

Destiny 1451

Chapter 1451: In The Springfield Household

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Soaring Continent, Central Region.

Within the most secretive place within the Springfield Household, there was a small auditorium deep within their territory where most confidential meetings of the Springfield Family were usually held.

Almost all the members with the highest standing within the family were gathered. Even the Grand Elders who were usually staying within their ancestral land after their retirement were also present.

Aside from a few who chose to be left behind to protect the Dragon Valley, the rest of the elders with senior standing within the family were present.

As for the current 'younger' generation, those that were from the immediate family of the direct line were present.

Even the servants were fairly limited as only the head butler and head housekeeper were present.

At the same time, some members of the Levana Family – those from the maternal side of Arthur and Sheilla – were also present, particularly their maternal grandmother.

Despite the place being filled with people, the atmosphere was heavy and gloomy, especially when the people were all wearing black clothes.

This was the secret funeral that the Springfield Family had held for Bernard while they were waiting for Shiella to finish the exploration within the cultivator's tomb and the initial result of the investigation of the special forces.

The Springfield Family wanted to limit the news of Bernard's death close to their circle, so they did not even accept any visit from outsiders.

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Arthur, who looked extremely handsome in his black suit, stood in front of a coffin painted in gold where his father was laid. But his appearance was overshadowed by his bloodshot eyes, moist and on the verge of tears as he stubbornly held them back.

He was doing his best not to control his emotions and burst into tears while looking at the peaceful look of his father, who seemed to be only sleeping.

With Evangeline's techniques, she was able to restore Bernard's corpse to his clean appearance. She felt pained as she looked at her friend's face at that time, blaming herself for not being able to save him.

Arthur tightly clenched his fists, making his nails dig on his palms, while also biting his lower lip, which was somewhat bleeding.

He might not be close to his father, but he could still remember their bonding time when he was very young.

His initial training under Bernard was extremely hard and he hated it, especially when he was usually being beaten up black and blue during each session. But who would have thought that these most hated expressions would be the first to enter his mind when he thought of his father?

The loud and angry voice of his father, when he was being scolded for skipping the training, reverberated in his ears as these memories flashed through his eyes.

When he could no longer suppress these intense emotions within his chest, he could not help but step forward and mumbled with a voice that only he could hear.

"Hey, Old Man! Didn't you say that you will not leave us early?"

"Have you already forgotten your promise to have a serious spar with me when I am strong enough? You said that you will wait until... I am good enough to enter the Alpha Unit and achieve great feats."

"You said that you would wait until I participate in the final rounds of the Hundred Empires War – the Battle for Supremacy."

"Didn't you say that you will not kick the bucket until you accompany Big Sis walk in the aisle toward the altar or until you see your grandchildren from me?"

"But what is this? Why are you lying in this coffin?"

"If it is one of your stupid pranks whenever you come from your special missions, then you get me. You got me, alright, so can you please stop this now."

"I know-... I now understand what they mean when they say, 'You will only understand the importance of a person when you lose them'. I understand it now – you don't have to do these stupid pranks anymore."

"So-... please-... please-... stand up now and jump out of it with that funny face of yours-... just like you always do."

"Please, Dad. How can you leave us? What about Mom and Big Sis? Dad-..."

The more Arthur talked, the heavier his chest became. It was also becoming harder to suppress his tears. He did not know when he started crying as he just found his vision suddenly turned blurry.

His legs seemed to grow weak as he had to support himself by slightly leaning on the coffin in front of him.

He started choking his words as his emotions got into him. He did not cry that hard as he instinctively tried to suppress such emotions. But this made him hiccupped continuously until he could no longer say any words.

The people sitting or standing not far from the small platform saw this and could only look at him with sorrow.

Not long after, an extremely beautiful and elegant woman walked over and stood beside Arthur. She extended her arm and wrapped it around Arthur's shoulders.

She was Jane Levana – Bernard's wife and Arthur's mother.

Feeling her presence and her arm, Arthur instinctively turned to his mother and leaned on her. "Mom-... Dad-... Dad is-..."

He tried to say something, but no proper words came out of his mouth he could only cry on his mother's shoulder.

Jane embraced him as this was the first time Arthur cried since her father-in-law took over his training. She did not say and let Arthur cry as she gently and rhythmically pats his back.

...

A few moments later, Arthur could be found sitting on a bench outside the auditorium while looking at the moving clouds in the sky.

He cried quite hard, but he was not embarrassed as it was his true feelings. They just burst out of his chest, and he did not have any control over it when everything happened.

Not long after, he sensed someone walking in his direction. He did not even need to look at who it was as he had already memorized this person's aura.

Nathan sat beside Arthur and asked. "Have you finally calmed down?"

Arthur did not immediately respond and just slightly nodded his head.

There was a silence between the two for a few minutes before Nathan finally opened his mouth once again. "We may extend this funeral until your big sister comes out of the tomb."

"I have already received the reports," he paused for a moment and patted Arthur's shoulders. "You have experienced quite a lot within that tomb, so I know that you are quite tired as well."

"It will be better for you to go back to the main house and rest. Come back again when you have gotten enough sleep."

Arthur did not respond as he continued to stare at the sky. Nathan did not rush him either as he patiently waited.

It took Arthur quite a while before he was able to organize his thoughts before saying. "Uncle. I want to be stronger."

Hearing that, Nathan shook his head. "I know what you are thinking, and I understand how you feel. But you can't let this form a heart demon within you as it will only have an opposite effect."

"Don't worry, Uncle. I am not that fragile," replied Arthur.

He neither smiled nor showed any emotion. There was only a calm and determined look on his face.

Nathan stared at Arthur's side for a couple of seconds before smiling. 'He somewhat matured.'

He then stood up and patted his nephew. "Go back and rest for now. Come back again later."

He paused and turned again while saying. "And visit Shin when you come back. He has been transferred here earlier. He is still unconscious, and Cloe is looking after him. They are in his room."

After that, he continued his steps and walked away.

Arthur then lowered his head and sighed. "Shin. Please note you as well."

It took a couple of minutes before he was able to bring himself to stand up and head back to the main house.

When he arrived, he saw Leonard being led by one of their maids. From the path that they were taking, he could tell that they were also heading toward Shin's room.

"Leo!" Arthur called Leonard, who just happened to see him at the same time.

Leonard walked over and whispered. "How is it? Are you alright?"

Arthur did not reply he just shook his head while wearing a smile filled with different emotions.

Leonard instantly understood and did not ask anymore. He cleared his throat before asking. "Are you going to see Shin before resting?"

Arthur nodded before turning to the maid. "We will be fine. You can go back to your task."

After seeing the maid leave, Arthur turned to Leonard. "You also did not rest and head straight here?"

Hearing that, Leonard smiled bitterly. "How can I rest after hearing such news?"

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Inside Shin's room, Cloe was currently tidying up the basin of water and the towel that she just used to wipe Shin when she sensed something.

She put the basin down and swiftly turned toward Shin.

She nervously stared at Shin, trying to confirm if what she felt was real and not her imagination.

Not long after, Shin slowly opened his eyes and stared at the ceiling. There was a deep frown on his face as he tried to recall what just happened.

"So, it still happens in the end," he sighed as he sat up.

That was when he noticed Cloe, who was looking at him with a slightly opened mouth behind her hands.

She swiftly ran toward the bed and was about to leap and embrace him. But she suddenly halted in her tracks when she saw the color of Shin's eyes.

They were purple.

Moreover, as someone who knew Shin very well, she instantly sensed the different air surrounding him. It was as if she was looking at a different person with the same face as Shin.

She could not help but look at him warily and ask solemnly. "You... Who are you?"

Chapter 1452: Uno (Part 1)

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A three-year-old kid woke up in the middle of an empty world with nothing but whiteness.

This little guy sat up and looked around seemingly a little confused. Despite his appearance, his eyes seemed to contain intelligence and wisdom that he was not supposed to have at his age.

Aside from that, his eyes, which had purple pupils, carried an immense coldness in them. His little face that supposed to be filled with innocence due to his age was currently expressionless.

Right after standing up and looking around, he seemed to realize something. It looked like he was aware of what he was and why he came into existence.

The kid walked around the empty world aimlessly until he found a kid curled in the middle of the white world, seemingly crying.

The two of them were of the same age. Even their build and appearance were completely the same. Aside from their pupils' different colors and their opposite expressions, everything else about them was the same.

If they stood face-to-face before each other, then it would look like they were standing in front of a mirror.

Looking at the crying kid below him, the other kid suddenly said. "What are you doing? Why are you crying over there?"

Hearing him, the one crying answered. "I hurt them. I hurt my friends again. I am a bad kid. I am..."

The kid frowned as he listened to the other whine. He then clicked his tongue. "Tsk! Why are you blaming yourself? It is not your fault in the first place."

He paused for a moment as he looked beneath them. This 'ground' where they stood was filled with cracks where a black miasma was constantly leaking out as the other kid continued to cry.

The black miasma was slowly moving toward the crying kid, seemingly trying to consume him.

"Hmph!" the kid with purple eyes scoffed when he saw that. What followed was the appearance of a powerful suction force that pulled all the black miasma which got absorbed by his body.

A black miasma gathered at the heart of the purple-eyed kid. The heart was hungrily devouring the black miasma as if it was some sort of food; like it was the most delicious meal in the world and the best nourishment one could consume.

But instead of constantly absorbing the black miasma, the purple-eyed kid only took what he could and expelled the rest.

Moments later, he released black energy that formed an extra layer on the 'ground', which blocked the leaking black miasma. Even if it was temporary, it was more than enough for their current situation.

After dealing with the miasma, the purple-eyed kid continued. "You are not the one who is to blame for this. It is this demon beneath us."

"But.... I am still the one that hurt them....I a bad kid-..." the other kid continued to cry.

Sighing, the purple-eyed kid suddenly said. "I will help and protect you, so stop whining. It is annoying."

The other kid stopped crying for a moment and finally turned to the purple-eyed kid. "How?"

The purple-eyed kid inclined his head for a moment before pointing beneath them. "I will help you deal with this guy and avenge your friends."

The crying kid frowned slightly before looking beneath them. Then he suddenly jumped in the air as he saw a humongous and terrifying monster under them.

