

Destiny 1481

Chapter 1481: The Dragon God versus the Evil God (Part 2)

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Bang! Bang!

After a few more exchanges, Arthur could finally familiarize himself with his Natural State. He was also able to gauge his current strength and what he could do in this state.

After adjusting a little more, he decided it was time to get serious.

Swoosh!

He suddenly leaped high up in the air and adjusted his position to control his center of gravity so that he could stay hovering there for quite a while.

He then raised his spear and pointed it to the sky before summoning his strongest Elemental Dragon.
"Time for Chaos, Archon!"

Roar!

Not long after, a dragon appeared behind him momentarily before transforming into a light that merged with his body.

'Elemental Dragon Fusion: (Chaos Dragon) Chaos Harbinger'

His form quickly turned into a half-human half-dragon form where his armor was replaced with obsidian scales while his cape became a pair of wings. His dragon helmet also disappeared as a pair of antlers stuck out of his head while a reptilian tail grew from his tailbone.

His spear did not change – the same for his round shield. But they now possessed a series of glowing runes written in ancient language.

Boom!

After his transformation, an even stronger pressure suddenly enveloped the entire surroundings as he hovered in the air.

He looked down at Uno from above with his Dragon Eyes that were full of pride, seemingly asking the latter to show him what he got.

Uno slightly raised his brows when he saw that. He could also use his version of Elemental Possession, but he would use some of his freedom of using his skills and techniques once he did as their elements did not match his style.

His Elemental Possession might be strong, but he knew that it would not be enough to face the current Arthur. That was unless he used a double possession of Blackie and Whitie since they were the closest to the principle of duality.

"I guess it can't be helped," he mumbled and summoned the twin tigers and initiated a double possession.

Roar! Roar!

The two manifested behind Uno in their tiger forms before turning into specks of light that spiral around each other before fusing with his body.

'Elemental Spirit Possession: (Uno's Version: Light and Darkness) Primal Chaos'

His appearance did not change that much aside from the black and white stripes that surfaced on his armor.

There were also two pairs of wings behind him – two angelic wings above and two demonic wings below them. These wings also merged with the crimson wings that were manifested by his killing intent, giving them a crimson hue as they flapped around.

Right after his transformation, the aura that he was releasing matched Arthur's pressure, creating a series of explosions right after they collided in the air.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Another storm of chaotic mana was formed as the two powers clashed against each other, creating black flashes of lightning that bombarded the land for every collision they had.

The two stared at each other for a couple of moments, before disappearing from their respective positions in the next instant.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

What followed was a series of huge explosions that appeared in the air and ground, creating shockwaves and violent ripples that spread in every direction.

The figures of the two could not be seen as even the cameras could not keep up with their moments, but the destruction that they had left behind gave everyone an intense shiver down their spine.

Aside from the pair of lights that repeatedly clashed against each other and the series of explosions that they had left behind, the live audience and the online viewers could not see anything.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Not long after, even the colossal Battle Spirits also disappeared as they merged with their respective combatants, further increasing the powers of the two.

Roar! Roar!

Then a dragon and tiger made of energies suddenly appeared, representing the two. They repeatedly clashed against one another as the pair of lights strongly collided in the air.

The two showcased their powers and techniques while the dragon and tiger represented the moves that they had executed and thrown at each other.

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'Springfield Secret Arts: Imperial Tactics – Descent of the Thousand Dragons'

Arthur threw a series of stabs in the air and released his energies from the tip of his spear repeatedly at the end of each stab, forming a raid of serpent dragons that poured down from the sky.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Uno halted in the air and stared at the incoming storm of dragons while holding his shortswords tightly. Black and white energies set the swords ablaze before he swung them toward the incoming dragons from the sky.

'Yin-Yang Cultivation Arts: Unification of Yin and Yang – Storm of the Light and Darkness'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A series of sword energies flew out from his slashes, flying toward the incoming dragons and cutting off their necks one after another.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Amidst the chaotic storm of energies, a huge dragon head suddenly broke through it and opened its mouth wide while flying toward Uno.

Roar!

It swallowed the storm of sword energies that Uno had thrown while continuing with an unstoppable moment.

'Springfield Secret Arts: Imperial Tactics – The Divine Dragon Devouring the Heavens'

Uno swiftly crossed his arms as his entire body was suddenly shrouded by a silver-white flame and a pitch-black light that melded with each other.

A black hole was formed in the middle of his swords as he held them parallel to each other, absorbing the surrounding mana.

Behind him, a huge manifestation of a humanoid figure appeared. It was slowly moving its hands toward one another as Uno stood between them. It then joined its palms together while interlocking its fingers as black and white spheres behind it merged and coincided.

Boom!

'Yin-Yang Cultivation Arts: Unification of Yin and Yang – The Moon Embraces the Sun'

Swoosh!

Then a beam of light with alternating black and white colors flew toward the sky, colliding against the descending dragon.

Boom!

A powerful explosion instantly followed the collision of powers. The space seemed to have also been affected by this powerful clash of powers as spatial features appeared at the point of impact and spread in every direction.

Puff!

Amidst this storm, Arthur's figure appeared once again as he broke the void and presented himself in front of Uno once again.

He then started engaging in a melee battle where both executed a series of techniques in a frontal confrontation.

'True Nine Dragon Arts: Draconic Annihilation'

Arthur threw a barrage of attacks such as stabs, thrusts, pokes, slashes, cleaves, and such at Uno with continuous and seamless combinations.

'Yin-Yang Cultivation Arts: Yin and Yang Forms – Primal Storm'

Uno did not back down as he also threw a series of combinations of his own, confronting Arthur without reservation.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

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The people watching the battle could not help but shout with passion as they watched these two gods clash against each other.

The people at the audience stand went crazy while those viewers watching from the live broadcast flooded the chat with a variety of emojis that represented their emotions.

In their eyes, the Uno and Arthur were in a deadlock.

On the other hand, those apex experts, who saw more about the battle and understood the whole situation, begged to disagree as they could see more than what the others could from the surface.

They knew that Arthur was currently on the back foot and losing the battle slowly but surely.

He might be able to put up a strong front and take the initiative in every exchange, but Uno was calmly responding with everything and simply kept his composure.

This made their faces grow solemn as they were all familiar with Arthur. The title of 'Dragon God' was not up for show. It did not only represent Arthur's fame and status within the virtual world but also his strength and all the achievements that he had made.

Aside from a few people on similar levels such as Sword God Zero, Martial God Ashura, War God Simba, and Lich God Immortal – who stood at the peak of the virtual world – no one would be able to claim that they had an absolute confidence that they could match Arthur in a battle.

Even Kallavan and Susanoo from God's Paradise, who always wanted to pick a fight against him, were not confident of defeating him. It was only their pride and stubbornness that made them unable to accept that fact.

However, it would also be a different matter when it comes to team battles since the team was quite powerful altogether.

Due to this, these apex experts could not help but become curious about the real identity of this mysterious expert who seemed to have come out of nowhere.

A mysterious expert who goes with the title of Evil God not only their interest but also arouses an intense fear that they had almost forgotten.

"It seems like this upcoming United Cup will be more interesting," mumbled Zeus, the guild master of the Titan Guild.

"Hehe, you are right," Odin, his co-leader chuckled as he agreed.

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"It has been a while since I have seen that friend of mine struggle in battle," commented Valkyrie, the ace combatant of the Wing's Alliance.

"Hmph! Serves him the beating," Flouree, the strongest mage of the Earners Mercenary Group, glared at Arthur.

"Stil broken-hearted, Flouree? You should have chosen me instead," Ein, the strangest member of the Seamless Gate, chuckled and could not help but tease her.

"I am more interested in the Hegemon Cup and fighting this Evil God in a one-on-one battle," Desperado, a top solo player in the godlike ranking list who was also known as the Gods of Guns, could not help but become interested in Uno.

"That is still quite a far, don't you think?" said Violet, the commander of Purple Crow, while planning with her daggers.

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"Evil God, huh? Interesting," Serpent, the mysterious guild leader of Hydra Guild, could not take his eyes off Uno as if he was reminded of someone from his distant memories.

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"Don't tell me this is all you can do, Arthur," Yuan – the Pavilion Master of the Dragon Pavilion and an old rival of Arthur – squinted his eyes as he watched the battle.

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Lucifer was also watching the battle from his virtual room. He tapped his fingers on the armrest of his chair as he stared intently at Uno. He could recognize that this was the person who had attacked them and interrupted the ritual at the Dark Cloud Kingdom.

Chapter 1482: A Glimpse of His True Might

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After a few more exchanges with Arthur, Uno had finally gotten bored of this battle. He had already entertained himself enough and gotten a good look at Arthur's current abilities, so there was no need to continue this anymore.

He found Arthur's Dragon Eyes quite interesting as it fully complemented the bloodline and other traits of the latter, but Arthur had yet to fully grasp its full potential.

It was the same for the new Imperial Flame that Arthur currently wielded, which was greatly enhanced and significantly upgraded compared to the other members of the Springfield Family. Unfortunately, Arthur had yet to find the true powers that it possessed.

Aside from that, Arthur also could not wield the Divine Lightning that his powerful bloodline possessed, which was the other higher form of energy that was comparable to his Imperial Flame. He could not wield the two powers simultaneously as both put quite a toll on his mind and body.

