center of the altar with heavy steps before reluctantly pouring out all the Mana Cores of Nature Element from his inventory into a tall pile, resembling a small mountain.

At the dead center of the altar and the magic formation stood a stone table filled with ancient runes, emitting a dim light. It was absorbing all the Nature Elemental Mana from all the Mana Core around.

Shin did need to know what to do next as he quickly took out the egg of the green dragon from his inventory and carefully placed it at the next situated on the top of the stone table.

Hong! Long! Long!

Shin then heard a humming sound coming from the dragon egg as it greedily absorbed all the Nature Elemental Mana in the surroundings, particularly the ones that the stone table was providing it.

Standing beside Shin, Hanzo stared at the dragon egg for quite a while before connecting. "It seems like the little guy is starving for centuries to produce such a reaction."

Solus also nodded before sweeping her gaze before saying. "It needs to soak itself with such 'mana pool' for an entire month (in-game time) before it fully hatches. These Mana Cores should be too excessive."

Hearing the latter part of her words, Shin suddenly became excited as he found that there might be a chance to keep a few of the Mana Cores.

But his newfound hope instantly collapsed after hearing the next words of the Fallen God Elemental Spirit.

She then paused before continuing. "But since it will be undergoing the baptism of the nature element immediately after to transform into an Elemental Dragon Spirit, the residual Mana Cores and energies should be enough to support its transformation."

Seeing the dejected look of her lord, Solus quickly patted his back and comforted him. "Don't worry, my liege. In exchange for all of these, you will get a powerful elemental in return."

"If my estimate is right, then it will most likely be on the same level as those two young tiger twins at the very least," she added.

"Eh!?" Shin felt alive once again when he heard that and turned to her. "Really?"

"Really! How can I lie to my liege?" said Solus with a smile.

"If that is the case, then everything will be worth it!" said Shin as he stood up straight before remembering something. 'Though, I feel like Arthur will become even more upset when he learns about this. He will surely sulk for a very long time after this.'

Regardless, what was done was done. He could not take it back now.

He then glanced at the digital clock from the corner of his eyes and realized that it was already time to log out. "It is this late already!?"

He then turned to his Reaper's Retainers and said. "I will be going back. You guys can stay here for a little longer so that you can recover yourselves. I will summon you again when I get back."

Solus hesitated for a moment before nodding her head. She felt that she could unlock more of her powers after all the transformations that Shin had undertaken. She could use this time to consolidate her strength.

It was the same for the others which was why they quickly went to their respective regions to train.

Hanzo did not say anything as he tacitly agreed. He just turned around and left for his designated region.

Meanwhile, Astaroth was still the same as ever. "I will engrave your grace into my heart, my lord! I will pay it with my life."

Shin shivered when he heard that before quickly leaving the Reaper's Realm as if he was running for his life, then returned to the Storm Fortress.

He then logged out.