He then subconsciously ran behind the purple-eyed kid to hide from the monster under them.

The purple-eyed kid sighed before saying. "But I... we can't do anything about him yet."

He then stepped forward to turn and face the crying kid. "But before anything else... I want to know what you want to achieve. What do you want to do? I will help you with everything."

The crying kid stared at the purple-eyed kid and said. "Who... are you?"

The purple-eyed kid laughed when he heard that and said. "You are only asking me that after everything?"

It took him quite a while to calm himself down and said. "I am you and you are me, but we are also not the same. We are one, but also separated."

The other kid looked at him confusedly while trying to process his words. He then pouted and asked. "Like brothers?"

The purple-eyed stared blankly at the other momentarily before suddenly bursting out in intense laughter. It took him quite a while to recover himself before he nodded his head. "Yeah, you can also put it that way."

"So... you are my brother!?" asked the crying kid somewhat excitedly. He then suddenly became sad and said. "But you also have to get away from me or else I will hurt you like the others."

The purple-eyed kid was silent for a moment before shaking his head. "That is not going to happen."

"How do you know? Everyone who is near me will only get hurt," said the other kid.

"What about your Mom, your Dad, and your Senior Brother?" refuted the purple-eyed kid.

"They are strong. Shin can't hurt them," said the crying kid.

The purple-eyed kid chuckled and said. "Then isn't the answer simple? All I have to do is to be as strong as them."

"How are you going to do that?" asked Shin as he leaned his little head to the side.

The purple-eyed kid pointed at Shin and said. "You will have to help me with that."

Shin pressed his tiny index finger under his lower lip, thinking. Even if he did not know how to help the other kid, he still nodded his head. "Okay."

"But how do I call you?" he asked, returning to an earlier question.

The purple-eyed kid smiled mysteriously as he asked. "How about you give me a name?"

"Huh? Why?" asked Shin confusedly.

"Aren't we brothers? Just call me however you want," said the purple-eyed kid.

Shin thought as he mumbled. "My only friend around my age is Odin. He said he also had a nickname back to where he came from. First – I think?"

"How about I call you Uno?" he said after a couple of moments.

The purple-eyed kid smiled deeply as he heard, signifying that he liked this name very much. "Alright, let's go with this one."

As Uno woke up from a long dream, he stared at the ceiling for a couple of seconds before sighing helplessly. "So, it happens again."

'You hide from it once again. I just hope that you are not going to run away this time by erasing everything once again,' he thought as he sat up.

The moment he did, the first one that greeted him was Cloe, who was about to pounce at him and his embrace.

But she suddenly paused when she noticed something.

"You-... who are you?"

As he saw her reaction, Uno could not help but smile bitterly. He knew that this was bound to cause a misunderstanding.

A serious one at that given the previous events that happened.

With a sigh, he opened his mouth and was about to explain.

Click!

Swoosh! Swoosh!

But before the words could even escape his mouth, the door of the room suddenly opened followed by the entrance of two people.

Arthur and Leonard suddenly rushed inside the room after hearing the words of Cloe. She had asked Uno with a somewhat heavy voice, which made the two think that something had happened – or someone had invaded the room of their friend.

The moment when they entered, they quickly took a fighting stance as they were expecting someone else inside the room.

But when they could not find anyone else inside the room aside from Shin and Cloe, they suddenly frowned confusedly.

They turned to Cloe with questioning looks on their faces.

Cloe did not even turn at them as she fixed her gaze on Uno, who was looking back at them. When the two saw that, the two also turned to Uno and stared at him intently.

As Shin's sworn brothers, they instantly realized that the 'Shin' in front of them was different from the 'Shin' that they knew.

Recalling what happened before Shin fell into a coma, the two suddenly 'realized' something.

The expression on their faces suddenly turned dark. They glared at Uno as they simultaneously released their respective Internal Qi.

They thought that Shin was possessed by a 'Demon'.

Seeing the two preparing for a battle, Uno could not help but sigh for another time. He wanted to explain the situation, but he knew that these 'kids' would not believe him.

All he had to do was to 'entertain' them while waiting for David to arrive and dissolve the situation. He did not believe that David would leave him that long when Shin was in this situation – once again.

Moreover, he also sensed the presence of Shin's mother previously when he was fighting the Seed of Hatred. He believed that she would not leave her beloved son in such a state.

'It has been a while since I stretch my body. Let's have some fun before anything else,' Uno looked at Arthur and Leonard with a provoking smile before gesturing to them. "Come! Let me see what you got."

Chapter 1453: Uno (Part 2)

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"Come! Let me see what you got!"

Right after those words left Uno's mouth, Arthur and Leonard quickly sprung into action.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Their figures disappeared as golden and crimson trails of light appeared in the air while they rushed toward the bed where Uno was currently sitting.

Seeing them, Uno smirked as he grabbed the blanket over him and threw it in the air, blocking the line of vision of the two.

Swoosh!

Arthur did not even hesitate as he threw his fist forward and fired a ball of fire that quickly burned the blanket into ashes.

Swoosh!

But right as the blazing ashes dissipated in the air, Arthur was suddenly greeted by a pair of feet, close to each other, flying straight to his face.

"Tsk!" Arthur was forced to halt his advance and raised his arms, crossing them in front of his face to block the incoming kick.

Bang!

The strength behind that flying kick was not that strong, but it strangely carried a force that forced him to retreat.

Swoosh!

As Arthur was sent stepping back, Leonard suddenly appeared beneath Uno, preparing a flying uppercut.

But before he could even have enough strength in his legs to jump in the air, Uno suddenly twisted his body midair, spun to reposition himself, and adjusted his posture for a better angle to attack.

Swoosh!

Then he suddenly swung his leg downwards, throwing a sharp axe kick to Leonard under him.

Leonard could not help but frown deeply as he saw how fast, smooth, and flawless every action Uno had done. Despite his having the initiative, he was still thrown into a position where he had to defend himself by locking the incoming kick.

Bang!

Leonard was fast enough to adjust his position and raised his arms to block the incoming attack. But due to his awkward position, he was forced to kneel on the ground upon contact as he did not expect the heavy force behind that seemingly casual axe kick.

Arthur had already recovered his footing at this point and quickly jumped back into action. He leaped in the air as he saw Uno forcing Leonard on the ground.

Right after his leap, he repeatedly jumped in the air as he poured his strength into his leg for a powerful roundhouse kick.

His legs were also covered with his Internal Qi, not planning to hold back any longer. That simple exchange was more than enough to tell him that they could not afford to underestimate this 'demon'.

This would be different from how they usually dealt with Shin whenever he lost his mind before. It was clear that this opponent had a logical mind and rational thinking when attacking, which was very different compared to the previous incidents.

This also indicated that they would be facing an opponent that was no weaker than them given the strength and talent that Shin had, which was now being possessed by another 'entity'.

Swoosh!

Sensing the incoming attack from behind, Uno simply looked over his shoulders before adjusting his posture. He did not jump off from Leonard and straightened his back instead.

He used Leonard's arms as a foothold as he straightened his back.

Swoosh!

Then he suddenly spun and threw a powerful kick to welcome Arthur. His leg resembled a whip as it cut through the air while heading straight to the leg of his opponent.

Bang!

The air exploded as their legs came in contact with each other. It even sent a violent ripple in the air.

Fortunately, there was nothing much on display within the room that could be broken. Aside from the chair, bed, drawers, cabinets, and learning desk, nothing else was present inside Shin's room.

It was as minimal as it could be and as simple as it could get.

Arthur and Uno paused with their respective postures for a moment before Leonard adjusted his position and suddenly grabbed Uno's leg that was stepping on his arms.

But right before he could even tighten his grip, Leonard saw Uno spin once again, making it hard for him to grab the leg of the latter.

There was also a subtle amount of Internal Qi covering the leg of his target, making it somewhat slippery and hard to catch.

Uno then leaped into the air and landed on his feet a few meters away from them.

Arthur and Leonard did not give up as they quickly chased after Uno. They even executed their signature foot techniques as they approached their target.

'Supreme Blood Sutra: Devil's Footprints'

'True Nine Dragon Arts: Dragon Dance'

Swoosh! Swoosh!

As the two approached him, Uno could not help but feel a little excited. His blood was boiling in excitement as he faced two powerful opponents.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

He swiftly took a stance. He separated his feet as one of them stepped to the side while the other moved forward.

His hands were also placed in their respective positions. His left hand was placed in front of his stomach while the right hand was leveled along his shoulders and with his palms facing the sky and himself respectively.

His senses expanded, covering at least two meters away from him. It seemed to form an invisible dome that centered around it, which would also let him sense anyone who would try to invade it.

It was a trick that Professor Plum had taught Shin during his special training, which could be also used as a counterpart of Shin's Spiritual Sense.

'Simplified Domain Technique: False Territory'

Swoosh!

Right after Arthur and Leonard entered his 'territory', Uno responded to their moves respectively.

He moved within the zone while deflecting the advances of the two.

Bang! Bang!

Arthur and Leonard worked together when attacked Uno yet they were still unable to land a clean hit despite their seamless cooperation. Their combined attacks and coordinated advances were repeatedly warded off by Uno with ease.

The two moved in circles around Uno, creating a mess within the room, while the latter remained calm as he continuously blocked, deflected, and countered them.

It was at this moment when Cloe snapped out of her daze and prepared to move. She was relucted to hurt 'Shin', but since someone was possessing his body at the moment, she did not have a choice but to join the battle and subdue him.

Then they would leave the rest to the seniors and elders later.

Swoosh!

With a decisive look on her face, she aggressively charged at Uno.

Of course, she did not just jump in recklessly as she read the movements of Arthur and Leonard before making her move. She would be coordinating with them for this battle.

Uno, who was immersing and enjoying himself in the battle, suddenly sensed a new presence invading his 'False Territory'.

He slightly frowned before quickly adjusting his footwork.

As if he were some ghost, his figure flickered, letting Cloe pass through his 'body' with her powerful punch.

He then dodged Arthur's attack, which came to welcome him after anticipating his move. But he did not let Arthur brush past him this time as he suddenly caught the arm of the latter.