Uno knew that it was now the time to end this, so he would be showing Arthur how the properly use his 'Foresight'.

At this moment, Arthur suddenly sensed an immense threat coming from Uno, so he quickly disengaged from the battle and swiftly retreated.

Then, what happened next, shocked him. He suddenly found it hard to track Uno's movements. Despite the powerful abilities of his Dragon Eyes, he was unable to follow any of the movements of the opposition.

Or to be more precise, the information that his eyes were getting was messing up with Arthur's braid. His mind was unable to follow the movements of his opponent due to the small yet fast and multiple changes that Uno was making.

It felt like Uno was feeding him a large amount of information that he could not keep up with. Due to this, Uno was able to create a series of illusionary movements that confused Arthur greatly.

Arthur immediately realized what was happening. "This was the special ability of Pinnacle Omniscience when its prediction abilities are used to the fullest."

Uno was using the predicted movements that Arthur would be making by taking advantage of the initial stage of the Pinnacle Omniscience that he had within the game. He was also overloading Arthur's head with a series of information, using the abilities of the Dragon Eyes against the latter.

Then, all of a sudden, Arthur completely lost track of Uno as if he suddenly disappeared from the world.

"That is not a bad try, but still far from being enough."

Arthur's pupils suddenly contracted as he suddenly heard Uno's voice on his side as the latter brushed past him.

'Yin-Yang Cultivation Arts: Ultimate Yin and Yang – Transcendent Sword'

Swoosh!

The world seemed to have stopped as everyone suddenly saw Uno standing a couple of meters away behind Arthur the latter stood on his spot dumbfounded, completely frozen in place.

The people watching the battle were unable to keep up with what just happened as all they saw was the two standing a distance away from each other and completely still.

All the chaos and destruction that they were making earlier completely disappeared right after they stopped moving.

At least, that was what the average players were seeing. But it was completely different from what the apex experts had seen, particularly those Godlike Players and Maverick Gods who were keeping a close eye on the battle.

All their faces could not help but grow solemn when they saw the final strike that the others could not. Then their expression instantly turned grim as realized that this was most likely the true powers of this mysterious expert that came out of nowhere.

What they had seen up until now was nothing but Uno playing with Arthur as a form of entertainment, which they thought was his true powers. They felt confident that they would be able to do well if they were in Arthur's shoes.

But the moment when Uno showed them a fraction of his real powers, they all realized that this mysterious expert that everyone was calling Evil God was not as simple as it seemed.

Aside from David, who had expected that this battle would end up like this, everyone could not believe what just happened.

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Back in the area, Arthur smiled bitterly as he lowered his spear and shield powerlessly as he found that he could no longer control his body.

This only meant one thing, he had died but the system had not recognized it yet due to how fast the final strike was.

His vision then turned blurry before slowly turning dark.

He had lost. He was completely lost.

Clank!

The spear in his hand slipped from his fingers and fell on the ground as his body started to turn into specks of lights that were dissipating in the air.

"Victory!"

Then fireworks appeared in the sky as the system finally announced that Uno had won. There was no name attached to it as Uno had already hidden his details, preventing other people from learning who he was.

He then disappeared from the area, leaving everyone stunned as they processed what just transpired in front of them.

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There was complete silence in both the audience stand and the chat of the live broadcast as they were still unable to completely digest the result of the battle.

It took everyone quite a while before they burst into an intense uproar.

"What the F!? What just happened!?"

"What's with that ending? Is it a little-... anticlimactic compared to the entire process of the battle?"

"Forget about that! Dragon God just lost a battle aside from Sword God Zero and Martial God Ashura!"

"This is crazy! This is going to break the online platforms!"

"D*mn! The Godly Ranking List is about to be changed once again! A new god is born!"

As the people from the live stand could not control their emotions once they broke out, the viewers watching from the live broadcast were also unable to stop themselves from typing in the chat like crazy and spamming a series of emotes to express their disbelief. They had flooded the chat so greatly that it also crashed due to the text traffic.

Even Miss Bunny, despite her experience, could not respond quickly to what she just witnessed.

"What an amazing battle! It is truly pleasing to the eyes. Don't you think, partner?" fortunately, David was restively fine and quickly picked up, snapping her out of her daze.

"Ah! Of course! Even I can't believe what just I have seen. Don't you see that I am also as stunned as our viewers?" she said professionally, even mocking herself to make it more entertaining.

David played along and chuckled. "Yes! Yes! I can see it. But who will not have the same reaction? That final strike is just too beautiful and profound for most people to understand."

Picking up his hint, Miss Bunny suddenly asked. "That is right! What a perfect word – Profound! That is the only word I can describe for that final strike."

"So~... Mister Khing, as an expert yourself – known as the King of Virtual Games – what do you think about this battle and that final strike?" she asked with full anticipation.

"Hmm~..." David thought for a moment before answering. "The battle overall is good. Even if we can't say that it is a textbook example for our audience to study, it will be – without a doubt – one of the classic battles that we will see online."

"As for the final strike-... Even I will have a hard time explaining it," he added before pausing. He then continued with a mystifying smile. "But I can at least tell that it was a glimpse of the real powers of this- ... Ahm-... Evil God."

Hearing that, Miss Bunny could not help but frown, voicing out the thoughts of every viewer. "Real strength of the Evil God? Are you telling us that everything that this mysterious expert has shown us in the entire battle is nothing but a fraction of his powers?"

"And that final strike is the only serious move that he had taken since the start of the battle?" she added in disbelief.

"Do you think that I am just exaggerating it?" said Davil with a chuckle. He then paused for a moment before continuing. "But trust me when I said this-... Even that move is just a fraction of his real powers."

"At least, that is what I believe after what I have seen in the entire battle," he added to mask his absolute certainty in this battle.

"I don't believe you," said Miss Bunny with a mixture of disbelieving and humorous tone.

"It can't be helped then," David just shrugged his shoulder as he added. "But we can also consult some experts out there about this if you want."

After that, the two chatted with each other a bit more and discussed more details of the battle as they were waiting for the viewers to calm down a little more.

Not long after, it was now time to bid goodbye to their viewers once again.

"Should I do the closing remarks once again?" asked David in a humorous tone.

"Now you are trying to steal my show!" said Miss Bunny with a little 'anger' before adding. "Let me do it!"

"It is a good battle that we have witnessed once again! It is an unexpected treat that also ended unexpectedly. Regardless, it is nice having you here with us! Let's do this again."

"See you in the next one~!" she added with her signature smile and charming wink before the broadcast ended.

Chapter 1483: An Incoming Surge

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As the fame of Uno spread around the virtual game community after his victory over Dragon God Arthur, the people from different top guilds and powerful organizations started to launch an all-out investigation about him.

But they also knew that it would be hard given that Uno had thoroughly prepared to hide his identity.

Even though they had seen a lot of similarities in his style with a couple of individuals, they had also realized that some of those styles came from a variety of people. The only one that they had the greatest suspicion of was the Mana Manipulation, which greatly resembled Shin's Eclipse Wielding.

But even that did not fully convince them due to various reasons. One of them was Shin's Primordial Lightning which he had used during his most recent battle against Ashura. This signified that Shin had upgraded that combat technique and mana manipulation to a certain degree that it had transformed the techniques greatly.

Moreover, there were a few more experts who recently appeared in the circle and used similar techniques. People thought that they were copying the signature technique of Battle God Sickarius due to his recently growing fame. But, at the same time, they had also made a few modifications to the technique to make them somewhat unique in certain ways.

It was the same for the Eclipse Wielding that Uno was using as it was more like an upgraded version of the previous, which was also true.

Aside from that, it was also clear that Uno had better control over these techniques as his energy control was close to the perfected Sword Aura of a Swordsman rather than the Qi technique of a Martial Artist.

The only clue that these people had in them was Arthur's potential connection with the mysterious Evil God as they had agreed to duel.

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In the next few days, Arthur could be found training hard both in the real world and inside the game.

Outside, he was doing his best to awaken the new powers that he just gained and trying to gain perfect control over it. Unlike in the game, he could not summon that 'feeling' he had experienced in the real world.

He had yet to fully grasp his version of the Natural State and struggled to manifest those powers in the real world. He had to keep on using it inside the game to familiarize himself with the 'feeling' before trying it in the real world.

At the same time, he was also trying to wield both his Imperial Flame and Divine Lightning without affecting each other. Doing such a thing put quite a toll on both his mind and body as the two powers were so strong that they could crush his foundation if handled poorly.

Nathan had to oversee his training every time to make sure that there would be no accidents. At times, Old Samuel also had to take on that role as Nathan still had quite a lot of things that he had to finish in the military, especially since they were tracking down the traces of the Black Serpent Mafia.

Since they had already waged war on the organization publicly, the people knew that something had happened between the Springfield Family and the Black Serpent Mafia. However, the outsiders had yet to realize the real reason for it.

The local government of the Soaring Continent had overlooked it as they were also quite furious about the boldness of the Black Serpent Mafia for attacking the Ace City, particularly trying to steal important data from the World Research Center.

All the organizations around the world had a tacit agreement not to touch the research center as a lot of data and projects were in that place. All of them had contributed to these projects as they had also needed those for their development.

Now that someone had dared to break this unspoken rule, all the organizations around the world would be pointing their daggers at the one responsible for it.

But since the Springfield Family was taking the lead, these cunning wolves decided to stand to the side for a moment and plan to enjoy the show. After all, the Black Serpent Mafia was currently a part of the Shadow Alliance, which was a huge coalition composed of multiple underworld organizations.

These sly organizations were planning to stand on the side and wait for the right time to make their move and pick up some 'scraps' afterward.

Aside from the Springfield Family, the Magic Ace Academy had also waged war against the Black Serpent Mafia as they were also the ones who suffered the most from the last incident.

The academy had even issued some missions with a lot of benefits and gave a lot of merit points to actively support the students in pursuing the underworld organization, particularly those senior students and the members of the Elite Clubs.

Even the faculty members, who were usually idle most of the time, were now actively hunting for the members of the Black Serpent Mafia. Some of the craziest ones even traveled overseas just to attack some known bases and training camps of the said underworld organization.

This made everyone quite busy.

But aside from this war, there was also the matter concerning the recent tomb exploration that the younger generation had conducted. The discovery that everyone had made from it, shook the entire world.

The matter about the heavenly treasure was so big that everyone wanted to find its location, especially when everyone learned that it was no longer a mere legend as it was confirmed to exist somewhere out there.

And the ones at the center of it were Shiella, Mariel, and Elijah, who were the ones to reach the deepest parts of the tomb.

It was without a doubt that they had discovered something important related to the legendary tree from that place.

Of course, there were a lot of organizations who wanted to interrogate the three, but they did not dare provoke the organizations backing up the three, particularly Shiella and Merial who came from Martial Arts and Mentalists Families with a long history.

The only force that could demand something from these families was the World Government as they were publicly recognized as the most 'powerful' organization around the world. That was if they excluded the 'Elder's Council' and other mysterious organizations that were still unknown to most of the people.

Regardless, there was no chance that the World Government would let them hog all the information about the legendary tree.

But before they could even make their moves, they received some news from their people that there were two Transcendent Real Experts who visited the Springfield Household, making them have second thoughts.

Even if they had no idea why those apex experts did not dare to provoke those two it could lead to another war, which would greatly affect their plans and hurt their reputation.

It was the same if they tried to provoke the Potter Clan, which was where Mariel belonged.

The only target that the World Government could have been Elijah Knight, but even his background was quite tricky to deal with. The Magic Ace Academy was not that easy to deal with especially when they were hiding a bunch of monsters of their own, some also belonged to the Elder's Council.

What's more, Elijah was also said to be a nephew of Sword Immortal Eugene White, so dealing with him was quite tricky as well.

The World Government had to come up with more than just a trick to get their hands on the information that the three had gotten from the tomb of the 'King of Thieves'.

But as they were struggling to come up with a plan, the Springfield Family, Potter Clan, and Magic Ace Academy revealed to everyone that the said tomb had also been explored by a variety of underworld organizations.

Moreover, they had also claimed that the tomb of the Blade King was just one of the entrances that were connecting the main tomb to other worlds. They had also said that the underworld organizations had been exploring that place for quite a long time given that they were very familiar with it.

Now that this news was revealed to everyone, the other organizations who had sent their representatives to explore the tomb had no choice but to admit that they had also come up with the same conclusion given the immediate and well-thought ambush that they had suffered right after entering the tomb.

Then information started flooding in, pulling off the attention of these organizations from Shiella, Mariel, and Elijah.

Even if these organizations, particularly the World Government, had realized that this was most likely one of the tricks that the two families and the academy had pulled to save the three, they could not do anything about it since the information was quite legitimate.

They would rather hunt down the underworld organizations and look for the other entrances from different places than provoke the combined forces of these three factions.

Due to this, chaos started spreading in different places.

Faction Wars and skirmishes from different organizations started to break out from other continents, disrupting the peace that everyone had.

Realizing that this would greatly impact the world and its balance, the World Government and the other international organizations had come to an agreement.

They had all decided to bring this 'war' to another 'place'.

Chapter 1484: The Cult of Evil God

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After more days had passed the players noticed some changes within the game that they were playing. There were too many clashes and wars between huge organizations, making the people confused.

The faction war was one of the major reasons that most people thought, but they later realized that the event of the game was just one of the reasons. The aggressive advances of the large organizations and top guilds to expand were a little too strong that it was starting to affect the independent players and smaller groups.

The main culprits of these wars were the Hydra Guild, the Dragon Pavilion, the Wing's Alliance, the HeadHunter Guild, the Central Order, and other large organizations that had a connection in the real world.

Some of the large corporations that were investing in the game were also showing some signs of expansion along with the wars that they waged against each other.

The players started to feel that the game had changed as chaos started to affect the lives of the others, particularly those who were treating the game as their main source of income.

These changes had caused both positive and negative effects. Fortunately, everything was leaning more toward the brighter side rather than negative impacts.

Due to the rapid increase in competition, more and more people started to showcase their capabilities. More talents were also starting to be discovered as huge organizations were recruiting more manpower in different departments.

But despite all of these, the center of everything was still the current Faction War that was still in its ongoing stages and constantly growing more intense due to the greater number of parties that were starting to get involved.

But among the people who were topping the leaderboards was still without a doubt the mysterious god that appeared out of nowhere – the Evil God, who just defeated the Dragon God Siegfried a few days prior.

A lot of people tried to challenge him – both famous and unknown experts – as they were trying to use him as a stepping stone to reach the top. Unfortunately for them, reality quickly slapped them in the face as none of them put up a fight.

Some people even created a special unit just to hunt him down – this included those top guilds and large organizations – trying to hinder his progress and slow down his rapidly growing influence. But none of them succeeded as Uno was unstoppable.

He had even slaughtered some of the strongest armies of these guilds, which were supposedly the strongest forces within the game, alone.

As for the apex experts such as Godlike Players and Maverick Gods, who tried to challenge him, none succeeded. They just became his stepping stone instead, which propelled his reputation to new heights.

There was also a group of people – or more like crazy lunatics – who gathered and formed an organization meant for following this 'Evil God'.

They more like a cult that worshipped Uno as their leader.

When Uno learned about this, he could not help but look for them. He slaughtered them as they were using his name for their gains. But when he did kill all their members after finding them, they laid themselves in front of him and offered their 'lives' – saying that they would be his loyal followers and it was their honor to be slaughtered by their 'god' himself.

Even Uno, who was always indifferent about everything, could not help but feel bothered and uncomfortable after seeing them.

The leader of this so-called cult was Flame Drake, who claimed to be the first believer and the most loyal follower of Uno.

This event was oddly similar to what happened to the previous game when Immortal started to gain fame within the virtual world. The Undying Guild that he was now leading.

But unlike Immortal, Uno decided to ignore these people and let them do whatever they wanted.

After slaughtering them a couple of times, Uno could no longer bother himself with them and decided to avoid them instead.

Regardless, this cult, who called themselves the 'Believers of the Evil God' grew so huge that even made those top guilds and large organizations wary of them, especially when Flame Drake who started everything was only choosing the most skilled people.

They were only choosing Rankers – both Titled and Maverick ones – to join them. This elite group started to become scary as more time passed.

Some people tried to do the same and posing themselves as 'believers' as well. But all of them were hunted down by Flame Drake and his people, killing them without mercy.

After the news spread, people started to become curious about these people, especially when they started to dominate the leaderboards of the faction war.

This group neither supported the Righteous Council nor the Demonic Churches as they were attacking both sides with their people. But since Uno, their God seemed to be supporting the latter, the operation of this cult focused more on sabotaging the Dark Cloud Kingdom and their people.

Due to that a lot of their members became deserters of war. But they never cared as all they wanted was to follow Uno blindly.

To everyone, they became a bunch of lunatics that could not be provoked. Even those top organizations and guilds decided to avoid them as they would suffer more losses rather than get more gains in the war.

In the meantime, the 'God' that they worshipped was starting to lose interest in the game. After fighting a few more apex experts and defeating everyone who came at him, he could no longer find any worthy opponent.

Aside from a couple of Godlike Players and Maverick Gods listed in the secret ranking list that the Mystery Pavilion had released, no one piqued his interest.

But since finding those people was quite hard, he decided to do some random things while thinking about what to do next.

He was also waiting for Shin to finally wake up so that he could go back to rest.

He might be in control of the main body right now, but that did not mean he could stay in control for a long time. It could even cause negative effects in the long run.

Even if they shared the same vessel and Uno was an alter ego of Shin, he still carried a fraction of the 'Seed', which could lead to unimaginable consequences in the future.

If he stayed too long controlling the body, then the 'Seed of Hatred' could also become more familiar with the vessel, which would lead to an easier takeover when it broke out of its seal once again.

This was why Evangeline, David, and himself were keeping a close eye on the progress since Shin had fallen into a slumber.

This was the first time that it happened, and they could see that the demon possession was growing stronger every time it happened. This could only mean that Shin and Uno were slowly losing control of the reigns.

Swoosh!

When Uno went back to the 'Sea of Consciousness' to check on Shin, he suddenly realized that the White World had changed.

There was a clear sky above him and fleeting clouds moving in a certain direction. The surface where he stood now resembled a clear water that reflected the sky.

In the middle of everything, he found a sole figure, who stood in silence and staring at the sky with a lonely expression on his face.