Arthur was slightly caught off guard by Uno's actions, but before he could even respond, the latter suddenly used his moment to flip his body in the air and throw him on the ground.

Bang!

Uno did not even bother to look at Arthur as he quickly turned to dodge another attack from Leonard, which came at him without any sign.

Leaning his back on Leonard's body, Uno grabbed the latter's arm before executing a skillful front throw that slammed Leonard onto the ground, right beside Arthur.

Bang!

He did not pause his movements as he quickly stepped to the side and executed a quick spin to dodge the attack from Cloe.

But to his surprise, Cloe seemed to read his move and adjusted the trajectory of her attack. Uno had no choice but to pause and raise his hand to block the incoming fist directed to his face.

Bang!

Catching her fist, Uno did not do anything else and just stared at her, commenting. "Not bad. But can you please not interrupt our fun? It has been a while since I got out, so I have to stretch a little."

"And I also can't hurt you since 'Shin' will get mad if I dare to touch even a strand of your hair," he added with a smile.

Cloe was slightly confused when she heard those words, especially when Uno mentioned Shin in such a manner.

This made her pause her actions, but Arthur and Leonard had already recovered themselves at that time. They swiftly picked themselves up and quickly sprung back into action.

"Tsk!" clicking his tongue, Uno quickly let go of Cloe's fist and retreated.

This started another intense exchange between the three, throwing the room into an even greater mess.

As the battle was about to escalate to a higher level, someone suddenly entered the room while releasing their powerful Mental Energy.

Then a Mentalism Technique quickly followed, restraining the movements of everyone within the room.

"That's enough."

Turning their heads at the door with great difficulty, everyone saw David who just released the second meridian lock of his Limit Break to restrain all of them.

When he saw that he had caught their attention, David sighed. But he did not release them from their restraints as he was afraid of them resuming the battle, especially when he knew one of them very well.

He first looked at Arthur, Leonard, and Cloe and said. "Don't worry. What you are thinking did not happen. Everything will be fine."

He did not wait for the three to process his words and turned to Uno. "As for you, keep it down. You just awakened yet you are already picking a fight with his friends?"

He paused for a moment before continuing with a serious tone. "Since you are the one who is taking over the body, that means he is in deep slumber once again."

"Tsk! This is troublesome," he commented before signaling. "Come. Let's see master. She is waiting."

There was a reluctant look on Uno's face when he heard that, especially when his fun was immediately cut short when it was about to reach the most exciting part.

Fully understanding Uno, David quickly added. "You will get your chance later. It is not like you are immediately going back to sleep after this. This is the third time already."

After that, he turned back to the three before saying. "I'm sorry for the late introduction guys. That guy over there is Shin's... alter ego."

"We will explain everything at the latter date. But we are quite in a hurry right now, so please excuse us for now."

"For now, let me introduce him to you. His name is Uno."

Chapter 1454: Uno (Part 3)

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Arthur, Leonard, and Cloe stared blankly at David as they heard his words. They were not sure how to react to what they just heard. They were having difficulty digesting those words, unable to believe it.

"Alter ego?"

"That is not a demon possession Shin Bro?"

"Shin's alter ego?"

David did not elaborate further as they were hurrying to meet his master. "I am sorry, but I will explain it to you at a later date. For now, we have to go."

He then turned to Uno and said. "What are you standing there for? Master is waiting. Let's go!"

With a dejected and unsatisfied sigh, Uno slumped his shoulders and followed David. But before he stepped out of the room, he turned to Arthur and Leonard with a provoking tone. "Let's continue this later. But let's do it in a proper place. We can't go all-out in this room after all."

After that, he left the trio, who were still trying to process what David had told them.

...

Not long after, David and Uno arrived at a secluded part of the Springfield Family. This place was one of the hidden places within the household, or somewhat of a safe house in some sense.

This place was one of the places that the Springfield Family used whenever they had to protect a special client or an important witness who required their service.

The only difference that this place had from the rest was it was protected by a special formation that isolated itself from the rest of the world. It was more like an independent space.

Usually, this kind of place could be found in Mentalist Clans, particularly those with a long history.

The Springfield Family used a special method that they had inherited from their ancestors to build this place, which was also further enhanced by the powerful mentalist who had a close relationship with their family.

Right after Uno stepped into this independent space, an intense shiver swiftly ran down his spine, which made him pause his steps.

When he raised his head, he was suddenly greeted by the appearance of a colossal golden dragon, which was looking back straight into his eyes.

This golden dragon was very life-like and it gave Uno a feeling that it was alive. Moreover, it seemed to be trying to peer through his soul and looking for something.

The initial fear that Uno had received due to his instincts kicking in immediately disappeared as he recollected himself. His eyes then turned sharp as he glared back at the golden dragon.

His Aura Manifestation also appeared behind him, forming a figure of a pair of ferocious beasts – a black dragon and a white tiger. The size of these two beasts was just a quarter of the golden dragon, but the respective presence that they were emitting was not weaker than it was when they were together.

The golden dragon seemed to sneer when it saw the two little beasts glaring at it, making it release an even stronger pressure.

Bang!

The world seemed to collapse from Uno's perspective when the golden dragon exploded in an even stronger pressure to press him. His Aura Manifestation also dissipated when it happened, signifying the huge difference between them.

Regardless, Uno remained calm. He squinted his eyes even narrower as a silver and black aura shrouded his body. The surroundings seemed to turn dark when this happened. It was as if the whole place had become an infinite void.

And within this pitch-black darkness, a pair of eyes suddenly opened, confronting the golden dragon.

The silhouette of an unknown beast seemed to move behind that curtain of darkness, seemingly adjusting its position to get ready for a battle. Its size was not the slightest bit inferior compared to the golden dragon.

This confrontation lasted for a couple of moments before Uno heard someone snapping their fingers, waking him up from his trance.

Snap!

Everything crumbled, returning Uno to reality. When he turned over, he saw Evangeline lying on a sofa comfortably while Alyssa fed her with pieces of grapes one by one.

"Not bad. To think that you will be able to provoke the blessing of the Solar Dragon from your first visit – it seems like you have improved quite a lot since our last meeting, Uno," commented Evangeline as she tidied herself while standing up.

"A Golden Dragon and a Void Beast – this reminded me of a certain legend in the past," she mumbled as she tried to recall something.

Even if the confrontation between Uno and the golden dragon only occurred inside the former's head, Evangeline was still able to see everything through her special means.

She had to admit that she was impressed by what she just 'saw'.

"It has been a while, Madam," greeted Uno as he gave Evangeline a respectful bow. He might be within Shin's body, but he had to show his respect in front of this woman, who he greatly acknowledged.

Even those old monsters did not earn his respect, but Evangeline and Adam were completely different.

This had nothing do to with them being Shin's parents. It was his pure respect for them.

Seeing him act like that, Evangeline could not help but shake her head and smile bitterly. "Shin is treating you as his brother, so isn't it more appropriate to treat us as your parents as well," she said.

Uno refused to say anything and continued to maintain his bowing position.

Seeing that, Evangeline sighed before going straight to their main purpose of coming here. "Forget it. You are still the same as in the past. For now, let's hear what is the situation right now."

Uno did not need to think about what she was trying to ask him as this incident had already happened more than once in the past – the fourth time more specifically. They were already used to it, so there was no need to go through everything, and went straight to the point.

"I think this one is a little different compared to the previous incidents, Madam," replied Uno.

"Different in what way? Is it because the Seed of Hatred had taken over the full control over the body?" asked David.

Uno reorganized his words for a moment before continuing. "The first one is when I am 'born'. And that instance is due to his fear of himself, or more specifically his powers."

"The second time was due to his self-blame for being too weak to protect someone dear to him," he paused for a moment to glance at Alyssa before continuing. "The third time is because of him unable to control his emotions and suppress his rage."

This time he turned to David, who was there to witness Shin's rampage during the incident when Leonard was abducted. He even had the chance to fight Shin during that time.

"As you can see, I can 'feel' the reason why he loses himself due to our connection," said Uno as he was trying to recall if he had missed anything.

But after trying his best to think of the reason, he was still unable to pinpoint the exact reason for this time. Or more specifically, he could no longer 'feel' what it was.

"I can't find the exact 'emotion' that triggers this possession."

Uno paused for a moment before continuing. "Or it seems like my connection with Shin was getting weaker."

The room felt silent when he said those words until Evangeline asked in a serious tone. "Are you sure about that? Your connection is getting weaker?"

Uno did not immediately respond as he wanted to make sure that it was the case. But even after thinking about it multiple times, his conclusion was still the same, so he just nodded his head.

Seeing his confirmation, Evangeline could not help but close her eyes.

Her husband was right. This was going to escalate even further if they could not find a solution for this as soon as possible.

She then recalled what her husband had told her before they separated.

— "Since the first time the Seed of Hatred has gone berserk and possessed him, the seal that we have put on his body has already been broken."

"Even if we tried to reseal it once again, we will not be able to fully trap it as a crack has already been there."

"The fact that Uno manifested is one of the reasons. He has become the personification of the leaking Primal Demonic Powers, the Divinity Grade Mental Energy, and Shin's separated talents after being combined."

"So long as Uno existed, it will be impossible to completely seal that seed."

"But this is also not a bad thing since he can also be the key to how Shin would overcome that Seed of Hatred."

"Even if we try to reseal the Seed of Hatred, it will repeatedly break free from it after a certain period. It will also become immune to our powers as it continuously fights back the seal."

"This only made it worse when Shin tried to wipe out his memories to forget everything after that incident. This allows the Seed of Hatred to take advantage of that situation to further corrupt his mind."

"If not for Uno being there, things will be even more serious than what it already is."

"All we can do is delay the progress of the seed's growth as much as we can so that Shin and Uno can grow stronger. So long as they become strong enough to consume the seed themselves, things will be fine."

"That is also why I can't be with the two of you. Even if I want to stay, I can't. I will only cause more disaster if we are together since I will only unconsciously nurture that seed and unintentionally make it stronger if we are together."

"Let's just be patient and put our trust in them. 'They' are our sons after all." –

Evangeline took a while to recover her composure before turning to Uno. "How long do you think he will sleep this time?"

Hearing that, Uno could not help but shake his head and wear a bitter smile. "I am sorry, Madam. But I think it will take a while as he has fallen too deep in his slumber."

Chapter 1455: Uno (Part 4)

...

After talking with Evangeline, Uno walked out of the independent space alongside David. They did not immediately go back to the mansion and just stayed out of the place.

They walked a little further away before finding a tree and sat under it.

"Your progress compared to Shin is much better, huh?" said David as he leaned on the tree while resting his hands on the back of his head.

With his Enlightened Eyes, he could see through the current strength that Uno had. From what he could see, Uno was much ahead of his peers.

But at the same time, he was also able to tell that Uno was somewhat 'holding back' his progress. "You are already a step away from reaching the Ethereal Stage and stepping into the Ascension Realm, yet you are suppressing it."

"Is it because you are waiting for Shin to reach the peak of Grandmaster Realm?" he asked as he stared at the sky.

Uno shrugged his shoulders as he replied. "What can I do? The balance of our 'bodies' will collapse once I go ahead of him."

"Our respective physiques are already a problem, so I will only mess it up if I try to break through to the next realm," he added.

David nodded slightly while commenting. "Reasonable enough."

"But do you think it is that simple? Your physiques have already been separated through special techniques, so they will not much affect each other unless you guys are activating it simultaneously."

"Your bodies were like in a switch, where you swap between 'on' and 'off' whenever your consciousness switch between one another."

Uno shook his head as he heard that. "I obviously know that. What do you take me for?"

"The reason why I don't want to go ahead and leave him behind is because the benefits that we will be getting are going to be much better if we advanced at the same time."

"We will be able to replicate a total body rejuvenation or body reformation if do it that way," he added, which made David look at him.

Seemingly understanding the meaning of that look, Uno shook his head as he explained. "Don't ask me how I know – I just know it because that is my nature."

"Just like the people who let their inner demons consume themselves, I instinctively know such things."

"These 'true demons' are said to be the closest to 'origin'. They have been there since the very beginning, but only manifested once an individual was about to touch 'that' stage."

"Of course, people still have different 'origins' as everyone is unique. But as they continue to progress, they will slowly approach the 'true origin', which only those at the peak of their respective disciplines are pursuing."

"These 'true demons' instinctively know how they progress to reach those 'peaks.' They are pursuing the path that will make them return to their 'true origin'."

"But only those who possessed the 'seed' can reach that state since their 'inner demons' are much purer than the rest. Just like that one 'Demon' that can fuse Martial Arts and Mentalism."

"This is the reason why those Demonic Partitioners are unable to achieve the same result despite being a 'demon' themselves, making them fall into the same category as those from the other disciplines."

He then paused for a moment as he looked at his hands. "As you already know, I am created – or should I say manifested – from a fragment of that 'seed'. This is the reason why I instinctively know what to do and how to advance."

Silence filled the air as David did not immediately respond. Only after a few minutes, he nodded his head. "I understand that, but what about Sir Adam?"

Hearing that, Uno could not help but laugh as he found the question ridiculous. "Are you seriously asking me that? You should know the reason for that already."

"Tsk! Forget about it then," David clicked his tongue as he heard that comment. He paused for a moment before asking. "So, did you create your Natural Body to be the vessel of your martial arts?"

"Heh!" Uno sneered when he heard that. "Isn't it obvious? Such a problem doesn't exist for someone like me."

He then paused as he recalled something. "But I must thank that old man, who is teaching Shin Martial Arts. Because of his permanent Qi Reinforcement Skill, I can create the ideal vessel that complements my style and martial arts."

He paused for a moment before adding. "I guess the Heavenly Demon also contributed a lot to this since the method that he had given to the old man also helped greatly, especially his version of Qi Reinforcement Skill meant for Demonic Qi and the Qi circulation method for it."

Hearing that, David seemed to realize something and stared at Uno with an astounded gaze. "Are you telling me that you have successfully fused those two permanent Qi Reinforcement Skills?"

He knew how hard it was to use those Qi Reinforcement Skills since it meant for Ethereal Opening Stage Experts, and it was so powerful that they could even match those skills specifically meant for Void Manifestation Stage Experts.

Even if Shin was able to engrave all the runes into his body and mastered the other body reinforcement skills meant to be paired with them, he still could not use the two of them simultaneously since they put a lot of burden on his body and mind.

At best, Shin could only activate one of them while keeping the other one in a passive state and taking advantage of their passive abilities.

Yet Uno was saying that he had already mastered those two Qi Reinforcement Skills.

Moreover, Uno was still at the Core Formation Stage. And from the words that this guy had said, it also seemed to imply that he fused those skills with the Natural Body that he had created.

With a twitching mouth, David could not help but comment. "What a monster."

Hearing that, Uno suddenly sneered. "Heh! Says the freak of nature himself."

David glanced at Uno for a moment before asking. "What other progress have you made?"

Hearing that, Uno suddenly started grinning before asking provokingly. "Do you want to know it? How about we have a god for a moment? I am quite eager to pay you back from my most recent loss against you."

David suddenly raised his brows when he heard those words. He stared at Uno for quite a while before suddenly smiling. "You know what-... I have better candidates for that."

As he said those words, Arthur suddenly appeared in the distance walking side-by-side with Leonard and Cloe.

"Them," he pointed at the trio before standing up.

"You want to finish your duel with them, right? Here you go! They will be the perfect 'test subjects' for it don't you think?" said David with a meaningful smile.

Uno pursed his lips for a moment as if he was thinking about something. His eyes were shining with a subtle glow as he looked at the group.

A few moments later, he shook his head and said. "They are not good. At least not in that state that they are in. Not only they are mentally and physically exhausted, but their minds are also not in a good state."

"They are distracted, confused, and restless despite their calm expression on the surface. I rather fight a random thug than them. It will not be satisfying."

"It will be a completely different case if they have a decent rest though," he added as he stood up and walked back toward the independent place.

Given the current situation, it was not ideal for him to stay and talk with these guys. They were still probably thinking that the Seed of Hatred had possessed Shin, so it would be better to leave everything to David and let him explain the rest.

Seeing Uno walking away, David could only shake his head before turning to the trio. He understood that they were restless about the situation and wanted to understand everything as soon as possible, but would it hurt to rest a little?

It was not like they would be running away or anything.

He walked toward the three as they watched Uno walk away.

At the same time, within the tomb of the ancient cultivator, Shiella along with Mariel was currently trapped inside a room along with some elite students from the Top Military School and other organizations.

Silence filled the air as no one dared to utter a word. None of them were moving and stood still in different parts of the room.

Underneath their feet, each student had a glowing circle where they could not move anywhere.

It was not because these circles were trapping them, but because the other people around them would attack them if they did.

This strange scene was because of the rules of the room that they were in. It was also a test for them if they wanted to continue exploring the tomb.

They could just give up and go back if they wanted, but none of them chose to do so because of a hidden reward that they could get when they reached the end of the tomb.

It was neither a powerful artifact nor an unrivaled ancient cultivation art. It was not a legendary technique or an inheritance either.

It was something even bigger than that.

Chapter 1456: A Legend during Ancient Era

.....

A day before the remaining people exploring the tomb got trapped inside one of the rooms.

"The information from the elders is somewhat inaccurate. This tomb doesn't just belong to the 'King of Knives' or the 'Blade King' or the 'King of Blades' – whatever his previous title is. There are multiple experts from the previous era who died in here," said Shiella as she discussed what she just discovered after two days of exploring the tomb.

"The professors only think that this tomb is a single tomb due to the specific tests and records that they have retrieved when exploring the outside. But they are unaware of what is inside because of the restrictions placed at the entrance."

"If we just base everything according to the clues that they have gathered from the entrance, then this place is without a doubt the tomb of that ancient expert."

She paused for a moment as she organized her discovery. "But it becomes clear that it is not the case when we entered the deeper parts of this 'tomb'."

"The true nature of this place is different from what they have discovered. This place is connected to multiple tombs of different cultivators of the past through an ancient grand formation."

She paused for another time to look at the engravings and murals drawn on the walls before continuing. "I am not sure who they are or how they have done it, but that is the 'truth' based on these ancient records."

"This 'tomb' is a massive place connecting multiple cultivator's tombs, which means that the place that we come from is not the only entrance out there. This also explains how those people from the underworld organizations come here ahead of us."

"They must have discovered this place earlier than us, which is why they are very familiar with it. This also explains how they have launched an ambush on us right after our arrival."

Hearing those words, Mariel nodded her head in agreement. "They must have heard the news from their spies that infiltrated the academy and other organizations within our continent before making the necessary preparations."

"Their initial goal is to weaken us and lessen our numbers. While the other is abducting some talented people to turn them into potential recruits."

"Unfortunately for them, the people that have been sent here respond quite quickly, which leads to their failure. Thus, they have no choice but to abandon the backup plan and try to finish us as soon as possible."

As they discussed, a young man with a sword hanging beside his waist entered the room where they were hiding.

The two ladies instantly went on alert when they sensed him, but they quickly lowered their guard when they realized who it was.

It was Elijah Knight from the 'Wings of Freedom'.

Seeing their agitated look, Elijah slightly shook his head before saying. "I have already sent the kids or the injured back. I also let the others from the elite clubs escort them out of the tomb to make sure that the traitors or spies will take advantage of the situation and finish them off."

Hearing that, the two nodded their heads before taking a seat.

"With that, the three of us are the only ones left along with those remaining elite students from the other clubs. But since we can't trust them yet, it is better if we continue exploring the place with the three of us," said Shiella after careful thinking.

They could not trust just anyone given their current situation, so it would be better to keep close to the people that they could put their trust on.

Shiella was very familiar with these two and she was sure that they would not betray her or each other.

Moreover, the three of them stood at the peak of their peers, so there was no need to question their abilities.

After discussing what they were going to do next, they went back to their previous topic.

"Whoever has created the Grand Formation to connect them must be a powerful individual," said Mariel after recalling the formation at the entrance of the tomb.

As someone who came from a Mentalist Clan that had a long history, she was very familiar with these kinds of things. Even if the runes and the methods used to build the arrays or formations were different given that the disciplines followed different paths, the nature and principles were still the same.