"So, you have finally woken up," said Uno as he walked toward this figure. It was Shin, who seemed to have woken up for quite a while now.

Shin did not turn to Uno immediately as he seemed to be in deep thought. He remained silent for quite a while before finally opening his mouth. "I have remembered everything about you, but it seems like a lot of things are missing in my memory."

"I still can't remember what truly happened in that camp, or if Big Sis Allysa died, or anything about my parents, or those events transpired in our village."

Uno did not immediately respond. His attitude toward Shin also changed to a certain degree after hearing those words.

After a few moments of consideration, he finally said. "You have erased some of them, so unless you accept what have you done, it will be impossible to find them as you are the only one to bring them back."

"A part of it is sealed by your parents. And they wanted you to forget about them, if possible," he added.

"Sigh~. So, I am so weak to the point that they can't trust me about it, huh?" mumbled Shin.

He then clenched his fist as he thought of something. "But I still can't shake off the feeling that I want to hit my father. He must have done something terrible, huh?"

Uno shrugged his shoulders before asking. "So, what is your plan to do next?"

Shin turned to him and said. "Take control of our body for a little while. I want to look into something first."

Uno squinted his eyes as he stared at Shin with suspicion.

Seeing that gaze, Shin chuckled and said. "Don't worry. I will not touch it until we are ready. I am still too weak and quite behind after all."

"I just have seen something after receiving that inheritance that I have gotten just recently," he paused for a moment before continuing. "I am not sure about this, but it seems like I have seen a certain place from it."

"And that place... it seems like it is asking 'us' to find it. It is giving off a feeling that we have come from it or something like that."

After that, Shin started walking deeper into the 'Sea of Consciousness'. He had just taken a couple of steps when he recalled something. "Ah! One more thing. Please treat my friends well. I treasured them as much as I do to you."

"Tsk! I don't like babysitting a bunch of weaklings," Uno clicked his tongue when he heard it.

Shin did not turn around and just waved his hand while saying. "You will find them interesting once you get along with them."

"I can't stay for too long," said Uno.

"Don't worry. I will not take that long. I just want to find the place where 'you' are 'born'," said Shin as he disappeared.

Uno frowned deeply as he understood a few things the hints that Shin had dropped. This concerned him a little more as he knew that 'that' place Shin had mentioned was something that a mortal could not set foot on.

Getting trapped in that place was a common occurrence even for those who claimed to have reached the peak, much less someone who had yet to ascend.

Uno stayed for quite a while and stared in the direction when Shin disappeared for a little longer before sighing.

He then turned around and disappeared in another direction.

Chapter 1485: Uno's Little Guidance

.....

After Uno left the Sea of Consciousness, he fell into deep thought before sighing. He could feel that Shin was starting to be affected by the Seed of Hatred to a certain degree given their connection. Fortunately, this effect was not strong enough to harm Shin.

He could at least tell that Shin was using this fraction of power from the Seed of Hatred to maintain a certain threshold for his mental strength. Combining it with his unique bloodline that greatly strengthened his willpower and mental prowess, he gained a whole other level of Mental Energy that was somewhat different from his Divinity Grade Mental Energy.

However, even he was still unsure whether this was a good or a bad thing.

Taking advantage of the leaking Primal Demonic Powers from the Seed of Hatred was not much of a problem for Uno since he was already an existence created by it and the other factors within Shin's body.

But that could also lead to some negative effects since the 'seed' could take advantage of that connection to build a bridge toward the outside world, bypassing the seal that was trapping it.

If Shin also started creating a connection with it, then the next Demonic Possession would be more troublesome to deal with and much more dangerous for them as well.

This could even lead to them being devoured by the 'seed' instead.

But on the brighter side, this could also cause the 'seed' to weaken its negative influence on them. Since Shin and Uno were both stealing some of its powers, they were somewhat becoming immune to its corruption to a certain degree.

However, it was still very dangerous for them. If they slip even for a little, then it would be the end of them.

It was a high-risk, high-reward situation. But Uno could see what Shin was trying to do. He was just a little worried that this could lead to a dangerous situation given the current state of Shin's mind after Bernard's death.

"It seems like the death of that old man has impacted him to a certain degree," he mumbled before standing up from the bed and doing his morning routine.

After his training, he took a quick shower to refresh himself before heading out to look for Arthur. Even if he was quite unwilling to do it, since Shin had asked him to at least get along with his friends, Uno had no choice but to comply.

He had no plans of being friends with the others, but he could at least help them improve themselves since they could also be helpful in the future once things went a little awry.

Looking for Arthur was not that hard as the guy was always secluding himself to a certain part of the Springfield Household for training. He was working his hardest after the death of his father. His demeanor had greatly changed while his easy-going attitude somewhat disappeared.

Even if he was still acting tough on the surface and not showing his pain to others by forcing himself to act as naturally as possible, those who were familiar with him knew how broken he was.

He was maintaining his smile, but it was not as bright as before. He also had a certain piece in his heart and could not find how to fix it.

The people around him knew that this was not a good thing as Arthur would break himself sooner or later. But they could not think of anything how to deal with it.

As for Uno, he did not care about any of this, but he could also not let Arthur break as he knew that Shin would also not like it.

...

After arriving at the place where Arthur usually practiced, Uno saw that the latter was currently trying his best to control both the Imperial Flame and Divine Lightning at the same time.

Arthur was struggling to maintain the balance between the two to the best of his abilities while also keeping the state of 'Dragon Solace' at the same time.

After watching Arthur for quite a while, Uno could no longer contain himself and walked out from the shades. "Are you an idiot or something?"

Arthur slightly frowned when he heard that and stopped. He had sensed Uno earlier since the latter did not even bother to hide his presence. But since Uno had not shown anything up until now, he ignored the other party and continued his training.

"What do you want?" asked Arthur coldly. He was not close to this person anyway, and he could also feel that the other party was feeling the same, so there was no need to be polite.

"I have no business with you specifically. But since Shin has asked me some favor, I have to at least give him some face," replied Uno briefly.

Hearing Uno mentioning Shin, Arthur could not help but pause and ask. "Has he awakened already? Then why are you still in control of his body?"

Uno just shrugged his shoulders and said. "It is troublesome to explain, but he will take over soon enough."

He then changed the topic. "Instead of worrying about him, you should focus on yourself. Training to become stronger is not a bad thing, but harming yourself in the process will only lead you to your demise."

"Heh! Acting as if you are concerned about me? What are you? My elders? Don't worry, I can handle myself," said Arthur before planning to continue his training.

"I don't care what will happen to you if it is only me. But since no one can entertain me enough until Shin comes back, I must be satisfied with what is in front of me at the very least," said Uno.

"Play your game and continue fighting those top players," said Arthur, unconcerned.

"They are getting boring. The interesting ones are hard to find as well," said Uno before pausing briefly as he looked at how Arthur trained. He then shook his head and added. "What's more, watching you doing stupid things is quite frustrating as well."

"You have all the resources that you can use to become a little decent, yet you are not using any of them," he criticized while ruffling his hair.

Arthur could not help but pause as Uno kept on interrupting him. "What do you mean?"

Uno squinted his eyes as he looked at Arthur before saying. "You have quite a few inheritances on yourself, yet you are not using any of them. Instead, they have become entangled strings that disrupted progress and restrained your true potential."

Arthur frowned deeply as he could not understand what the latter was saying. "How about you speak the language that I can understand if you want to help?"

"Tsk!" Uno clicked his tongue as he stared at Arthur. From his perspective, there was a series of invisible strings with different colors wrapping themselves around Arthur's body, which represented the things that he just said.

He then continued. "You have that inheritance of the Twin Dragons, which carries the principles of duality, yet you have not understood them at all."

"Instead of forcing yourself to wield these two powers simultaneously, which is way out of your league, you better explore the contents of that inheritance and train now to control two energies at once."

"That inheritance is not meant to learn powerful techniques, but to understand the meaning of Duality, particularly when it comes to Dragon Auras."

Seemingly understanding what Uno was trying to say, Arthur could not help but look at Uno oddly. "You- ... how do you know that I have learned that inheritance? Even Uncle Nathan and Grandfather don't know about it."

But after seeing that Uno had no intention of answering, he gritted his teeth and asked. "So, what do you think I have to do?"

"Heh!" Uno smirked after Arthur lowered his head and said. "Continue what you are doing and summon your Imperial Flame and Divine Lighting."

Hearing those words, the corner of Arthur's mouth suddenly twitched before asking. "Are you messing with me?"

Uno ignored the sudden burst of aura coming from Arthur and continued. "Idiot. I am telling you to continue summoning them not for the sake of trying to wield them simultaneously. Rather, you have to summon them while understanding how to handle such powers with the help of the inheritance that you have."

"You are going to learn how to harness them and understand their powers, rather than forcibly wielding their powers. That way, you will gain a better understanding of their powers and learn their true natures."

Uno was talking about this quite casually, but Arthur seemed to have gained something from those words. Moreover, he could also tell that it was somewhat of a shortcut on how to create his 'Natural Force'.

"Why are you helping me? Is it just because of Shin?" Arthur could not help but ask.

Uno grinned. "That is just one of the reasons. The other is because I am curious what a True Descendant of an Ancient Dragon can do, specifically the one who carries the blood of the Divine Golden Dragon."