She was able to discern how powerful and good those formations were given her knowledge and experience. And from what she could tell, such Grand Formation could only be created by peak experts – at least someone who was a step away from reaching the Exalted Realm.

"I am not sure who has created such an amazing formation, but I do have an idea why and how they were connected to this place," she added as she observed the murals.

Shiella knew what she was trying to say, so she answered. "It is to either steal from those cultivator's tombs much easier or to go back to this place as this was their main hideout."

Given this clue, they could only think of someone who would dare to do such a thing in ancient times.

"The King of Thieves."

"The Tomb Raider."

The two ladies had said a name or title at the same time, but they were only talking about the same person.

"The King of Thieves – he earned quite a lot of titles during the ancient times and became a very famous individual in that era. He is not only strong but also quite skilled as well," commented Elijah as he heard their guess.

"Before he earned that title, he used to be called the 'Phantom'. He is one of the greatest assassins of that time."

"But he suddenly becomes addicted to robbing someone's tomb or ruins at some point, thus earning himself such a title."

"He is famed for defeating some prominent experts from powerful sects or families at that time before stealing their treasures, techniques, and cultivation arts, which further solidified his name."

"He even became an expert that stood at the peak of his era," he continued as he also watched the murals on the walls. "Then these murals must be a way to tell people about his achievements."

Hearing that, Shiella could not help but sneer. "Hmph! What a narcissist."

"Telling the future generation about his legend when he is nothing but a thief and a robber? What a farce," she added before standing and walking to the entrance of the room.

She then raised her head and looked at the mural painted at the center of the ceiling. There was a giant golden tree situated at that spot with bronze-like leaves and a golden lake underneath.

"But I must admit that he sure possessed a very interesting treasure," she commented as she fixed her gaze on that golden tree.

"A trunk as tough as gold and autumn leaves that resembled the bronze. Then the golden lake formed from the immortal essence."

"If our suspicion is right, then this tree must be the legendary Millennium Tree of Immortality," she mumbled as she tried to recall what she knew about this treasure.

"Based on the ancient records from my family's ancient archives, this tree needed a thousand years before it could grow into a size of an average of three. Then it will need another thousand years to start producing the 'Immortal Essence'."

"Then it will take at least a century before it can produce a single drop of the essence," she paused for a moment as she stared intently at the mural before continuing. "Just how long will it take for such a lake to form?"

She then paused for a moment and lowered her head before mumbling. "If it is true that there is a Millennium Tree of Immortality somewhere here, and it has produced such a lake of Immortal Essence, then this news will not only shake the world but will trigger an international war as well."

"Its leaves can be brewed into a tea that will become a powerful elixir that can cleanse all the impurities from one's body. The trunk is a high-quality material to create an artifact as it is even better than most of the ores and metals during that time."

"As for the Immortal Essence that it produces, it is something that can be used to forge the heaven-defying physique such as the 'Perfect Physique' – an untainted physique that can get sick or get impurities."

"It can even evolve one's physique into another level that no one will be able to imagine."

"It is a true treasure for everyone, but it will be best for those body practitioners as they will be able to achieve the dream constitution that they can only get through continuously honing their bodies."

"Legend says that if someone achieves that physique, their body will be able to as though as treasures or as powerful as artifacts."

She paused for a moment as she thought of something before continuing. "But the greatest benefit that it can provide is for someone like me with some problem with our constitution or Internal Qi conflicts."

"It can fix all the deficiencies that an individual had so long as they have consumed the tea brewed from the leaves of this tree while bathing and cultivating on that golden lake."

"Though, it also requires a special cultivation method to achieve such results," she paused for a moment as she realized why those people wanted to stop them from exploring the place.

"No wonder those people from the underworld organizations don't want us to proceed further," she frowned a little as she thought of something before continuing. "But given the desperate measures that they are taking, it is safe to say that they have yet to reach that place-..."

"...-that is if it really exists," she added as she was also having doubts about the existence of the legendary tree.

"Heck! We can even assume that it is some trap that the King of Thieves has set up to lure more victims," commented Mariel as she was also leaning toward this possibility.

But Elijah thought otherwise because he had found something earlier in the other rooms when he was exploring separately when they first time entered this place.

He contemplated a little before taking out a bronze-like leaf from his dimension pouch before presenting it to them. "It may not be enough evidence, but I have gotten this from one of the rooms when exploring."

Seeing the leaf, the two ladies suddenly rushed toward him and snatched it from his hands. They use their respective means to observe the leaf before their eyes suddenly turn wide.

"I may not be an expert on this, but I can tell that this leaf is over a couple of thousands of years old," commented Mariel as she stared intently at the leaf.

Shiella did not say anything, but she agreed with Mariel given that her ocular skill was also picking up an ancient aura coming from the leaf.

"Even if it is just a piece that the King of Thieves has found, it is worth investigating. We also don't know if those people from the underworld organizations have collected the other leaves as they are the first ones to discover this place."

After saying that, she signaled to the two that it was now time to move.

"Whether the Millenium Tree of Immortality really exists or not will only be revealed once we reach the deepest level of this place," she said as she moved out.

Mariel and Elijah stared at her for a moment before exchanging glances with each other. They then shrugged their shoulders and stood up before following behind her.

They could feel that whatever was going to happen in this place would be bloody given the information that they had gathered. It would without a doubt cause a bloodbath once everyone encountered one another.

Chapter 1457: Relieving Boredom

...

After talking with the trio – Arthur, Leonard, and Cloe – David went back to the independent dimension to report something to his master as he had already received the news from the academy.

Right after entering, he could not help but slightly frown when he could not find Uno anywhere. "Where is our troublemaker? Out to cause trouble again?"

Alyssa glanced at him as she cleaned the room. "He went out to get some fresh air. At least that is what he said before going out again."

"Tsk! I bet he just got bored of staying here. He is not the type to sit around without doing anything after all," he commented while clicking his tongue.

"He sure is fearless. Is he not afraid of those old monsters that are currently present?" he shook his head as he found Uno's confidence impressive.

After that, he went to his master and quickly reported. "Master, they have confirmed it. It seems like that tomb is indeed connected to that place."

Hearing that, Evangeline slightly nodded her head. He was silent for a couple of moments before mumbling. "The King of Thieves, huh? I wonder if he is the key to finding that place."

She then turned to the two before saying. "I have a mission for the two of you."

At the same time, Uno returned to the mansion. But instead of heading back to Shin's room, he went to where David was staying.

The other room was in a mess because of his brief 'exercise' with Arthur and Leonard earlier, so that place could not be used for the time being.

But at the same time, he also ordered some servants to transfer Shin's gaming cabin to David's room as he would be using that.

He was quite bored, but he could not leave the household carelessly due to the recent events. Even if they were currently in the Central Continent, which was basically the home turf of the Springfield Family, he still could not carelessly leave because the situation was quite chaotic.

With that, he could only find another form of entertainment from something else. The only thing that he could think of right now was the game that everyone was playing these days.

When he was done setting up the gaming cabin and checking that there would be no issues, he sat inside it before closing the door.

After pressing a couple of buttons to start up everything, he leaned back and relaxed his body before closing his eyes.

"Initiate game login!"

"Destiny's Fate!"

Swoosh!

...

Right after he issued the command to the system, his consciousness was immediately transferred to the game.

When he opened his eyes once again, he found himself inside the room within the Storm Fortress.

Right after logging in, he was immediately bombarded by a series of notifications from the system, which informed him about the state of things, particularly those missions that were currently pending.

He ignored the personal messages that he had gotten as he would leave it to Shin later when he came back. He just browsed through to most important ones but still ignored them in the end.

What he would be focusing on was the urgent quests that Shin currently had, which was the investigation and gathering of the evidence that would link the Dark Cloud Kingdom and the Demonic Churches.

He had been with Shin all this time, and he watched the latter progress, so he was somewhat familiar with everything that Shin was doing.

However, he was not sure how Alice had dealt with the Death Flora since Shin had already left and logged out during that time.

But since the fortress was still standing, it would not be hard to guess that she was successful at taking it down along with her new Elemental Spirit.

Moreover, an Enlightened Being was stationed in this place, so even if she failed, Uno doubted that this fortress would fall that easily.

What made him slightly knit his brows was the update of the current quest that Shin was doing in progress.

"The Dark Cloud Kingdom is waging wage against all its neighboring kingdoms aside from the Storm Empire? I guess those people are getting impatient," he mumbled as he read through the quest update.

"Heh! They must be afraid of the might of the Storm Empire," he commented after making sure that he was still not too late for his quest.

"No wonder the system specifically indicated the Storm Empire rather than any other neighboring kingdoms – it is more powerful than the rest," he mumbled before standing up.

He was planning to deal with this pending quest and get it over with as soon as possible so that he could focus on relieving his boredom with other things.

"Tsk! Why do I have to run errands when I am just here to play," he complained as he walked out of the room.

Then right after he stepped out of the room, he was suddenly greeted by a soldier, who seemed to be waiting outside.

"You are finally out, esteemed guest. I commander is worried that you are having some problem after not walking out of your room for a few days," said the soldier right after greeting him.

Uno slightly frowned his brows before asking. "Is he looking for me?"

The soldier nodded his head. "The commander wants you to meet him as soon as possible. But since he doesn't want to disturb you if you are undergoing some breakthrough, we don't dare to disturb you."

"And since you have been staying inside that room for quite a long time, he can't wait for you as he has to head to the capital to report directly to the council," the soldier added as he gave Uno a curious glance.

He seemed to find that 'Shin' in front of him was somewhat different from what he had remembered. But that thought only lingered inside his head as he quickly disregarded it as he guessed that it had something to do with the 'close-door-training'.

Uno thought for a moment before replying. "I can't wait for him as I still have something important to do."

The soldier opened his mouth, planning to say something, but he quickly swallowed it back right after accidentally meeting Uno's eyes.

There seemed to be an immense pressure pressing on him right after seeing those eyes. There was a mixture of authoritative air and cold vibe coming from Uno, which made it hard to breathe for those who he looked at, particularly the ones with a slightly weaker mental strength.

Due to this, It was getting hard for other people to talk to much, much less refute his words.

The soldier could only nod his head while staring blankly at Uno.

Uno ignored the reaction of the soldier and nodded his head. "Thank you."

He then turned around and walked away.

The soldier could only watch his back as he disappeared in the corridor. This soldier was only able to recover himself after a few moments. There was an odd look on his face when he realized something.

"That was scary," he mumbled a shiver running down his spine.

...

In the meantime, Uno, who was traversing the Stormy Mountain Range to reach the Dark Cloud Kingdom, was killing a couple of monsters to adjust himself to the current 'body' that he had.

While he was doing that, Solus' voice suddenly sounded inside his head. "Who are you? Where is our liege!?"

Uno slightly raised his brows when he heard her words. But he chose not to say anything as he was too lazy to entertain her.

Fortunately, Hanzo quickly stepped in before she and Astaroth could even lose control. "This guy is still our host, but also somewhat different. You should have met him a couple of times already, you just don't realize it earlier because Shin always takes over immediately after."

"This guy is that kid's alter ego," he added with a sigh.

He then shifted his attention to Uno before asking. "But what happened to the kid exactly for you to be the one taking over his body actively?"

"Tsk!" Uno could not help but click his tongue in annoyance and just said. "He is tired and asleep, so I will be taking over for the time being."

Hanzo was still somewhat suspicious but did not further ask as this might include something else. At least he could feel that Shin was not in danger or anything, so he would not have any issues with it.

So long as Shin was fine, he would not be asking any questions. He was unlike these fanatics, who worshipped Shin unconditionally.

Solus still had a lot of things to ask, so she bombarded Uno with a lot of questions while Astaroth was seconding her words with 'That's right', 'Yes', 'I agree', and something similar.

Uno was not in the mood to entertain any of them, so he continued to ignore their words while focusing on adjusting himself to this world.

This continued for quite a while until he finally reached the borders of the Dark Cloud Kingdom.

Right after he stepped out of the Stormy Mountain Range, he immediately noticed an army organizing themselves in the distance.

Looking at their size, he guessed that they were at least ten thousand strong.

He observed them momentarily before his lips curved into a devious grin. "Just when I am getting bored. These guys should be enough to entertain me for a while."

Chapter 1458: Relieving Boredom (Part 2)

...

"Move! Move! Get in your position already!"

"You! Stop slacking off and get in formation! If the general sees you, then getting killed will be the last of your worry!"

"Come on! Come on! We must finish forming our battle formation so that we can leave as soon as the general arrives!"

Angry shouts and ferocious yells could be heard across the field as the NPC soldiers gathered. The captains of each unit and their lieutenants were constantly calling out those who were moving slowly as they formed their battle formation.

These NPC soldiers varied from common to elite class and levels spanning between 160 to 175. The captains and lieutenants were all 175 special elites, which could rival Lord Class Monsters of the same level.

This army was ten thousand strong – a very strong force.

If such an army started sieging a city, then they would be no different from being a huge monster horde or might even worse.

Given their movements, it was clear that they were planning to go to war. And with the direction that they were facing, it would not be strange to think that they were planning to head to the Stormy Mountain Range.

They seemed to be planning to wage war against the Storm Empire.

It might be a foolish move for some since the Dark Cloud Kingdom was already at war with the other neighboring kingdoms. They claimed that those kingdoms were plotting something against them and even presented evidence to support their words.

Due to the irrefutable evidence, the council that was overseeing the matters in the continent could not say anything about it. Unless the other sides presented evidence of their own to prove their innocence.

But for some unknown reason, the other kingdoms did not refute the claims of the Dark Cloud Kingdom and instead wage war in response, resulting in the current situation.

Since it was a nation-level war, a kingdom event was triggered, letting the players pick their sides and join the war.

This event would let them earn military merit points that they could use to raise their military ranks or exchange for high-quality equipment and weapons that were exclusively meant for military forces.

There was even a special equipment set that they could get after reaching a certain rank. It was a set that could continuously evolve so long as they had enough merit points.

The quality of these sets was a little over the average and somewhat worse compared to the highest quality of equipment that the regular players had.

But what made this equipment good was its special set effects that were meant for PvP, which made the players crazy for it. Moreover, the set could even evolve to Obsidian Rank if they were able to reach the General Rank.

Reaching that rank might be impossible for most people. But once the top elites and apex experts started joining the war, people realized that it was just a skill issue.

These peak players slaughtered everyone they encountered, earning themselves a lot of merit points to raise their ranks. Once they claimed the set, they started slaughtering more people, racing to reach the General Rank as soon as possible to evolve their equipment set.

Evolving the set only needs them to kill enough people and reach the General Rank, so they become crazier in the war.

However, raising their ranks was much easier to say than doing it, so those foolish ones who thought that they could reach that rank by just killing random NPCs and players were immediately given a rude awakening right after reaching a certain rank.

They became a target by all the players from the opposing side as they were suddenly branded with a special mark after killing enough people.

Even if some of the top players were still able to hold their ground with their skills, raising their ranks became much harder as they were constantly being hindered by the top experts from the opposing side.

With the players' involvement, the war became even more chaotic.

The crazy players did not care about the penalty of dying, particularly being banned for an entire day from playing the game. So long as they killed enough people and accumulated enough merit points to exchange for the said set, they would think that it would be worth it.

Since the players had gotten involved, the Dark Cloud Kingdom no longer had to worry about the lack of manpower. This was the main reason why they had a spare army that they could use to harass the Storm Empire.

Attack the Storm Fortress was without a doubt a foolish choice, especially when it was guarded by a monster like Commander Taiga.

This was the reason why most of the soldiers of the army were unwilling to join the siege since it was no different from asking for their deaths.

But after hearing that the general leading this siege was their strongest general, someone on the same level as Commander Taiga, the morale of the army reached its peak and no longer hesitated.

As the army organized themselves, a lone figure suddenly appeared in the distance, emerging from the bottom of the mountain range.

He was not immediately noticed by the other NPCs as his presence was so weak that none of them were able to sense him even if he was exposed in their plain sight.

From the perspective of other people, he seemed to be a part of nature itself, making their brains think that he had never been there.

The captain, who had the keenest senses in the army, was only able to notice his presence once he reached fifty meters away from their formation.

"What!? Who is that? Why is there a person here?" mumbled one of the captains as he noticed the hooded figure walking toward them.

When he noticed that the person was not stopping and continuing to head in their direction, he suddenly raised his brows as he started to feel uneasy for some unknown reason.

At the same time, he also sensed that something was wrong with this person. He could not help feeling more anxious the more that person got near them.

Despite being a single person, the captain felt immense pressure coming from the other party.

From his perspective, he was seeing a savage beast silently approaching their ranks, not caring about the difference in numbers.

This captain felt that a pre-historic beast was walking at them instead of a person.

He was about to warn everyone when another captain noticed this person's approach. This captain was the one leading the unit nearest to the approaching figure.

"You! Who are you!?" shouted the captain with a threatening tone.

But that person seemed to be unable to hear him and continued to walk in their direction. This enraged the captain and leaped into the air and landed in front of his unit.

"I am asking you to state your name and purpose in coming here," growled the captain as he unsheathed his sword and pointed it forward.

It was at this moment when the other NPCs noticed the commotion. They were confused as to why one of the unit captains was standing outside their formation and yelling in the air.

But when they focused their gazes, they suddenly noticed that there was actually someone walking toward the army.

Some raised their brows as they were confused, the others started mocking the approaching person, thinking that there was someone foolish enough to provoke an army, while the rest squinted their eyes after sensing that there was something wrong with this individual.

The captains and lieutenants also sensed the strange air surrounding this person, so they subconsciously put their hands on their respective weapons, getting ready to jump into action once something went wrong.

Even if they felt that it would be foolish for a lone person to provoke an entire army of their size, they also could not shake off the feeling that this individual would dare to do such a thing.

...

Uno, who was the hooded person, maintained his pace as he walked toward the army.

At the same time, Solus was repeatedly urging him to turn back. "Even if you are the alter ego of our liege, I discourage you from confronting that army."

"Forget about the fact if you possess the ability to take on such an army of that size alone or not. Even if you do manage to slaughter them all, the karma of the dead will presently attach to your body and brand you with the Mark of the Evil God given their number."

Uno, who usually ignored her, could not help but raise his brows behind the mask. "Mark of the Evil God? I don't know what it is, but I like how it sounds. It has a nice ring into it."

Hearing those words, Solus suddenly raised her voice. "Have you not heard what I just said? I will not let you sully the body of our liege!"

Uno could not help but laugh at her words and said. "You talk as if that coward has never killed someone, much less a large number of them."

"You dare to insult our lord's name!?" Astaroth's powerful voice exploded like a clap of thunder inside Uno's head after hearing him mocking Shin.

Solus was also burning with rage. "Our liege killed those who dared to provoke him and his enemies. He is unlike you will only kill just for the sake of enjoyment."

Uno ignored them as he continued. "Killing is killing. There is nothing good about it no matter how you justify it. Moreover, this is nothing but a game."

"You also don't have to worry if he will be affected by my actions since even if we are the same and share a single vessel, we are still somewhat different."

"Neither of us are saints, but I am without a doubt worse than in when it comes to this aspect. After all, it is the sole purpose of my existence – clearing all the obstacles in his path."

He did not care whether they accepted his words or not. He also did not care if they agreed with him.

"Are you deaf? Stop right there or suffer the consequences with my sword!" as Uno was busy talking with the elemental spirits, the captain in front of him started emitting a powerful pressure and directed it to Uno in an attempt to stop him.

Swoosh!

But such pressure was nothing but a gentle breeze in front of Uno, who had to constantly face the pressure coming from the incarnation of the Seed of Hatred on a daily basis.

He slightly raised his head, making his eyes peek out from the eyeholes of the [Nephilim's Gemini Mask] to confront the gaze of the opposing party.

His eyes were glowing with purple light as their gazes met in the air.

The captain's body suddenly turned stiff when his eyes met those cold eyes.

Not long after, he suddenly heard a voice coming from his side. "You are too noisy for a weakling. Well, that is not strange too since the weakest ones have always been the noisiest among the bunch."

Uno had unknowingly appeared beside him!

The captain wanted to say something as Uno brushed past him, but he found that he was unable to talk, much less move his body to swing his sword.