Arthur wanted to ask more questions, but he suddenly heard Uno mutter with a somewhat quiet tone.

"Primordial, Ancient, and Ethereal – it seems like I am starting to understand that game's secrets."

After that, Uno stood up and started to leave, but before he could completely disappear from Arthur's line of sight, he suddenly paused and said. "Oh! Before I forget. You also have to spend more time trying to understand the true legacy of your family. You will become more interesting that way."

Arthur could not understand what Uno was trying to say at first, but he suddenly realized something when he recalled the latter mentioning the 'inheritances' that he possessed. "Is he talking about the Solar Dragon Statue at the fountain before our house?"

Chapter 1486 A New Goal

...

As Arthur entered the game, he was immediately greeted by a message notification that came right at the same time. Looking at it, he saw it came from Uno, who asked him to meet.

Arthur was quite confused, but still agreed to meet. He was not sure what this guy was thinking, but since Uno had somewhat helped him earlier this morning, he felt that he needed to at least hear the other party out.

In the place that Uno had sent him, Arthur found that Uno was still hunting the armies of Dark Cloud Kingdom after seeing the sea of corpses of the NPC soldiers and demonic monsters.

Sensing his presence, Uno turned around and said. "I need to ask for something."

Arthur slightly tilted his head to the said before asking. "What is it?"

"The thing called United Cup is around the corner, doesn't it? Are your team getting ready for it?" asked Uno, going straight to the point.

Arthur frowned when he heard that, thinking what Uno was planning. But he immediately realized something after a brief moment. "Are you planning to join?"

Uno thought for a moment before nodding. "I find it interesting, so yes. Moreover, Shin will not like it if I leave you just like that."

Arthur stared at Uno for quite a while before responding. "You don't have to worry about us. We can handle ourselves. We are already training to build our coordination these last few days to prepare for the tournament."

"And I don't think we will be able to build a decent teamwork with you," he added.

Uno shrugged his shoulders. "I don't need to be in the team battle. Just being a representative for the one-versus-one battle or the last-man-standing group battle should be enough."

"At least you can secure an easy point that way," he added before pausing for a moment. He then continued after a brief thinking. "Moreover, I can also help you train."

Arthur thought for quite a while before nodding. "I can help you ask for it. But I can't promise you that they will accept you that easily, especially Cloe. She seems to hate you and is quite scared of you at the same time."

"Anyway, we still have plenty of time before the real tournament starts. Given our strength and the reputation of every member of our team, it will be expected for us to be invited as a seeded team, so we will have to wait until the group stage starts."

"The rounds that will start next week will be for a bunch of upstart teams and casual gamers, who want to join for fun. There are a few decent teams there, who will breeze their way to the play-in stage, but it will not be enough to interest us."

He then paused for a moment before asking. "But if you want to join us, then come meet me tomorrow. I will introduce you to others once they have agreed to your 'application'."

"If that is all, then I will be leaving. I still have quite a lot of things that I need to take care of," said Arthur as he prepared to leave.

"Wait," but before Arthur could even turn around, Uno called him out and tossed a bundle of envelopes.

Arthur was quiet to respond and caught the bundle before looking at it. Based on the information that he had gotten through his Dragon Eyes, it seemed to be a stack of recommendation letters.

"What are these for?" he asked curiously.

"They are recommendation letters to enter those Royal Cities. Shin has already gotten it for quite a while. It seems like he has lost the opportunity to distribute it to everyone due to the recent events," answered Uno.

Those recommendation letters were from Archbishop Ronald – or rather Cardinal Ronald now since he had recently been promoted – after Shin had captured Haowin and a couple of Demonic Players, who played quite a role in the assassination of the spy within the Church of the Sun and Moon.

Arthur stared at those letters for quite a while before realizing what Uno meant. "Eh!? Are you telling me that-..."

But before he could complete his words, Uno had cut him off. "Yes. It is the recommendation letter to enter those Royal Cities that will lead you to the Second Continent."

"But that is only one of the requirements. You also need to be at least at Tier 3 Class and the recommendation letter from your Mysterious Instructors before you can enter," he added as he also prepared to leave.

"I am planning to wait for Shin to fully wake up before handing these to you. But since he plans to stay 'asleep' for a while longer, I decided to give it to you otherwise."

"Since you said that you still have plenty of time before the real United Cup starts, then you can use this opportunity to train yourselves and your coordination while exploring the Second Continent."

"You should have used the information that Shin has given you to unlock some hidden requirements when meeting the Mysterious Instructors, so I can only expect that you have an idea of how dangerous that place can be."

"The atmosphere there is filled with the densest and purest mana, so even moving will be quite challenging. But it will also be a perfect opportunity to train your bodies."

"Moreover, the monsters over there are much more powerful than the ones that could be found in this continent. Even the weakest monster there can be as strong as a King Class Monster of the same level from here. Don't you think that it is a perfect place to train yourselves and hone your skills?"

Arthur fell in silence after hearing those words as he understood what Uno was trying to say. He then turned to the latter and nodded his head. "I understand."

"You can also distribute the rest of the letters to your and Shin's friends. Among the list that Shin has – there are your big sister, our senior brother, and the group led by those guys named Lawless and Faker."

"Help me hand some of those to them," he added as he turned to leave. "Contact me once you are done talking with the others."

Arthur stared at Uno's back for quite a while as he was lost in his thoughts, distracted.

Before Shin's back was usually what he was pursuing in the past. They were quite rivals, but their strengths were quite close to each other.

But this time, had another back that he would be chasing, who also quite gapped him in every other area. He could also see that this very back would be the one that would be chased after in the future.

He wanted to gain strength and become powerful, but he could not set an example as Nathan and the rest of his elders were too big of a goal. That was why he had chosen to challenge Uno to see how strong he was after hearing what David had about him.

Since David had also mentioned that this very back was also what Shin was chasing after in the past, Arthur felt that he would want to do the same.

"It looks like we will have the same goal for now," he mumbled to himself.

After that, he crushed a return scroll as he wanted to quickly inform the rest.

Somewhat in the other place of the Aurora Continent, Immortal was currently heading toward a cave as he led three of his people – they were Daven, Kazin, and Rust.

"This should be the place," said Immortal after observing the cave for quite a while.

"Boss, are you sure that that scary Skeleton Skipper will bring us to the second continent once we bring him the item inside this cave?" Rust could not help but ask as she still had some suspicion.

"The information shouldn't be wrong," responded Immortal briefly as he took the lead in entering the cave.

"It has taken us quite a long time to find this place. Fortunately, the others are too busy with the Faction War, so there shouldn't be anyone to be ahead of us at exploring the next continent," commented Kazin.

"Being the first to set foot on the Awakened Continent should give us the pioneering rights and a special title. I wonder what it is," nodded Rust as they followed their leader.

They had purposely leaked the information to Shin so that the Faction War could be brought forward.

While everyone was too distracted with the war, they would be the first explorers of the next major continent.

But at the same time, Daven somewhat felt uneasy. He felt that they had overlooked something. "Don't you feel that we have forgotten something?"

Kazin just shrugged his shoulders as he did not care.

Meanwhile, Rust also thought something before shaking her head. "Let it be forgotten. It shouldn't be that important since we have forgotten about it anyway."

Daven was still somewhat uneasy. But since he could not recall what it was, he could only nod his head and agree with Rust.

He then turned around and looked at the cave entrance before continuing to follow Immortal along with the two.

Chapter 1487 Gathered

.....

Somewhere at the borders of the Saint Heaven Kingdom, all the members of the Empyrean Talons, aside from Shin, were currently gathered as Arthur had summoned all of them for a mission.

The moment they gathered, Arthur immediately distributed the recommendation letters that he had gotten from Uno while telling them that they could use them to enter the Royal Cities that appeared at the neutral regions between the kingdoms and empires.

Everyone had already cleared their promotion quests and now had Tier 3 Classes. They had also passed the hidden trials and special requirements to be accepted by the God-Slaying Army, which Shin had told them before, so they were aware of what would greet them once they had reached the Awakened Continent.

Now that they had already met all the requirements needed to enter the second continent, they could not travel toward that place and explore new places ahead of the others.

Right now, they were preparing for this expedition and planning to use challenges waiting for them in that place to improve their teamwork and coordination. They could also use the trials of that place to strengthen themselves.

Aside from the regular members of the team, the pair of siblings – Samael and Huahua – were also joining them as 'trial' members. These two were quite persistent in joining the team after meeting Shin, and their desire to follow them only grew stronger after meeting all the members of the team.

The group also liked the pair as well, especially when their classes covered quite a lot of weaknesses that the group had.

The blessings that Samael provided greatly boosted the power of the team and could be overlapped with Cloe's already overpowered buffs, which brought the team's power to newer heights. Moreover, his special class, which was closely related to the Church of the Sun and Moon, was quite powerful on its own.

His individual strength and team coordination was a great help to everyone.

There were also the debuffs that Huahua could provide, which were quite overpowered due to the special class that she had gotten after the missions she cleared in the Sacred Light Kingdom.

Her ghost army, even though it was not as large and powerful as Chaotic Luck's Legion of the Chaotic Sun, was quite helpful as well as the ghost soldiers and monsters could put a series of debuffs to their targets passively with just their regular attacks.

She also became Chaotic Luck's little junior as she was not learning a few battle formations from him. He had learned quite a lot from Shin and had been playing «War Tactics» Online from time to time as per the latter's suggestion.

He had gained quite a lot by playing against his opponents in that game. Even if he was still somewhat clumsy most of the time when moving his troops, he could at least read the flow of the battle from a strategist's point of view and adjust his formations in the middle of the battle.

He was still far from being a real expert when it came to this, but he was at least good enough to protect himself. Adding his unimaginable luck that he did not know he had, he was an expert himself to a certain extent.

With all of that, the group was just waiting for Shin so that they could formally accept this pair of siblings to the team. Unfortunately, Shin had been missing for quite a while now, so they could not proceed to the next procedures.

Aside from the two, there was another persistent fellow, who kept on pestering the group to let her join the team. It was Lorraine, who had been following everyone since the events in the Sacred Light Kingdom.

Or... she was more specifically glued to Leonard, who was her main 'prospect' for being her husband all the time.

She did not even bother to hide that she was pursuing Leonard, or more like courting him, to the group. This led to the other members teasing the two of them whenever they got the chance.

Regardless, the other members, who were not familiar with her, were quite surprised when they saw her fight in action. She was a top marksman without a doubt, which aroused Alucard's competitiveness after seeing her impeccable marksmanship.

Moreover, she coordinated pretty well with the founders of the team such as Arthur, Leonard, and Cloe. Their teamwork was without a doubt the best that the group had ever seen. This made the group curious about how long they knew each other to have such a deep understanding of each other.

As the group was preparing for the expedition, Arthur had to talk with Cloe and Leonard about another matter.

"What do you two think?" asked Arthur after explaining everything to the two.

Leonard thought for a moment before sighing. "If that is what really Shin Bro thinks, then I don't see any harm in letting that guy help us. He is quite powerful after all. And based on what you have told us, I can see that he is quite reliable – though his attitude is still somewhat troublesome to deal with."

"But-..." he trailed his words as he turned to Cloe, who kept her silence up until now.

Cloe also sighed after thinking about it for a moment before nodding her head. "Alright. We can let him join us in the United Cup."

"Is he joining us with this expedition as well?" she asked immediately after.

Arthur thought for a moment before answering. "I am not sure about that. He just asked me if he can join our team and become one of our main players in the upcoming tournament. He also mentioned that he can help train the others, but he doesn't specifically say that he will also join us in exploring the Awakened Continent."

Cloe and Leonard rolled their eyes before the latter urged him. "Then you can ask him now since we are about set out already."

"What a moment," Arthur quickly pulled out a virtual screen to send a message to Uno.

It did not even take that long before the other party replied, making Arthur wonder if the guy was waiting for his message.

"He says that he can come with us heading to the Royal City and board the airship, but we will go our separate ways once we arrive at the second continent," said Arthur with an odd tone before continuing. "He says he has to run some errands for Shin once he gets in there."

"It sounds like he has already a destination on where he will be going," commented Leonard after reading between the lines.

Cloe did not put much thought into it, especially when Shin was mentioned. "Then call him to meet us here so that we can head out immediately."

Arthur looked at them with a strange face before saying. "He says that he is already here."

Right after he said those words, the atmosphere enveloping the entire place suddenly changed. The temperature seemed to drop drastically while the air became somewhat humid and a little suffocating due to the hidden pressure mixed in it.

Everyone immediately became alert right after sensing the change and went into a battle formation the very next instant.

Their formation was pretty solid and somewhat well-coordinated.

Diablo entered stealth right in that instant while Owen and Akailu positioned themselves at the forefront of the group. Charlotte (Alice), Daulla, Huahua, and Chaotic Luck were at the center of the group under Ithilien, Archimedes, and Alucard's protection, who were forming a triangle formation to cover all the angles.

Samael was positioned in front of them and sharply scanned the surroundings while also casting a series of buffs to enhance the stats of the entire group.

Nala (Lorraine), who was walking towards the three in the distance quickly pulled out her magic rifle as she instantly appeared beside Cloe, ready to protect her.

Aside from Arthur, Leonard, and Cloe – who were aware of what was happening – the rest of the team was on high alert.

Unfortunately for them, the one who was coming was not as simple as they thought.

"Not a bad formation. But still not good enough," Uno's voice could be heard right in the middle of the group, sending shivers down everyone's spine.

Swoosh!

The first to respond was Diablo, who was already striking at Uno right after he revealed himself.

Uno causally glanced at the incoming dagger as he commented. "Barely passable, I guess."

After that, the dagger missed as he suddenly disappeared and arrived where Arthur and the others were located.

Right after he appeared there, the muzzle of a rifle immediately greeted him, pointing right at the center of his eyes. But before Lorraine could even pull the trigger, Uno had already tilted his head to the side, making the shot miss.

Bang!

Lorraine quickly pulled her rifle as it changed its form into a pair of pistols, ready to fight Uno. But she suddenly halted her moments when she saw Leonard put his arm in her way, preventing her from continuing.

Diablo and Alucard also arrived and were ready to take on Uno when they saw Cloe raise her hand, signaling them that it was fine.

Alice had already prepared her spell and was ready to send it anytime, but she also held herself when she saw the signal.

It was at this point that everyone got a clear look at who just arrived.

As everyone was still stunned by his appearance, Uno clapped his hands as he gave an honest evaluation. "Not bad. There are at least four more decent seedings here aside from the three of you. Better than I have expected."

"There is also an interesting chap as well," he added as he fixed his gaze at Chaotic Luck. "This is indeed an interesting group just like he said."

He then turned to Arthur, who was already standing in front of him. "Should I introduce myself?"

Chapter 1488 Suspicion

.....

The Empyrean Talons proceeded toward their targeted location after their initial encounter with Uno. They still had a lot of questions inside their heads, but since their leaders skipped everything aside from introducing Uno as their 'freelance' member and tried to avoid the topic, they decided to keep silent for the time being and patiently waited.

Currently, they were heading toward one of the known Royal Cities near the borders of the Saint Heaven Kingdom.

After the initial discoveries of these cities, people with capabilities started venturing out of the neutral lands to seek opportunities and tried to enter such cities.

But since no one had yet to successfully enter a Royal City up until now, the requirements for the entry remained a mystery to everyone.

Regardless, the top guilds and organizations within the game still stationed their people near these cities to make sure that they were the first people to learn if someone had successfully entered.

Among the Royal Cities known to the public, Frost City within the Frozen Kingdom was said to be the one that would most likely open the way toward the second continent to the players. But since reaching

that place was much easier to say than done due to the obstacles blocking everyone's path, entering the city remained as challenging as ever.

There was also a rumor about the top guilds, organizations, and adventurer teams being able to reach the city after spending quite a lot of time and resources on the expedition, but all of them remained unable to enter the city due to some unknown reasons.

There was also a rumor that some top players managed to enter, but they were disappointed that the city was somewhat different from what they had expected. This particular rumor was a more detailed one, which made the people accept it more compared to the others.

It was said that despite Frost City being on the same level as the other Royal Cities, it was considered an Ancient City with no connection to the Awakened Continent, which meant that using this city to head to the second continent was somewhat impossible.

But all hope was not lost since someone said that someone had to build a connection between the city and a certain major city within the Awakened Continent before the citizens of the two places could build a Grand Teleportation Formation and link the two places.

Although it was just a rumor, the players still hoped that it was true so that they could enter the Awakened Continent as soon as possible.

With all of these considered, the Emyrean Talons were the only ones, who were closest to reach the Awakened Continent. They had met all the requirements needed for it and even possessed the qualifications to enter the second continent given their overall battle prowess.

With the recommendation letters that they had gotten from their respective mysterious instructors along with the recommendation letter distributed by Arthur earlier – on top of them being official members of the God-Slaying Army – the group was fully qualified to set foot on the second continent.

That was if their information was accurate enough.

But since Arthur and the others were confident enough about it, the team did not worry about anything and trusted them.

...

During their time traversing the region toward the Royal City where they headed, Uno had never lifted a finger since the team had done everything. From clearing the path and killing all the monsters that they encountered up to engaging against boss monsters they encountered along the way, the team was handling everything perfectly well.

They were also showcasing their newly improved coordination. Even if there were still quite a few things that needed to be fixed, everything was much better than what it used to be.

Diablo was still to be left alone, but he was linking quite well with the team as his reflexes and reactions to all unexpected situations were quite on point.

Akailu was also using his summoned monsters to guard the perimeter around the group as they advanced while working together with Chaotic Luck, who also spread his skeleton soldiers into a special formation meant for scouting and protecting the group.

As the main scout, Diablo was also working quite well with Alucard. They two were the fastest and most mobile among the group aside from Ithilien, who was also the main pathfinder of the group.

These three worked together to scout the dangers ahead of the group while maintaining a decent distance away from each other as they covered three directions while advancing.

The rest of the group were also maintaining a decent formation where Cloe and Huahua acted as the center.

Owen and Arthur were in front of the group as the main frontlines while Samael stood just behind them and in front of their backline, which was composed of their mages and supports.

Akailu stood at the rear, protecting everyone along with Leonard. With their respective races, their bestial instincts helped a lot when sensing dangers that were coming from behind.

There were also Archimedes and Lorraine standing in front of the two as they were the main marksmen of the group while Alucard and Ithilien scouted the path ahead of them.