His stiff body remained standing for a couple of seconds before suddenly collapsing on the ground.

He did know what just happened. He just continued to stare blankly in the air until his vision turned dark.

He did not even know how he had died.

Uno, on the other hand, continued to move forward and ignored everything.

There was a flying dagger that silently returned to his tactical belt hidden under his cloak as he continued walking.

"This skill is quite handy. But I am not much of a fan of it," he commented about the 'Demonic Telekinesis' after testing it out. "I better stick to my old ways."

"Ahh!!! The captain died!"

"That bastard killed the captain!"

"He is an assassin! Surround him and kill him!"

It was only at that moment that the army responded. They saw the body of the fallen captain collapse on the ground as the blood slowly spread and formed a small pool around his corpse.

The soldiers that were the nearest to Uno quickly recovered themselves and raised their weapons, preparing to attack with their battle formation.

Seeing that, Uno smiled behind the mask as he said to Hanzo. "Hey, old man. Let's do that thing we did before. I want to try something."

(Reference Chapter: 129)

"Void!" he called out without waiting for the elemental to respond.

Hanzo slightly frowned when he heard how rude those words were. But he did not put much thought into it and just followed the command.

This was still his host after all.

He broke free from the cycle of the elementals revolving around Uno before transforming into his humanoid form.

He then stood behind Uno and turned into an apparition that slowly fused with the latter.

The next instant, a series of purple runes appeared behind Uno before forming double-layer circles that were spinning in opposite directions.

'Elemental Spirit Possession (Void): (Uno's Version) Dimensional Traveler'

There was no visible change in his appearance, but the air surrounding him suddenly changed. There was also this unique purple aura covering his body, which was very similar to what Hanzo was constantly emitting.

At the same time, the [Yamato] on his hands also disappeared, being replaced by a double-bladed sword with sharp edges facing different directions.

This weapon was the signature weapon that Hanzo used.

After grabbing the weapon that materialized out of thin air, Uno suddenly swung it horizontally, drawing a straight line in the air.

Swoosh!

There was a flash of purple light that blinded everyone for a moment before disappearing within an instant.

The army suddenly halted their actions and confusedly stared at Uno, who was still maintaining the final pose of his previous actions.

They were about to launch a coordinated attack when the people standing in front of Uno suddenly had their heads flying and rolling in the air along with the severed spears that they were holding.

In an instant, a hundred people got their heads severed from their bodies.

A sudden chill ran down the spines of everyone when they saw that, staring blankly at Uno with astounded eyes.

"This game sure is interesting," mumbled Uno as raised his head and swept his gaze at everyone. "Ah~! Let's start the party, shall we?"

Chapter 1459: The Mark of the Evil God

...

"A Monster! This guy is a monster!"

"A Demon! A demon of the battlefield!"

The soldiers started to panic as Uno ran rampant on the battlefield. He was like a meatgrinder that was shredding everyone who tried to get near him.

It was just a little over an hour since the battle had started yet the number of the army had already cut down by a quarter.

Killing a little over two thousand people in the span of half an hour sounded crazy, but Uno had done it regardless.

What was even crazier was he was starting to pick up the pace as he got more familiar with the virtual avatar that he had. The moment when he was able to adjust himself to it, his real abilities started to show one after another.

"Tsk! These weaklings are not even worth as an appetizer," mumbled Uno after slaughtering another quarter of the army in just fifteen minutes.

His progress was getting faster as more time passed.

Moreover, he was not even trying to utilize his signature style of battle but instead trying to familiarize himself with the Elemental Spirit Possessions that he could utilize.

He was just using these people as a test subject for the skills and abilities that he could use under these possessions.

His Elemental Spirit Possessions were also somewhat different from Shin, where the latter was letting his Reaper's Retainers possess his swords, granting him special abilities meant for his swordsmanship.

They would also give him some stat boosts in respective possessions that they had along with the 'Mondi's Style' Legacy Skill and or the twin-sword style whenever he changed the form of the [Yamato].

This possession fell on weapon or equipment possession.

On the other hand, Uno's possession belonged to the category of body possession, where the Elemental Spirits would possess his body directly, giving him special abilities of the respective elemental that currently possessed him.

This would not only upgrade the Elemental Skills that each Reaper's Retainers granted him but would also let him gain access to some elemental skills that the Elementals were currently in possession.

When he was using the 'Dimension Traveler' Possession, the 'Void Steps' Elemental Skill under his arsenal almost lost its cooldown. With a one-second cooldown, he was able to spam the skill to his heart's content while cutting everyone who came across him.

Along with the specialized weapon on his hands and the void properties that each of his strikes had after possession, he was also able to cut through any defense due to its absolute penetration effects.

This was a powerful possession, but it also came with a price. He would be losing his access to his other skills, particularly the Tier 2 and 3 skills from his arsenal along with the secondary combat class that he had.

He would also lose his access to the other skills from a different element unless he did a dual possession, which was still somewhat far from his grasp.

This limited his skills down to the Tier 1 and basic extra skills that he had.

But to compensate for his limited number of skills, Uno incorporated the ever-changing style of Shin's unique swordsmanship.

Instead of sticking to a single possession, he swapped between the other Elemental Possessions. The Reaper's Retainers were taking turns in possession of his body depending on the situation.

Such a style required a lot of control, concentration, and quick adjustment to pull off such a style, yet Uno was able to execute it with ease.

Even if it put quite a toll on his body and consumed quite a lot of mental strength, he was still able to execute everything without encountering any issues.

Such a feat surprised even Solus, who was quite skeptical about Uno earlier. Astaroth also had to acknowledge this 'other' lord that he was following.

As for Hanzo, Vladimir, and Grimrace – these three had already experienced how crazy this guy was during their first 'encounter' with him.

He was even able to pull off the Elemental Spirit Possession in a single try during that time – and he was in the middle of an intense battle against Immortal when he did that, which made it even crazier.

Whitie and Blackie, on the other hand, did not care much about it as they remained loyal to their master. Even if the scents coming from Shin and Uno were somewhat different, they still felt their connection with them.

...

After almost two hours of battle – or rather a one-sided slaughter – there were barely a handful of people left on the battlefield.

Corpses littered around the place while the land was dyed red with their blood.

Uno stood at the center of everywhere while the remaining soldiers stood frozen in their respective spots with eyes full of dread and helplessness.

They lost all their will to fight this monster as they were frozen by fear.

One of the unit captains barely survives with a missing limb. He stared at Uno, who looked like a complete demon in his eyes.

He did not know from which hole this monster came, but he knew that it was a piece of bad news for their kingdom. Their plans would most likely fall in front of this person despite not being as strong as their generals.

His subconscious mind was telling him that he had to inform their king about this matter, but he also knew that it would be impossible with his current state.

He then looked around and saw the sea of corpses along with the surviving soldiers who seemed to have their souls left their bodies.

Their general was supposed to arrive at least an hour from now after stabilizing the battle at the frontlines from the different fronts of the war, but it was clear that it was already too late.

All they could do was accept their fate and die at the hands of this demon.

"You... you will be cursed! You will be cursed by the deities and immortals that oversee our kingdom!" shouted the surviving captain with his remaining strength.

Uno glanced in the direction of that captain before smirking. "Cursed? My entire existence is already a curse."

He paused for a moment and looked at the sky before continuing. "As for your gods... they have already abandoned you since you people have already collaborated with the demons."

"You can also say that I am an envoy to punish you for such a deed if we put it that way," he added as he raised his left hand and made a snap with his fingers.

Snap!

At the same time, hundreds of shadow daggers were formed in the air, pointing down at everyone.

Then, at the same moment when he lowered his hand, these daggers fell from the sky like rain, killing off the surviving soldiers in the process.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Right after the final soldier died, a sudden notification from the system rang in his ears.

Ding

System: You have slaughtered 10,000 people! You have gained the Mark of the Evil God.

Ding

System: You have gained the title 'Manslaughterer'.

Hearing that, Uno slightly raised his brows. He had heard from Solus about this earlier, but he did not put that much thought into it as he was only playing the game for fun.

Regardless, this still made him somewhat interested.

With a thought, he opened the information panel to look at what he had gained.

[Mark of the Evil God]

- The mark brand to those who have slaughtered people to a certain degree.

- A mark that will lead you to the path of becoming an Evil God.

Details:

- It is both a blessing and a curse to those who have been branded with it.

Additional Skills:

Death Accumulation (Passive): During combat, whenever you kill someone, you will gain a 'Death Point' that will increase your attack by 1% (Max 30 Stacks).

Note: Disappears when out of combat.

Curse of the Dead (Permanent Passive): After killing a victim, you will gain a permanent stat point by absorbing their 'Death Energy'.

Note 1: Stats will randomly gain depending on the level and rank of your victims.

If the victim is weaker than you by a great margin, you will not gain anything from them. (Victims with 10 levels lower than you and of normal and common ranks will not grant you any stacks)

Note 2: Killing the same victim repeatedly will not grant you any stats.

Note 3: Killing a certain number of victims of the same monster species will not grant any stats.

Note 4: You will be constantly hunted by the souls of those you have killed. You will randomly get a mental attack from the vengeful souls until you reach the ranks of the Evil God. (The mental attacks will gradually become stronger as you become more powerful, and the stronger the victim's soul is.)

Note 5: This mark is permanently branded to your 'soul'.

Uno could not help but raise his brows a little when he read through the entire description. He was fascinated by it and liked it more than he had expected.

But what made it piqued his interest was the final note that told him what was branded to his 'soul'.

From what he understood, it seemed like the system did not recognize him as 'Shin' given the clue that this note had indicated.

"Interesting," he commented as he thought about this.

Then he proceeded to the title that he had received along with this mark.

Title: [Manslaughterer]

Description:

- A title that was granted to those who have killed a lot of people.
- This Title continuously evolves as the 'Mark of the Evil God' becomes stronger.

Stats:

- Gain Bloodlust Stat

Note 1: Bloodlust Stat doesn't grant you any bonus stats but increases the momentum of your Killing Intent to suppress your enemies.

Additional Skill:

Bloodlust Devour (Permanent Passive): Make your Killing Intent stronger the more you kill someone.

"A title that comes in a package with the mark?" commented Uno after reading the description of the title.

As he was lost in his thoughts, something happened in the battle. The air turned cold while the atmosphere became somewhat suffocating.

When he paused and raised his head, he saw that there was a crimson aura coming out from the sea of corpses around him. This aura slowly rose from those bodies before turning into a gust that flew straight to him.

Uno slightly frowned when he saw that but did not put his guard up as he could not feel any threat coming from this crimson energy.

Then he saw that the crimson aura rushed toward the back of his left hand, seemingly being sucked by something.

When he looked at it, he saw a complex mark that was composed of multiple runes. These runes were forming a crimson moon with a black line cutting through its center diagonally.

It was different from Shin's Mark of Eclipse that made him an envoy of the Church of the Sun and Moon, but the feeling that they were giving off was somewhat the same.

Thinking about this, Uno raised his other hand to compare the two marks with one another, but he suddenly noticed that one of them was only active. The 'Mark of the Evil God' was shining while the 'Mark of Eclipse' was only like an ordinary tattoo.

Raising his brows, Uno could not help but feel quite intrigued by this information. "This game is getting more and more interesting the more I play it."

He felt like he was going to get somewhat invested in it to a certain extent if he continued to play at this pace.

"I somewhat want to look for secrets of this game," he mumbled.

After that, he raised his head and looked at the battlefield once again before walking away. He was still not sure where to head next, but he could feel something ominous coming from a certain direction.

That place seemed to be his next target.

Chapter 1460: Absurd 'Rumors'

.....

As the flames of war within the borders of the Dark Could Kingdom grew stronger, players started to get the strong pressure coming from all sides.

Through this war, the players were surprised by the military prowess of the Dark Cloud Kingdom. Despite being besieged from all sides, they were still able to hold themselves back losing much from every battle.

Their generals were also quite strong, particularly the ones who were leading the battles against the strongest front of their enemies.

This military prowess was almost as strong as the Strom Empire, which had yet to join the war.

The players who had joined the side of the Dark Cloud Kingdom were also slowly growing in numbers due to this, especially when the rewards that they could give the players were also much better than what the other kingdoms did.

With these alluring rewards and the military prowess that they were showing, more and more players became tempted to join them.

But those were only limited to regular players as some of the elite and expert players found something strange with the Dark Cloud Kingdoms.

The top Guilds, Mercenary Groups, and Adventurer Teams sensed that there was something wrong with the kingdom, especially when they saw that their military forces were emitting a strange aura.

It was barely noticeable from the regular people, but to these powerhouses, who had experienced quite a lot within the game, something like this was somewhat disturbing.

Due to these, most of these powerhouses pulled their forces back and switched sides instead.

Of course, there were also those groups and powers that did not care. They continued what they were doing and claimed the rewards that they earned.

They did not care about the strangeness of the Dark Cloud Kingdom as what mattered to them were the benefits that they would be getting.

Among these groups that chose to side with the Dark Could Kingdom, those from the Dark Guilds were the ones that were showcasing their presence more.

...

As all of these were happening, some absurd rumors started to spread in every place.

It was said that someone had slaughtered an entire army of the Dark Cloud Kingdom, left a sea of corpses, and dyed the ground red with their blood.

What was even crazier about this was it was done by a single person, which made the people who had heard it unbelievable.

Everyone was aware of the military prowess of the Dark Could Kingdom. Even if that said army was the weakest of them all, that army shouldn't be that weak. That was unless the person who had slaughtered them was someone as strong as an Enlightened Being.

But such a person would not appear that easily given the war's state. It was too early for such a powerful individual to appear yet.

Even the few commanding generals of the Dark Cloud Kingdom, who were at that level had yet to make their moves, so the other sides couldn't show themselves.

That was when an even crazier rumor spread among the players. It was said that a lone player did the massacre of the army.

Naturally, it was absurd to hear, but a few people claimed that they had witnessed the one-sided slaughter.

But since there were no recorded clips of the said battle, people took it as some sort of nonsense that the people had created to build up hype for some entertainment.

Everyone thought that way at least until they started hearing something from the NPCs from the Dark Cloud Kingdom. They had heard that some Otherworldly Individual (a player) was hunting their forces down, which everyone found absurd.

How could a player slaughter an entire army by themselves?

Forget about the high-ranking officers of the army as the sheer number of the army alone was overwhelming enough for a single person.

Unless they were a powerful mage with a lot of large-scale spells. But even this would require the player to be skilled enough to cast those spells in such an environment. Even the most skilled mage would be in trouble if they tried taking on such a large army alone.

Even if they tried to cut the number of the army with a powerful spell with a blast, it would still take a lot if they wanted to annihilate the entire army.

If they ever did, then that person should be a powerful mage even among the apex experts of the game, particularly a top Godlike Player.

But as these people were speculating who could that mage player possibly be, another piece of information spread around the community.

Apparently, the class of the player who had done the massacre was a melee class.

Based on the traces left behind at the scenes, the person would most likely be a swordsman or at least a sword or blade user.

The cuts and sword marks left on the bodies of the soldiers and the ground respectively indicated the possible class of the player.

This piece of news changed everything and made the people who had heard them crazy.

If there was a player out there who could annihilate an entire army by themselves, then that person was without a doubt a top Godlike Player. They might even be among the gods standing at the top of the ranks.

After receiving such news, people started speculating who this person might be. The players who were active at the online forums even listed quite a lot of people who they believed to be the 'culprit' of these incidents.

As these people were speculating, the players on the side of the Dark Cloud Kingdom had leaked news about the formation of a special task force that would be pursuing this mysterious individual, who was constantly hitting them where it hurt the most.

Whenever this person hit their forces, it would be the ones that were meant for their special operations. These forces that were hit by this individual were the ones meant to ambush the forces of their enemies.

Their operation would always be sabotaged whenever those forces were annihilated.

This made the leaders of the Dark Cloud Kingdom think that there was a traitor among their ranks, especially when the other party would always be ahead of them whenever they tried something.

This was the reason why the NPCs and players leading the forces of the Dark Cloud Kingdom came up with the decision to hunt this person.

Two units were formed, one from the elite forces of the NPCs while the other was composed of the top elites and apex experts among the players on their side.

...

As these people were organizing their forces, the people from the Demonic Churches, those from the Pandemonium in particular, were currently gathered in a certain location hidden within the kingdom.

"What do you think of this person hitting our forces," asked Paimon as he looked at the others sitting around the table.

"They are not only annihilating the NPC Forces but also accurately hitting those places where we are trying to gather our people," he added as he opened a virtual map where the places where their forces were hit by the mysterious individual.

Belial, who just came back after organizing his forces for another operation in the other nation, glanced at it before commenting. "This person is without a doubt targeting us purposely. It is as if he knows where we are going to move our forces and which operation is the most important to us."

Baal also glanced at the marked place before saying with full suspicion. "The places where they attack are too accurate to say that it is a random operation. They know which places hurt the most and which ones are just baits to trap him."

Amon, who belonged to the combat unit, also commented. "They are also quite skilled at running away. Even if we have set up some trapping formation surrounding our forces, they always somehow get in without notice and escape with ease."

Then he focused his gaze at a few spots on the map before continuing. "Their attacks may look random at first glance it are quite organized and well planned."

"Moreover, don't you feel that he is constantly hitting those forces meant to guard that place?" he added with a serious tone.

Hearing those words, the others also forced their gazes and realized something.

"Wait! That is right! Moreover, they are also constantly approaching..." Baal could not help but pause when he realized something.

"...the place where the portal is located," Belial finished his words for him as they also came up with the same conclusion.

Squinting his eyes, Paimon could not help but say. "This person is targeting that place."

He then paused and turned to Belial and Amon before continuing. "Do you think it is the work of that variable?"

Belial thought for a moment before nodding. "It is highly possible. Even if we have lost track of him since his last encounter with our forces, there are also signs that he is targeting us."

"The problem is..." reaching this point, he could not help but pause for a moment before turning to Amon.

Amon also seemed to be in deep thought before nodding. "Yeah-... this battle prowess is too absurd. It is much more powerful compared to what we have got from him."

"He may be strong, but he shouldn't be strong enough to annihilate an entire army," he paused and thought of something before adding. "At least, not alone."

"But it is also impossible for the other members of their adventurer team to gather in this place," refuted Belial. "I have our people watching over the others. None of them are showing any signs of suspicious movements while the rest were too busy to deal with their respective quests."

He then paused before adding. "Moreover, Lucifer and the other two also informed us that the core members of the Empyrean Talons are busy with matters in the real world. They can't have any time to play the game now."

The room suddenly fell into silence immediately after.

After a few moments, Paimon suddenly tapped the table before saying. "Regardless, we must watch our backs with such a person lurking around us."

"The gate is in the crucial stages, we have to make sure that everything will be going perfectly," he added before standing up and dismissing the meeting.

Baal did not care and just went back to do his job.

Belial and Amon were left in the meeting room and the former suddenly said. "What do you of this person? Do you have any confidence in fighting them?"

Amon shook his head as he stood up. "Don't make me laugh. I will always have confidence in facing anyone."

But he suddenly paused when he thought of something before adding. "However, I must admit that this person is much more powerful than any of us. Annihilating an NPC army alone-...? Even I can't do even if I activated my Demon Contract."

"Or unless I possess the powers that our leader has," he added before leaving.

Belial remained seated on his spot for a few moments before mumbling. "The same level as the powers of the Great Leader, huh? This is getting more and more interesting."

After that, he stood up and walked away.

...

At the same time, somewhere on the outskirts of the Dark Cloud Kingdom, an individual was sitting on a mountain of corpses of demonic monsters.

He seemed to be cleaning his sword from the corrupted blood of these monsters before turning his head in a certain direction.

"That's one problem to deal with. Now, onto the next target," mumbled Uno as he squinted his eyes.

Through his version of 'True Sight' ocular skill, he seemed to be able to see something. After confirming something, he suddenly started to grin deviously. "Ah~! You finally showed yourselves~!"

"I have been waiting for these nobles to make their moves. Let's just hope their king is with them," he added as he stood up.

He then sheathed the [Yamato] before disappearing from the top of the monster corpse mountain.