Uno stood at the far back of the group, walking quite a few meters away from Leonard and Akailu. No one was talking to him as even the leaders of the team seemed to be avoiding him for some reason.

But that did not bother him as it was better if they left him alone. The other members of the group were also quite wary of him due to the murderous air that he was passively emitting, particularly Huahua, who was the youngest of the group.

This was one of the main reasons why no one initiated a conversation with him.

But despite that being the case, it did not mean Uno was not doing anything either. He was observing the group from a spectator's point of view.

Aside from the ones that he wanted to fight among the group, two peculiar individuals also piqued his interest. One of them was Diablo, who possessed an interesting pair of eyes, while the other was Chaotic Luck, who seemed to carry an unexplainable aura surrounding him.

Thinking about this, Uno suddenly disappeared and headed somewhere.

Akailu and Leonard were the ones first to notice his disappearance as they were standing the nearest to him.

"Where did that guy go?" asked Akailu as he was somewhat paying attention to Uno as he was curious about his real identity.

"Ignore him. He will not get that far," said Leonard nonchalantly.

Akailu thought for a moment before asking. "I know that he is quite powerful, but do we have to keep him? He seems like a very dangerous individual. Are you sure we can trust that guy?"

Leonard tilted his head to the side before shrugging his shoulders. "I am not sure either. But it is what Shin Bro said, so he should be quite reliable."

"Vice Commander Sickarius says he is trustworthy?" mumbled Akailu before asking. "Speaking of him, where the heck is he? The United Cup is right around the corner."

Leonard was silent for a moment before patting Akailu's shoulder. "Don't worry about that guy. He will perform well when the time comes. Moreover, you have us – we work quite well as a team."

...

A few distance ahead of the group, Diablo was currently surveying the area when he suddenly sensed that something was wrong.

He quickly pulled out his stiletto and dagger and prepared for battle.

He waited for a couple of seconds before stabbing his stiletto to the side, targeting someone who seemed to appear there without making a sound.

But despite how fast his actions and accurate his timing were, he still hit nothing but air. Then he felt a cold sensation pressing on his neck immediately after.

"You are quite sharp, but you rely too much on your instincts, which can fool you and your senses."

That was when Diablo heard Uno's familiar voice.

Uno removed his shortwords from Diablo's neck before quickly creating a distance between the two of them, dodging a sudden strike from the latter.

"What do you want?" asked Diablo sharply as he stared at the other party warily.

Arthur, Leonard, and Cloe had reassured the group that this guy was quite trustworthy, but he still could not shake off the unease that he was feeling whenever he was around this person. The dangerous air surrounding Uno was one thing, but there was also another thing that bothered Diablo about this person.

Uno did not immediately answer as he fixed his gaze on the eyes of the latter. He then asked after a minute of observation. "Your eyes-... where have you gotten it?"

"Or should I say-... who have thought you to create an artificial 'Foresight' and make you a fake Thinking Reed?" he added.

Diablo frowned when he heard those words and asked. "What are you talking about? My eyes don't have the ability of such a peerless talent. And I know what you do by being a fake Thinking Reed."

Uno nodded as he agreed. "Of course, your eyes will never be a real 'Foresight' as it is nothing but a cheap copy. But it still copied quite a few features of a 'Foresight' which give you the partial ability to becoming a fake Thinking Reed."

'Is this guy talking about my Demon Eyes that I have learned from my father?' thought Diablo as he looked at Uno suspiciously.

Uno did not wait for the answer as he quickly followed. "Creating an artificial talent in the real world requires quite a lot of things and most of them are conducted through immoral means."

"But whoever has taught you to create those eyes has taken a unique approach to achieve similar results."

"It is quite hard to achieve it through normal means. But since you have been able to use the Hyperactive Immersion, you can gain an artificial talent in the real world if you continuously use those eyes under that combat state."

"The combination of those eyes of yours and the Hyperactive Immersion created quite peculiar effects and led you to such an interesting result You gained a special power that is no worse than a peerless talent."

"It can cause you some unhealthy effects or even put you in danger if handled incorrectly since you are overloading your brain and forcing it to evolve. But you seem to be doing pretty well."

There was a sudden pause when Uno reached this point. The air also turned cold and heavy as he squinted his eyes under the mask while staring at Diablo.

"You-... just who are you to have that research material?"

Diablo was taken aback by the sudden turn of events. He also could not understand why Uno's attitude took a massive turn. He could feel the immense killing intent locked at him that prevented him from moving his body.

He knew that he would be filled one he answered wrongly. But he also did not know what to say as the pressure pressing on him was growing stronger.

Then he suddenly heard Uno's next words, which confused him even further.

"What is your connection with those people?"

Chapter 1489 To the Awakened Continent

...

Diablo felt nervous after sensing Uno's immense killing intent, especially when he was directly at the receiving end. He was slowly losing his focus and his consciousness was starting to slip due to how suffocating it was.

He had seen many powerful people within the virtual world since he started his career as a professional gamer, but this was his first time seeing such a serious threat from another individual.

At least, he could feel this level of threat from another person before, which was the leader of the Pandemonium Descendants. But even that person was in no way near this guy in front of him when it came to instilling fear in other people.

"I don't know what you are talking about," Diablo forced those words out of his throat as he was about to lose consciousness.

Swoosh!

Right after he said those words, the killing intent pressing on him immediately disappeared as Uno quickly retracted it.

"Of course, you don't. But it can't be the same for the person who has created those eyes," said Uno as he turned around. "I will be keeping an eye on you. You better be clear of your consciences."

Uno knew that Diablo was talking about the truth as the technique that he had used was a special interrogation method that he had learned from those powerful agents back in the Mafia Training Camp.

It could bring out the truth from the target's mouth without them realizing it due to the immense fear that surfaced from the depths of their hearts.

But this did not mean that Diablo's name was clear either as the eyes that the latter had were indeed from a certain project that shook the world twenty years ago.

Diablo stared at Uno's back while trying his hardest to grasp some air. The last words that Uno had told him seemed to be directed both inside and outside the game, which also hinted to him that this person seemed to know his real identity.

Even though he could not fully understand Uno's actions, he could still get the clue that the Demon Eyes that his father had passed into him was not as simple as it seemed to be.

It looked like he had to investigate this matter later.

...

The other members of the Empyrean Talons had no idea of what just happened as Uno silently returned at the rear of the group, acting as if nothing had happened. The group also ignored him as usual as they continued to move toward the Royal City.

It did not take that long to reach their destination as they were able to arrive at its gate after a dozen more minutes.

It was also at this moment that the scouts from different guilds and organizations discovered them when they reached the gates of the city.

Given the fame of the group and the well-known members that it had, these scouts did not dare to delay and relayed the information to their superiors.

As the news spread, the scouts saw that the entire Emyrean Talons were able to enter the city right after they presented a pair of letters to the NPCs guarding the gates.

The guards read through the letters before glancing at each member of the group, seemingly trying to size them up.

The scouts could not fully understand what happened or what the group had done, but the guards let every member of the group enter the city. The scouts trembled when they saw that scene as the long-unanswered puzzle that everyone was trying to solve was answered by the Emyrean Talons.

The scouts tried to chase after the group while also thinking that the Royal City had become available to the public. Unfortunately, it was far from the truth as they were instantly blocked by the powerful NPCs guarding the gates.

Some of the most impulsive ones were even sent back to the graveyard when they tried to ignore the warnings of the guards.

...

Inside the city, the Emyrean Talons were able to witness what just happened.

"Tsk! Look at those idiots," commented Owen as he looked at them with pity.

"It has been a while since I enjoyed seeing those fools from the top guilds make fun of themselves," Akailu was laughing as he enjoyed the show outside the gates.

In the meantime, the others were checking out the city as they walked along the streets.

"Tsk! Look at these people. Even a random pedestrian is a Level 150 Elite NPC," commented Alucard as he looked at the people in the streets.

"The vendors and merchants were level 175 Special Elites as well. There are also a bunch of Level 200 Special Elite Guards in constant patrol," Ithilien could not hide her shock when she saw how powerful the NPCs living within the city were.

"Woah!"

The Chaotic Luck, Samael, and Huahua were also left agape as they looked at the tall buildings around them, particularly the ones comparable to skyscrapers in the real world.

Not far from them was the luxurious and majestic Magic Tower and Adventurer Guild. Every building in this city far surpassed even the most expensive places from the other cities that they had visited.

Even the buildings of the Golden City, where their headquarters was located, could not be compared to this place.

After walking around for a while, Diablo finally turned to the leaders of the group and asked. "Are we staying here to do some quest and explore the city? Or are we heading straight to the Airship Station to head to the second continent?"

Arthur thought for a moment before turning to Cloe. It was the same for Leonard, who also came up with the same conclusion.

While the group was trying to decide what to do next, Uno suddenly said. "It will be better if you head to the Awakened Continent as soon as possible. You will realize that this place is nothing, but a garbage bin compared to that place."

Even if this city was quite advanced and had more amazing places compared to the other cities that they had seen, the facilities from the cities of the second continent shouldn't be inferior to them.

The group simultaneously turned to him as this was his first time taking the initiative to join their discussion since he joined them.

What was even strange in this scene was their leaders considering his words.

Cloe then nodded her head after some consideration. "Alright, let's head straight to the Awakened Continent."

Since she had given them the instruction to head to the Airship Station, the group quickly moved.

There was no need to look for the station as could be seen from every corner of the city since it was floating right around the center of the city. The giant airship was also quite eye-catching due to its massive size.

The group did not encounter any trouble when they were trying to board the airship as they had already met all the qualifications to enter the second continent.

Right after all their members entered the airship, a loud system notification rang in everyone's ears, announcing yet another world-shaking achievement.

Ding

World System Announcement: Congratulations to Emphyrean Talons for being the first to qualify to enter the Awakened Continent!

Each member of the team will reach a massive boost in reputation and fame while the adventurer team itself will gain more recognition among all the citizens of the Aurora and Awakened Continents.

Additional Rewards: +2 Levels, +50 Skill Points, +20 Legacy Points, a special Obsidian Rank Crafting Material (Meteor Rank), and a Legendary Rank Skill dedicated to their class and race.

Ding

World System Announcement: Congratulations to Empyrean Talons for being the first adventurer team to earn the recognition of the Righteous Churches, Council of Scholars, Magic Tower, Hall of Heroes, and the Divine Palace.

Additional Rewards: A Unique Adventurer Badge will be distributed to every member of the team, and every member will be treated as an Honored Guest of the majority of factions within the Awakened Continent.

...

These two announcements rang multiple times in the ears of every player who was currently online, shaking them to the core.

The players who were in the middle of a dungeon run failed their attempt as they were caught off guard by the announcements while the ones on an important raid got slaughtered as they stared blankly into the air.

Despite all of that, no one dared to complain, unlike the usual reaction of the player base of the game.

All of them were too stunned after receiving the news!

Meanwhile, those higher-ups from the top guilds and powerful organizations within the game, who had already suspected this to happen, could not help but go ballistic as they were left behind once again.

"Go investigate what they have done to enter those Royal Cities!"

"Tell the scouts to return as soon as possible and report to us directly!"

"Send us the exact footage when the Emyprean Talons entered the Royal City!"

...

Shiella, who just got online after a while, also had just gotten the news. She could not help but click her tongue as she complained to Arthur for not telling her sooner. "Tsk! I should have got back earlier."

David, who was enjoying himself hunting a powerful Demonized Monster, could not help but scratch his head when he heard the announcement. "Should I come with them instead? It sounds like more fun."

Alyssa, who had just finished catching up with everyone in just a couple of weeks of playing the game after using the same method as David, knitted her brow as she was curious at what was happening.

Lawless and Faker, who were discussing their next course of action, could not help but look at each other with a bitter smile. "I guess we should have come with them instead."

Chapter 1490 To the Awakened Continent (Part 2)

...

The members of the Empyrean Talons scattered as they explored the airship as it made its way toward the Awakened Continent. The outer appearance of the airship was quite deceiving as it looked rather plain from the outside.

It looked like a huge ship with a massive air balloon on top of it. There was a large propeller on its back that would be pushing the airship as it traveled in the air and a bunch of 'smaller' ones on each of its wings that were quite mobile to control the movements of the airship.

Inside this seemingly mediocre ship was a completely different world. It looked like a luxury ship or cruise that could be found in the real world. It had many facilities, including malls, playgrounds, swimming pools, casinos, bars, and all kinds of entertainment that someone could ask for.

There were also training grounds, practice rooms, and fighting arenas that anyone could use so long as they had enough gold to pay for it.

The fees for these rooms were quite costly, but it was not that unreasonable as everything was top class. The mana density within the training grounds far surpassed any place from the Aurora Continent.

The group suspected that these training rooms were meant to help the players adjust to the new environment of the second continent.

They already had an idea how hard it was to move in a place filled with the densest mana as they had already experienced something similar during the special trails that their respective Mysterious Instructors had given them.

Renting these rooms for an hour would cost them tens of thousands of gold coins, and it would be the cheapest that they could afford.

Most of the members of the group instantly became scared after seeing the price. But for their wealthy, something like this was nothing.

Cloe even offered everyone to use some of their team's funds for this. They did not have much anything to spend anyway. Aside from the salary of every member and a few necessities that they needed like equipment repair cost, potion funds, and such, they were not spending much, so using their pending funds for something like this was the most ideal.

Hearing that, the group also agreed. They did not know about the top guilds or other organizations, but they were confident that their adventurer team was one of the wealthiest groups within the game given the influx of money coming from the Gold Mountain.

They were not humble about this either since they were aware of how much funds their team possessed.

Given that, the members of the group rented a couple of rooms to train themselves as they did not have anything to do during the entire travel period.

Based on the system, the travel time the airship needed to reach the Awakened Continent was at least a week (in-game time) so long as they did not encounter any flying monster horde in the air that would delay their journey.

Since they would be spending most of their time on this ship during that time, it would be better to spend it on something productive. They could also further train their coordination this way, so it would be for the best.

Whenever they were tired and had to relax, the group would go their separate ways to explore the other areas of the airship.

The girls would go shopping while the boys would do their own thing.

Arthur, who had become a training maniac recently, was pulled by Leonard out of the training room before they dragged Chaotic Luck to the casino. Given the devious grins on their faces, it was clear that they were up to something evil.

Alucard to the bar along with Diablo while Akailu went straight to the swimming pool with an excited look on his face.

Owen brought to Ithilien for a date while Archimedes accompanied Daulla to the library.

Samael was left alone as his little sister was dragged by the other girls for their shopping spree. He did not accompany them either as he did not want to experience the 'torture', so he could only look for his entertainment.

In the meantime, Uno, who suddenly disappeared right after boarding the airship was sitting at the bow of the airship where he could see everything – the sky, the land, the sea, and the stars.

He was watching everything while entering a semi-meditative state.

His thoughts were unknown as the air surrounding him constantly changed along with the unpredictable shifts of his aura.

At times, he was filled with killing intent as the murderous air leaked out from his body; sometimes, he was filled with calmness as the air of tranquility; but most of the time, it felt like he did not exist as merged with the world itself.

Not long after, everything went back to normal as he appeared to be a 'person' once again. But there was a noticeable change in his being when those who knew him saw the current him.

At this moment, Uno looked no different from an ordinary person. Neither his overwhelming killing intent nor monstrous aura was present.

Using the terms of this game, he was no different from a random NPC that could be seen everywhere if not for the set of equipment that he was wearing.

Regardless, his presence had become so faint that he turned into a negligible character. If others did not pay close attention to his direction, no one would be able to notice him at all.

Even the harmless birds that managed to enter the protection spell of the airship to block the wind and protect themselves from the wild monsters of the sky did not notice his presence at all. These birds even sit on his head and shoulders, treating a part of the airship itself.

"Amazing! This is my first time seeing an Otherworldly Individual, who manages to completely merge with our world."

It was at this point that a voice sounded behind Uno.

It came from an old NPC that was wearing a set of clothes meant for the crew of the airship. Given the badges hanging on the chest area of this old man's uniform and the strap attached to his shoulder, it was clear that this old man possessed a very high position within the airship.

Just like Uno, this old man was not emitting any kind of aura, making his presence so negligible. It seemed like he became the air itself.

"What is your name, young man?" asked the old man as he fixed his gaze in front.

Uno did not immediately reply as he regulated his breathing and stabilized his current state. Not long after, he said. "I don't have a name, but someone called me 'Uno' when I was born into the world."

"What a peculiar name," commented the old man briefly.

Silence filled the air once again as the two remained still and silently watched the surroundings change along with the movements of the airship.

"People who know how to wield a sword but keep it sheathed is quite rare, especially more for hot-blooded young people. I am curious – where have you learned it, young man?" asked the old man once again after a long silence.

Uno knew that the old man was not merely talking about his ability to wield the sword as those words covered quite a lot of things – one of them was the immense killing intent that he possessed.

The old man was not only asking him how he came to possess such skills to keep 'it' sheathed but also asking him how many people he killed to gain such a level of killing intent. At the same time, it was also meant to know if the people he killed were innocent or not.

"I am born with it as I come from the 'origin' itself," answered Uno in a nonchalant tone.

There was a dangerous glint in the eyes of the old man as he heard those words. But kept his position and continued to look at the horizon, seemingly trying to contemplate the words of Uno.

After a brief silence, the old man continued. "Then where are you headed?"

Just like earlier, he was not talking about the destination where Uno was heading with this airship but asking about something else.

At the same time, he slightly clenched his fists, seemingly getting ready to do something. If Uno did not give him a satisfactory answer, then he was ready to strike down this young man and put a stop to the 'future' that was about to be born.

Uno smirked when he sensed the hint of hostility directed at him as he answered. "Just like how all rivers lead to the sea, all existence is meant to return to origin."

"I am nothing but a shadow that follows the light. Whenever my light leads me to, I will always follow," he added as he stared at the rising sun in the distance.

The old man somewhat calmed down when he heard those words before saying. "Whether you become a King that rules the world, an Overlord who conquers all, a Demon that destroys everything, or a Free Spirit traveling the world with absolute freedom – I hope we will not be at each other's swords when we meet again."

After that, the old man left the deck and headed back to the control room of the airship, leaving Uno alone.

Uno did not say anything as he continued to stare at the horizon and the rising sun with unknown thoughts.